

**TOWN OF SALEM**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD**  
**NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

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

**Others Present:** Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Rebecca Brown-Water Clerk/Library; Herb Perkins-Courthouse; Tauno Wirkki-Sewer Comm.; Wyeth Coburn-Sewer Comm.; Yvette Bordeaux-Climate Smart Community

**Public Present:** Jennifer Skellie; Jack Skellie; Rose O'Donnell; John Gunther; Keith Bleicher; Carrie Bleicher; Tammy Loveland; Butch Gilcrest

**Absent**-Eric Rogers-Water Dep't.; Judy Flagg-Historian/ Records Mg'mt.; Al Cormier-Deputy Hist./Records Mg/mt.; Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Jeanne Smith-Georgi; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.; Jim Carrolan-Sewer Comm.; Larry Haber-Economic Development; Sandy Haber-Georgi; Kay Tomasi-Sewer Comm./Economic Development; Nancy Quell-DCO

**5:00 P.M.**-Review of **Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10 of 2023** for approval & payment

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

**Public Hearing**-Supervisor Clary opened the Public Hearing on the Tax Cap Override. As per the law, Supervisor Clary asked three (3) times if there was any discussion or questions regarding the tax cap override; there was no response or questions. **Resolution #78-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to pass the Resolution of Adoption for Local Law #6 of 2023 to override the 2024 Tax Cap; passed unanimously 5-0.

**Route 61 Bridge Lights**-Jennifer Skellie was present, along w/many other Shushan residents, to make their case for turning on the lights on the new Route 61 bridge connecting Shushan & the Town of Jackson. She mentioned that it is a safety issue for the children in the area, the early morning & evening walkers, bikers, joggers, & the wildlife. She mentioned many historical facts. There were mills along the Battenkill in that area, employing many people. There was an opera house that showed plays & movies, plus a hotel. The first electric light plant was built in the area in 1891 that powered the Troy & Rutland Railway. Shushan is also a biblical name, meaning 'Valley of the Lillies', which stands for peace. "I feel we need peace of mind for the safety of our community & celebration of the Hamlet of Shushan's history. The lights are welcoming to visitors & to the people of Shushan. So, I come in honor of our Hamlet name & hope my proposal to turn on & keep on the lights is granted." Jennifer had already mailed in a petition signed by most of the residents making up the Shushan Lighting District.

Keith Bleicher also spoke, saying that he understands that people don't like change. But the bridge lighting is warm/soft & is LED, which is approximately 100 lumens in daylight hours. Nine-foot candles are most measured on & around the bridge (he has an instrument that measures this). That bridge is 165 years old & the Town could be looking at liability issues w/o the lights if there was ever a major emergency. If the lights that were installed are the ones he thinks they are, they are approximately 59 watts each & come on at dusk-go off at dawn. The Board thanked the residents for coming & expressing their thoughts at the meeting.

**Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to turn on the lights on the Washington County Route 61 bridge in Shushan; passed unanimously 5-0.

**Minutes-09/13/2023- 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 Budget Meeting of Town Board-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the minutes from the 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 Budget meeting, held on 09/13/2023; passed unanimously 5-0. (Wait on 09/20/23; 09/27/2023; 10/04/2023; 10/11/2023 minutes)

**Approval of Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10 for payment-Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve **Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10** as presented for payment, w/the exception of the bill for Delaware Engineering in the amount of \$3,485. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to pay this bill w/ARPA funds, agreeing to pay all other bills as presented; passed unanimously 5-0.

**Courthouse**-Herb reported that the Beer n Brats even was very well attended, despite the terrible weather. Donated over \$400. Trunk or Treats will be held on 10/27/2023 @ the Courthouse; come w/your car, truck, van or tractor & share in the fun! Feel free to come in costume. The Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund will be starting soon.

“Let’s Get Physical” program was well rec’d; may be able to receive more money for Kung Fu. Story Court will be continuing the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. or Thurs. in December; Dale MacNeil has signed on to present. Last Folk Life Concert will be held at the Courthouse on Friday night, 10/20/2023. Thursday night, 10/19/2023, will be the last one held at Crandall Library.

**Highway**-He reported hydro seeding has been done @ the Georgi & on Dillon Hill & Lower Bogtown. Soil & Water is working on removing brush on Rexleigh Road & they re-imbursed the H’Way Dep’t. for 50% +/- on the salt brine. 17,000 gallons of brine is in the tanks. Plow frames are going on & Ron Jameson is making sand. Will be getting a new style ploy blade to try out & winter tires have been ordered. Leaf pick-up will begin the week of 10/30/2023.

**Water**- Eric emailed report to everyone. Still 318 meters in service w/no new water hook-ups for the month; had one disconnect on Rte. 30 where a house is going to be removed. Still looking into a more cost-effective way to read meters & fix the “no or miss” reads. Looking into cell units to fix some of the “no or miss” reads. Regular upkeep/maintenance performed; eye wash & fire extinguisher checks done; had a few dig safe mark-outs; monthly water sample required by D/O/H 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. Did 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Iron/Manganese sample-results came back & everything was within DOH numbers. Cleaned Well #1 & everything went well. Should be good for three (3) more years. Well #3 got a new well level cable installed; this one is up for cleaning in 2024. Fall hydrant flushing will be done week of 10/09-10/13/2023. Conducted the flow test on hydrant #69 location (the Hudson Headwaters site). Hope to get numbers back soon to put into the records. Fall hydrant flushing, done the week of Columbus Day, all went well; report will be filed. Travis reported seasonal shut-offs would begin soon. Chairs will be picked up before Halloween; Brenda can lend a truck.

**Salem Volunteer Fire Dep’t., Inc.- 6 calls for month of Sep’t.:** 3-Salem (2-EMS assist; 1-MVA); **3-Mutual Aid Calls:** 3-Cambridge-(2-stand-by’s; 1-structure fire)

**Training**-Station maintenance; driver training; extrication

**Meetings**-Fire Dep’t. monthly mtg.

**Total hours for year**-5,514

Report will be filed.

**Parks & Recreation**-Nothing to report

**Historian**-Supervisor Clary reported that a letter came from the NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, that the NYS Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), conducted an audit of Salem’s CLG activities for this year. The audit consisted of an examination of materials required to be kept on file with SHPO. Audit findings were attached, which records performance strengths & weaknesses from 2019-2022. Any noted deficiencies must be adequately addressed & written documentation of the CLG’s efforts toward correcting said deficiencies must be provided to SHPO within 120 days from receipt of this letter. The six areas listed in the

audit all met the standards, w/some comments & recommendations for improvement. Will get a copy of the letter to Judy and/or Al.

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**Economic Development**-Councilwoman Dunham emailed three different proposals for EV stations to be located in the center island of the town parking lot to be reviewed by the Board. Cost of each as follows:

2-Port Tesla Generation 3 Wall Charger - \$18,818.78; utility incentives of \$10,800 for a total of \$ 8,018.78

2-Port Noodoe AC11P Dual Pedestal - \$19,809.44; utility incentives of \$10,800 for a total of \$9,009.44

2-Port ChargePoint CT 4021-GW1 Level 2 - \$33808.68; utility incentives of \$10,800 for a total of \$23,008.68

A & J currently has a charging station; Hudson Headwaters looking to put in 4. Yvette's students are also looking into this possibility.

**Georgi**-Jeanne Smith e-mailed report. Bill Cotrofeld, the gem expert, met w/Supervisor Clary & Sandra Haber @ the Georgi Museum on 09/29/2023. He has agreed to do an appraisal of the gems & minerals for \$950. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to have Bill Cotrofeld do the gem & mineral appraisal; passed unanimously 5-0.

**Fall Into Shushan**-Finalizing plans for this event to be held on 10/21/2023, from noon-4 p.m. Councilwoman Levey reported the event may need to be cancelled due to the weather that's supposed to be coming. Two vendors have already backed out. Tom McMorris will still be doing his presentation on the Rockwell exhibit & the presentation to Butch Gilchrest will still be done @ 1 p.m.

**Cameras** were hard-wired by Matt Parker; he also did some work on the playground.

**Corinna Aldrich** o.k.'d the hydro-seeding of the river walk.

**Meet n Greet**-rec'd. waiver for this event to be held on 10/26/2023 from 7-9 p.m. All is o.k. to hold the event in the Community Room.

**Breakdown for Ins. Premiums for Georgi**-Inland Marine (fine arts)-\$2,662; Liability & Umbrella-\$542; Property-\$1,150 for a total to bill of \$4,354

**Election Day**-Board of Elections using Community Room for voting on 11/07/2023. Will set up the day before & remove machine day after.

**Calendar for Georgi Meetings/Events**-Calendar for the month of October provided, showing events, meetings, rentals, etc.

**Suite's Plumbing**-has been contacted to get on schedule for after 11/07/2023 to turn off the water.

**\*Quarterly Payment**-in amount of \$5,539.13 was rec'd. for quarter ending Sep't. 30<sup>th</sup>. (This is a correction to am't. reported in 09/20/2023 minutes of \$539.13). Just an FYI—Am't. rec'd. in 2022 per quarter was \$6,569.23 & in 2021 it was \$6,465.21.

**Planning Board**-Kim absent. Meeting will be held on 10/26/2023; Public Hearing on a cannabis growing, cultivation, manufacturing & distribution facility located at 420-460 Bogtown Road, cancelled from the Sep't. meeting.

**Sewer Committee**- Naples, NY, trip on 10/23/2023 has been cancelled; waiting to hear if it will be re-scheduled. The 45 days on filing a Petition re the Permissive Referendum expires on 10/28/2023.

**Assessor**-Jean McLenithan & Tim Grogram working diligently, still entering corrections from re-val issues.

**DCO Report**-Nancy provided report. Responded to complaint from resident on Park Place; neighbor's dog attacked her dog. Dropped off a complaint form, which resident will fill out & get back to Nancy. Spoke to Judge on a dangerous dog case & needs to talk w/Town Attorney about the same.

Dog on Quarry Road went missing & got in woods but owners were able to get it out. Report will be filed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Town Office Discussion**-Current owners will be putting in new heating units so rent will be higher, plus heat & electricity would be charged in addition to monthly rent (paying \$1,000/month now). Check out the

building up the street that Dan Albano owns--the former art studio/center. Supervisor Clary will contact him to see if we can tour the bldg.

**Surplus List/Inventory**-Supervisor Clary has done a preliminary list of things that need to go in the Town Office.

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**2022 AUD**-is still w/the NYS Comptroller's Office; Kathy is waiting for them to get back to her re changes they want made.

**Justice Court Clerk Discussion**-Supervisor Clary reported that Virginia Curran, the current Justice Court Clerk, is leaving. She has sold her house. Virginia told Sue that she had someone interested in the position who had approached her & she has prior experience. Clerk to Supervisor Chambers reported that according to the Town's Handbook the position had to be advertised. Justice gets to pick his own Clerk according to the Unified

Court System. This will need to be checked out. There is only \$354 left in the Judge's .4 account. Virginia gets \$421/month now. Sue will talk to Virginia to see when she is leaving & what the person expects to get for a salary, etc.

**Computer Bags**-Supervisor Clary told the Board that she ordered bags for the laptops @ \$35.95 each.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Glens Falls Hospital**-Had stopped paying in June but are all caught up as of now.

### **2024 Budget Workshop Schedule:**

5<sup>th</sup> Budget Mtg. for 2024-Wednesday, 10/25/2023, @ 5:30 p.m. in Proudfit Hall

**Union Contract**- Councilman Law reported that he had not heard anything back from the representative yet. As soon as he does, he will email everyone w/whatever his proposal might be.

**Rail Trail Meeting**-was held on 10/11/2023 @ 6 p.m. in Rutland.

**Donation for Sidewalk**-Supervisor Clary said an anonymous donor would like to contribute \$25,000 for a sidewalk going to the new Hudson Headwaters bldg. on the corner of State Rte. 22 & Co. Rte. 64.

### **Resolutions from Clerk to Supervisor Chambers:**

**Resolution #79-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, for a Budget Increase to reflect the monies received from LARAC as follows:

GM510-Estimated Revenues	\$ 1,500.00
GM2770-LARAC	
GM960-Appropriations	\$ 1,500.00
GM7450.41	

**Resolution #80-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, for a Budget Increase to use funds from ARPA to pay off old invoices as follows:

A688-ARPA	\$ 3,485.00
A4089-ARPA	
A960-Appropriations	\$ 3,485.00
A1620.4-Bldgs. (Contractual Exp.)	

**Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0; meeting adjourned @ 8:05 p.m.

**5<sup>th</sup> 2024 Budget Workshop Meeting**-will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, @ 5:30 p.m. in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main St.; Salem, NY, beginning @ 5:00 pm for review of Warrants #11 & Highway Abstract #11 for payment. The regular business meeting will be called to order @ 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk-Town of Salem

