

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council: Brenda Levey; Howard Law; Tom McMorris; Wyeth Coburn; Town Clerk-Pat Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathy Chambers

Others Present: Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Larry Haber-Economic Dev.; Herb Perkins-Courthouse

Public Present: Laura Dunham; Cynthia Weinrich; Mike Miller

Absent-Eric Rogers-Water Dep't.; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Al Cormier-Hist./Records Mg't.; Sandy Haber-Georgi; Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't.; Jim Carrolan-Sewer Comm.; Nancy Quell-DCO (report provided)

5:00 P.M.-Review of **Warrants #9 & Highway Abstract #9 of 2024** for approval & payment

6:00 P.M.-Regular monthly meeting called to order by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from 08/28/2024 1st Budget Meeting for 2025-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the minutes from the 08/28/2024 1st Budget Meeting for 2025; passed 4-0 (Councilman McMorris absent from this meeting).

Approval of Minutes from 09/11/2024 2nd Budget Meeting for 2025-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the minutes from the 09/11/2024 2nd Budget Meeting for 2025; passed 3-0 (Councilman McMorris & Councilman Law absent from this meeting).

Approval of Warrants #9 & Highway Abstract #9 for payment-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve Warrants #9 & Highway Abstract #9 for payment; passed 4-0.

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-No report rec'd.

Salem Rescue Squad-No report rec'd.

Highway Dep't.-Travis reported the new truck was @ Zwack's. The transmission locked up on the old mowing tractor. Two more dry wells to do by Stewart's. Working on another small area of sidewalk around the corner beyond the Post Office on William Street. Sidewalk @ old Village Park & in front of the hardware store needs doing. Effective 12/31/2024, it will be a NYS law that dealers must sell one electric vehicle before selling eight other vehicles. Several dealers won't be able to sell in NYS. There are some bumpers available--maybe for Veteran's Park and/or the Georgi. Box is still stuck in Canada. Monthly report will be filed.

Water Dep't.-Eric e-mail out his report. 318 meters in service; still looking into Master Meter as a passable replacement to the Orion system we are currently using. Got a new water main line locator. No new water hook-ups for the month; regular upkeep & maintenance were performed. Had a hand full of dig safe mark outs. Eye wash & fire extinguisher checks have been done; did our monthly water sample required by the D/O/H, which met the bacteriological requirements for a public water supply as set forth in subpart 5-1.5 of the State Sanitary Code under Public Health Law 225. 3rd quarter iron & manganese sample will be done some time in Sep't. Well #3 has been cleaned. Eric would like to get the county drone here to do outside inspection of the tank. Hudson Headwaters will have two lines--how many EDU's?? Need to decide what to do w/2018 pick-up truck soon. Fire Dep't. does hydrant training. Eric's report will be filed.

Courthouse-Herb Perkins reported that the bid for stripping of wainscoting, etc., was awarded to Paul Kobyluch. T/O/S will secure a RAN to pay the full amount of \$80,000 for the fire detection system, \$20,000 coming from the budget.

Justin Rushinski has been checking out the roofs--need insurance from him; Kathy has nothing. RFP going out for new sound & light system for the Courtroom; Bill Clary is doing the RFP. The floor is being done. Applying for a grant from the Mary McClellan Foundation for the Hudson Headwaters Van as has been done in the past. There will be a new insurance carrier after October 26, 2024 (was Cormie). Travis will be doing an inspection of the fire extinguishers. Beer n Brats was cancelled as breweries wouldn't donate free beer.

Upcoming events at the Courthouse:

September 27-Friday-Folklife Concert-7-8:30 p.m.

October 06-Avant Garde cellist from New Orleans will perform

October 18-Friday-Folklife Concert Series, 7-8:30 p.m.

October 20-L, L, & P desert auction from 3-6 p.m. in the Courtroom

October 26-Saturday-Trunks n Treats, 3-5 p.m.

November 13-Annual Meeting @ 6 p.m. Refreshments in great hall. Will be honoring several community members

November 30-Saturday-Holiday Market

No tree lighting this year.

Councilman McMorris suggested that a portable microphone would be good for Memorial Day; Supervisor Clary suggested checking w/Al Cormier.

Historian-Al Cormier reported he had a long telephone conversation w/Robert Ruffing, the new Wash. Co. Historian re: use of email to contact the county historian; holding a gathering of all county historians to meet Mr. Ruffing since he is new; completing the digitizing project begun by former County Clerk & former County Archivist & making them available to the town historians; completing the 'Post Star Project' begun by former Historian, Loretta Bates--the digitizing of the newspapers & creating a way for town historians to access them via the internet.

Published in The Eagle & Salem Press a mental health article regarding our veterans & the general public, "Lest We Forget Lost Heroes".

Rec'd. word from Mary McClelland regarding giving materials to the Salem archives re the Dunigan family: genealogy, photos, etc. She hopes to visit Salem from Maryland in early November.

Rec'd. word from Terry DeCorah regarding a two-volume book, 'The Valley of Camden'; she will visit on 09/25/24 to deliver them.

Al will be presenting a public program on Sunday, 10/13/24 @ 2 p.m. in the courthouse archive room. The topic is the 1755 English expulsion from Canada of the French Acadians & their impact on settling in our NYS area & New England. A film entitled, "Expulsion, The Story of Acadia", will also be shown.

Met w/Kathy Chambers regarding locating records dealing w/the purchase of the blinking speed limit sign, now up by Salem Central School, because of a FOIL request.

Al has said he will continue as Historian, moving from Deputy since Judy has to resign. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to move William Cormier from the Deputy Historian/Deputy Records Manager to the Historian/Records Manager position; passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion made by Councilwoman Levey, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to do a RFP for Deputy Historian/Deputy Records Manager; passed unanimously 5-0.

Planning Board-Kim absent; no report. Meeting for Sep't. will be held on Thursday, 09/26/24 in the Town Office @ 7 p.m.

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Georgi-Georgi Committee met @ the C.R. on 09/05/24 @ 6 p.m. Present: Sandi Haber, Brenda Levey, Mary Menard, Laura Dunham, Larry Haber, Sue Clary

Hyde Museum-Sandi met w/them; have asked them to pick up the paintings by the end of Oct. that will be exhibited by them to avoid inclement weather. Three more paintings have been added to the original 12 so there will now be 15 exhibited. Sotheby's rec'd. pictures of the add'l. three paintings requested to add to the appraisal am't. Total am't. of Sotheby's appraised value will be given to the Hyde for insurance purposes; they hope to have appraisal done by end of week. Laura/Brenda/Mary will meet at the Museum on Sunday, Sep't. 22, 2024, to wrap/measure the paintings for exhibition.

Provisional Charter-Made a couple of adjustments to the Disaster Plan & need to provide a 5th Board member for this to move forward (Larry must come off as he is related to Sandi).

Invasive Species- Waiting for Planning Board approval for the invasive species signs. Hoping for a team of volunteers to begin treatment of the poison ivy per Ashley's plan.

Facilities-New signs are hung: No Camping, No Fires, No Smoking. Thanks to Brenda/Paul/Pete. Doggie bags were refilled, fixed running toilets, hung a flag. Jeff Suite repaired the dehumidifier. Septic was pumped by Snell from Greenwich; it had not been done since 2011. Snell's claimed they have a blanket insurance policy w/Washington County for each Town they do work in. Kathy did not receive anything to do w/insurance coverage.

Bids for ADA pathway-will be going back out in the Post Star print edition. If any bidders request a walk-through, a day/time will be set for all bidders. Any questions will be forwarded to Waite's Associates; their responses will be forwarded to all bidders at the same time.

Mold Remediation-A certified mold inspector is required by NYS; Rich Dowd does not have the required ins. Once the assessment is done, quoted will be needed for the remediation. John VanDyke did a walk-through w/Sandi & made a recommendation of a specific type of vent. He also recommended vapor wrap in the crawl space; John indicated no presence of moisture but did note the dehumidifier was not working.

Roof-John Phillips forwarded the contract for Supervisor Clary to sign; should be able to begin work in Oct. The vent Pinnacle has chosen is nearly identical to what John recommended but also includes screening to keep animals out. Pinnacle uses Owens Corning products to maintain the warranty.

Grants-one submitted to the Charles R. Wood Foundation for \$29,000 for the ADA pathway; hope to hear in Nov. Re-submitted grant to Salem Community Foundation for ADA/HVAC/Mold Remediation Clean Energy Grant-recommended that the Town apply for this for HVAC Clerk to Supervisor Chambers reported that the LARAC grant money has been rec'd. for the Georgi. Report will be filed.

Economic Development-Larry Haber emailed minutes from 08/19/24 meeting. Supervisor Clary, Larry, Bob Henke (Board of Supervisor's Chair); County Treasurer Al Nolette & the County Attorney hope to be able to set a meeting date soon regarding the Linke Properties & the pre-/post-auction options. Trying to find out what the amount of the liens are & who filed the same--one on the mill in Salem & one on Shushan Bentwood mill in Shushan. Worked w/County Clerk but found no information.

Master Comprehensive Plan-should launch in Sep't. Larry has obtained a list of former participants from the previous Plan to address Salem's representation on this project.

HHH-projected planned opening remains targeted for second quarter of 2025.

Sewer-Kay reported that a site has not yet been finalized for the project. Homeowner letter is being developed; public vote date anticipated for first quarter of 2025.

Climate Smart-Supervisor Clary has assumed the role of Municipal Contact w/John Bardwell sharing co-chair w/Yvette.

Salem Food Co-op-More planning will need to take place

YMCA-No information provided by them; Larry will continue to follow up w/them; report will be filed.

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LCLGRP-will be invited to an Economic Development meeting soon

Bob's Lunch/Jim's Lunch site-demolished; rental company from Philadelphia, PA looking @ possibly relocating to Salem; report will be filed.

Next Meeting: 09/16/2024 @ 9 a.m. in the Salem Town Office

DCO-Nancy Quell provided report for August. Report of dog missing on Bogtown Rd.; dog was picked up & returned to owner. Dog picked up on County Rte. 61. Security bond hearing was requested on a specific case; dogs were transferred & judgment for \$2,040.10, plus an add'l. \$72 plus \$1,080/month until the case is resolved to hold dogs in shelter; money to be secured w/Town of Salem & will be paid through probation. Total due \$3,192.10; was supposed to be paid by 09/06/24 but nothing rec'd. yet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Miller-commented on the condition of Beattie Hollow Rd. & asked if it was finished. Highway Sup't. replied that yes, it was done but he hoped to be able to grade one more time. Road is very dusty & needs erosion control. Mike was not happy w/the condition of the road. He inquired about NYSEG moving the power lines & Supervisor Clary reported that the answer from them was an emphatic "**NO**". Trees in the Town's right-of-way. Mike reported that more taxes were being paid on the dirt part of the road than the paved part; put down some calcium to deter the dust. Why was there a culvert put in by Scott's? There is a ditch on each side of the road that could be pretty dangerous if someone goes off the side of the road.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

AIM Payment-Notification was rec'd. that payment would be forthcoming.

NBT Wealth Management-Supervisor Clary reported that there was a problem w/the EIN number used for reporting purposes; it does not match the one the Town currently is using & it is not on the IRS site. She is working w/NBT to try & figure out the problem; Councilwoman Levey is helping.

Tourism-NYS & Washington County are working together to establish tourism. MilesPartner will visit the Georgi on 09/27/24 & then proceed to Eagleville from 106 p.m. Photos will be taken w/a drone at each location.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Budget Meeting Dates-3rd Budget Workshop-09/25/24 @ 5 p.m. in the Comm. Room @ the Georgi
4th Budget Workshop-10/09/24 @ 5 p.m. in the Comm. Room @ the Georgi
Add'l. date(s) can be set @ the 10/09 meeting.

Pro Housing Resolution #36-Resolution completed by Clerk Gilchrist & given to Supervisor Clary.

Insurance Update-Melissa from Northern Insuring working on figures. David Meagher from Amsure has put bid out to five companies. Reiss Group-No quote yet but they are working diligently to secure at least two. Policy renews on 10/06/2024.

been meeting with & what projects are being discussed.

Climate Smart Community-Josh Dranoff has advised Supervisor Clary that the Town of Salem will qualify for a \$10,000 Energy Award because of all the points accumulated through work done w/the Climate Smart Community initiative. Could be used for EV charging station(s)-long, slow charge; Board says stay away from

this. Lights in park would not qualify. Money could be put toward the HVAC system for the Georgi Museum. Josh would like to meet w/Supervisor Clary, Yvette & the Board—date & time to be determined.

Resolution #39-Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to accept the \$10,000 Energy Award; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #40-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to put the Energy Award of \$10,000 toward an HVAC system for the Georgi Museum; passed unanimously 5-0.

Sidewalk in former Village Park-badly needed but Travis says it would need to be funded; look for grants!

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Minutes

ARPA Review-Supervisor Clary & Clerk to Supervisor Chambers will meet Monday, 09/23/24, @ 8 a.m. in the Salem Town Office to review amounts spent & to whom paid.

OLD BUSINESS

Master Comprehensive Plan-Paperwork sent back to LCLGRP last Wednesday.

CORRESPONDENCE-None

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-10 Calls for month of August, 2024: 6-Salem (2-EMS Lift Assist; 1-ECHO; 1-Alarm Activation; 1-Propane Leak; 1-Stand-by @ Washington County Fair); **Mutual Aid:** 2-Shushan (MVA's); 1-Rupert (MVA); 1-Cambridge (Water Rescue)

Meetings-Fire Dep't. monthly meeting

Training-Station maintenance; driver pump training; initial fire attack

Patrick Sartell, Wyatt Rogers, & Blaise Barrett have completed their FEFO

Pam Hayes completed HazMat

Pam Hayes, Ken Colombraro, Jim Chambers all completed Fire Police schooling

Report will be filed. (**NOTE:** Report not rec'd. before minutes completed, so they were added at the end of minutes)

Motion to Adjourn-made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to adjourn the monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 7:25 p.m.

Budget Meetings-3rd 2025 Budget Meeting of the Salem Town Board will be held on 09/25/24 @ 5 p.m. in the Georgi Comm. Room; 21 Adams Lane; Shushan, NY 12873.

4th 2025 Budget Meeting of the Salem Town Board will be held on 10/09/24 @ 5 p.m. in the Georgi Comm. Room; 21 Adams Lane; Shushan, NY 12873

Next Regular Monthly Meeting of Salem Town Board-will be held on Wednesday, October 16th, 2024, @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY. Review of Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10 for payment will begin @ 5 p.m., with business meeting being called to order @ 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem

