

**SPECIAL MEETING-SALEM TOWN BOARD**  
**FIRST 2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

**Present:** Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council Members: Brenda Levey; Laura Dunham; Tom McMorris; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathleen Chambers; Highway Sup't.-Travis Keys; Rebecca Brown-Water Clerk/Library; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Wyeth Coburn-Sewer Committee

**Excused:** Councilman Howard Law

**Absent:** Eric Rogers-Water; Maurice Patrick-Planning Bd.; Judy Flagg-Historian/Records Mg'mt.

**Public Present:** Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.; Joe Wever-Salem Fire Dep't.; Bill Mitchell-Salem Fire Dep't.; Sydney Doherty

**6:00 pm**-Meeting called to order by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

**Manufactured Home Application**-Sydney Doherty presented an application for a new 2023 manufactured home on a new foundation to be placed on a 3.03-acre vacant parcel, located @1019 Old County Lane; tax map parcel #208.-1-38.61, owned by Joseph Andrew & Sydney Doherty. Sketch provided showing location of lot, electric poles & electric box. Working w/Washington County Code Enforcement on water & septic. The acreage requirement met; home is new. Fee paid & application approved by Town Board 4-0

**Resolution #69- Motion made** by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Town Councilman Tom McMorris, appropriating funds for the preparation of the Map Plan & Report for the proposed Sewer District, using ARPA funds. Said Resolution is subject to a Permissive Referendum with a petition period of forty-five (45) days in accordance w/Municipal Home Rule Law 24. Legal Notice advising of the same must be put in newspaper & hung on the sign board of the Town Office within ten (10) days of September 13, 2023, when the Resolution appropriating funding was approved.

**Roll Call Vote:** Supervisor Evera Sue Clary-Yes  
Councilwoman Brenda Levey-Yes  
Councilwoman Laura Dunham-Yes

Councilman Tom McMorris-Yes  
Councilman Howard Law-Absent

**Resolution #69** passed 4-0.

**2024 Budget**-Supervisor Clary advised the Board that Attorney Klingebiel has requested going from a flat rate to an hourly rate of \$200/hour, with so much going on w/sewer issues, Georgi by-laws, renewal of G. F. Hospital lease agreement, etc. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to retain Attorney David Klingebiel as the Town Attorney for 2024 @ a rate of \$200/hour; passed 4-0.

**Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.**-Joe Wever spoke on behalf of the Salem Fire Dep't., requesting an increase of \$27,789.14, for a total contract amount of \$204,502.14 for the 2024 Budget. The increase is 15.73% over the 2023 figure of \$176,713.00. Joe explained that basically their fund-raising covers building maintenance on the fire house & inspections. PPE Replacement costs increased from \$2,100/set in 2020 to \$4,000/set in 2023; air compressor maintenance/air quality tests went from \$1,900 to \$2,300 from 2023 to 2024; equipment maintenance increased from \$500 to \$1,000 in a year; utilities (telephone, internet, electric, generator costs) all increased; physicals jumped from \$5,100 to \$6,000. These are just some of the increases. The budget total for 2023 is estimated @ \$209,361.78; 2024 estimated figures are \$227,255.66. Everyone realizes costs are rising, but they are rising for everyone. Councilwoman Dunham expressed thanks to the Fire Dep't. for coming & going over their figures but also commented that the Town of Salem cannot cure all their financial woes.

**Shushan Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.**-Fire Chief Tom Cassidy turned in his request for the 2024 budget & is requesting an increase of \$1,115.15 from the 2023 figure of \$55,707 to \$56,848.45.

**Salaries**-Clerk to Supervisor Chambers reported that Al Cormier, Deputy Historian, has asked to be paid by the hour, as he is doing more now to cover duties due to health issues of Historian, Judy Flagg. Kathleen will check to see if Al can go in as Historian & Judy can become the Deputy Historian until she starts to feel better; they can just switch positions for the time being.

**Highway Dep't.-DA Budget-New Equipment**-Truck coming in January that was ordered last year; increase this line from \$275,000 to \$316,980.

**CHIPS** is a wash-we pay & get reimbursed.

**A-accounts**-Uniforms, etc.-Increase from \$2,500 to \$3,000; \$40,000 in Garage acc't. Need new bay doors at some point. Increase signs from \$3,500 to \$4,000.

Need to think about putting up a salt shed before new mandates take effect; can try for grants. Currently the price is \$14/ton less than last year's price. We will be using more salt brine on the roads in 2024 than we did in 2023; all trucks will now have tanks to hold the same.

**Water**-In three years, the water dep't. may need more computer equipment/upgrades. Need designated capital reserve fund. Power costs could become an issue if costs keep increasing. Well cleaning was done. Pick-up is a 2019; tires have been ordered. A 2023 ½ ton pick-up is \$50,577.50.

The usage cost of \$275 covers operating expenses now; old meters are not supported in the software system. Mowing tractor is currently a 2009-new ones are approximately \$225,000. Have put \$17,000 w/o labor & new blades & will probably have \$20,000 into the old one w/labor. Trucked to Buffalo in April w/computer problems.

Need to review some of the buildings to determine how many EDU's & change number, if required.

**IT Budget Line Item**-Have used part of what was in there for Mark Rhodes.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion made by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to adjourn the 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 Budget Workshop meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed 4-0; meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**Next Meeting of the Salem Town Board** will be the regular monthly meeting to be held on October 20, 2023, at Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY. Review of Warrants #9 & Highway Abstract #9 for payment will begin @ 5:00 p.m., business meeting to begin @ 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Town of Salem

