

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
DECEMBER 20, 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; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Rebecca Brown-Water Clerk/Library; Herb Perkins-Courthouse; Wyeth Coburn-Sewer Comm./Board Member Elect

Public Present: Michael Allison; Noosh A.; Michael Ammaturo; Heather Santelli; David Yates; Katherine Yates; Stuart Bartow; Cynthia Weinrich

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

5:00 P.M.-Review of **Warrants #11 & Highway Abstract #11 of 2023** for approval & payment

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

Approval of Minutes-09/20/2023-Regular Monthly Meeting-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting of 09/20/2023; passed unanimously 5-0.

09/27/2023 Minutes-2024 Budget Workshop #2-Motion made by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the minutes from the 2024 Budget Workshop Meeting #2, held on 09/27/2023; passed unanimously 5-0.

10/04/2023 Minutes-2024 Budget Workshop #3-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve the minutes from the 2024 Budget Workshop Meeting #3, held on 10/04/2023; passed unanimously 5-0.

10/11/2023 Minutes-2024 Budget Workshop #4-Motion made by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to approve the minutes from the 2024 Budget Workshop Meeting #4, held on 10/11/2023; passed unanimously 5-0.

10/18/2023 Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting of 10/18/2023; passed unanimously 5-0.

10/25/2023 Minutes-2024 Budget Workshop #5-Motion made by Councilwoman Laura Dunham; seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the minutes from the 2024 Budget Workshop Meeting #5, taken by Clerk to Supervisor Chambers in absence of Clerk Gilchrist; passed unanimously 5-0.

11/08/2023 Minutes-Public Hearing on Fire Dep't. Contracts & 2024 Preliminary Hearing on Budget-Hold off on approval as a couple of Board members needed time to review more thoroughly.

Approval of Warrants #11 & Highway Abstract #11 for payment-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to take ARPA money in the amount of \$127.25 more for the Shushan Fire Department to add to the original amount requested of \$5,833, which equal the total paid to them of \$5,960.25; passed unanimously 5-0. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to pay the remainder of Warrants #11 & Highway Abstract #11 for payment; passed unanimously 5-0.

Highway-Travis reported that the auction on the 2018 Pick-Up closed--bid was \$25,700; he would like to counter w/\$50,000. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to counter w/\$50,000. Relist w/Gov Deals if \$50,000 is not accepted; passed unanimously 5-0.

Bid on sander was \$270; Travis would like to counter w/\$500. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to counter w/\$500. Relist w/Gov Deals if counter of \$500 is not accepted.

Dump Brush Hogging-Adam Matthews will brush hog the dump for \$800; will need to budget at least \$1,000.

Thank-you to Councilman McMorris for all the computer held & the new cards.

Mowing Tractor-Cost through Capital Tractor-\$244,000-\$259,000. An International through Salem Farm Supply is \$228,513; we would buy the mower at a cost of \$101,143+/- w/a five-year warranty (\$101,143+/- included in the total price quoted of \$228,513). This is a Diamond Mower, arriving in approximately 12-16 weeks. Town can take out a BAN or do a Letter of Intent to lock in the price w/Salem Farm Supply. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to send Salem Farm Supply a Letter of Intent to lock in the price of \$228,513; passed unanimously 5-0.

BAN Payment on Hot Box-will be done this year; take \$25,000 from equipment towards final payment.

Other items-One new person has started & seems to be working out well. Paving is finished for year; Kingsbury helped put the shoulders on. Mowing tractor is down again but pretty much finished up for year w/it. Parking area turn-around was approved by Soil & Water; they will be paying for all materials. Town's share will be labor & equipment. This year all trucks, including pick-ups, will be set up w/salt brine; just trying to use the brine in the former Village. Getting trucks set up for winter months & hauling up the rest of the winter sand. Blown off most of the dirt roads & started marking tubes. '04 Truck, which is a spare, is leaking coolant (we believe internally). Will probably take it to J & S Transportation to be fixed, hopefully getting it through the winter. Truck will be going in the spring. Travis also emailed the Board the service/inspection reports from Allstate Power on the boilers, located in Proudfit Hall, the Water Barn, & the Courthouse. Leaves were picked up in the former Village & Xmas trees were placed where they were supposed to go. Monthly reports by day provided for September & October, 2023, as well as short report for the Nov. mtg.; all will be filed.

Water-Travis had to fix the road to the Water Tower. Salem School will clean the Water Barn flooring. Eric emailed report to all Board members. Still 318 meters in service, w/no new water hook-ups for the month. Regular upkeep/maintenance performed; eye wash & fire extinguisher checks & yearly inspections completed. Had a few dig safe mark outs to do; all hydrants have been winterized & are ready for the cold months. Fall hydrant flushing went very well; all hydrants were flushed & dead-ends were done a second time. If a fire hydrant is used, **PLEASE** contact the Water Dep't. as it will need to be re-winterized. 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 NYS Sanitary Code under Public Health Law 225. Hope to get numbers back from the hydrant test done @ the HHHN site-numbers need to be put into the records.

It is greatly appreciated when it snows if Town residents clean around the hydrants near their property; it makes accessibility so much easier in case of an emergency. Report will be filed.

Courthouse-Herb's daughter works @ Lowes & was able to get Trex for the Courthouse porch. Light bulbs were donated to the Salem Food Pantry & Herb has 20-1-gallon cans of concrete sealant that will need to be stored safely. A pallet of sawhorses will also be picked up. The annual meeting will be held @ the Courthouse on Tuesday, 11/14/2023. Herb handed out the projected budget for 2024, along w/a pie chart showing 2024 draft budget income & another w/expenses.

Annual Holiday Craft Fair-will be held on Saturday, 11/25/2023, in the Courthouse.

Memorial Trees-Lighting ceremony will be held on 12/09/2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

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Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., Inc.- 16 calls for month of Oct.: 12-Salem (3-good intent; 3-EMS assists; 2-MVA's; 1-grass/brush; 1-control burn; 1-police incident; 1-truck fire); **4-Mutual Aid Calls:** 2-Cambridge-(stand-by's; 1-Hebron (MVA); 1-Wells, VT (water rescue call)

Training-Station maintenance; driver training; open house; cancer program; swift water awareness class; fire prevention @ School

Meetings-Fire Dep't. monthly mtg.; Ken & Elmer-22 hrs. w/lawyer on fire law & by-laws

Total hours for year-6,535

Report will be filed.

PUBLIC-6:30 PM-SALEM ASTRONOMY GROUP-ROUTE 61 BRIDGE LIGHTS-Michael Ammaturo introduced Mike Allison, spokesperson for the group, who read a letter from William Frederick, who could not be present. The current lights are too bright & dim the upward view. They need to be set downward w/covers over them. Supervisor Clary reported that lower light LEDs were installed in the Salem Lighting District, in the Shushan lighting district, & also on the new bridge on County Rte. 61. Most present felt that the lights installed are causing light pollution & a dark night sky, which prevents identification of the stars & whatever planets might be visible. Direct glare prevents a dark night sky; check out darksky.org. Michael says the lights are on from dusk until dawn, w/no night sky visible. The lights are too bright & are harmful to insects & animals. He feels these lights are brighter than any other lights anywhere in Shushan. Heather Santelli, who lives next to the Covered Bridge, has a love of astronomy & the night sky. She says she needs no flashlight to go into her backyard currently due to the brightness of the Rte. 61 bridge lights & it looks like she has a night light in her bedroom. Most present felt the petition presented by the Shushan resident(s) who were supposed to be part of the Shushan Lighting District, only represented those that were in favor of the bridge lights. Michael requested that the Board consider scheduling a Public Hearing on the lights as more options need to be considered & none were. Councilwoman Dunham responded by telling the group that all needed to come to a neighborly agreement. Supervisor Clary thanked those present for their concerns & for attending the meeting.

Historian-Nothing from Judy Flagg

Economic Development-Committee will be meeting on 11/20/2023 @ 9 a.m. in the Town Office

Planning Board-Kim reported that the cannabis growing, cultivation, manufacturing & distribution facility located at 420-460 Bogtown Road, would be reviewed again at the November meeting, which will be held a week before Thanksgiving. HHHN will be presenting a Site Plan Application for review. A public hearing will most likely be scheduled for some time in December.

Library-Kim & Rebecca reported that Friends of Bancroft Library were once again selling Xmas Wreaths & Kissing Balls; contact Megan McKeighan or Wendy Hunter if you are interested in purchasing & have not been contacted. On-going talks re the bays at the old firehouse next to the Library. "Tales & Legends from Salem" is being sold again, available in the Library. Ed Donoghue sent an email to all the Board members, advising that Rachael Armstrong's term as a Bancroft Library Trustee will be running out on 12/3/2023. The Bancroft Public Library Board of Trustees held its meeting on 11/14/2023 & is recommending Rachael be reappointed to a five (5)-year term, beginning 01/01/2023-12/31/2028. Rachael has graciously accepted the nomination.

Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to reappoint Rachael Armstrong to the Bancroft Library Board of Trustees for five (5) more years, term beginning 01/01/2023 & ending 12/31/2028; passed unanimously 5-0.

Sewer Committee-The 45 days on filing a Petition re the Permissive Referendum expired on 10/28/2023.

Georgi-Roof on Battenkill needs replacing due to leakage. Door frame from main living room to Battenkill Room needs looking at. Councilwoman Levey reported that Justin Rushinski would do the roof if nobody else was interested in doing the same. Councilwoman Levey will contact Ben Osterhault to see if he can do it.

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Jeanne Smith sent the Board a very brief report as all events for 2023 have now concluded; she also mentioned the roof leakage issue. Matt & Molly (from Waite's Associates), as well as a representative from Kohler Ronan Engineering from CT., met w/Supervisor Clary @ the Museum on 11/01/2023. The Kohler reps reviewed the electrical/heating in the Museum. Sue talked to Matt about the construction split for the ADA river walk & the connection in the back to the porch to be bid on separately or together. Matt will work on the RFP & will send the information he is given from Kohler Ronan. Both Matt & Molly were very impressed w/the removal of the vegetation. Matt is very concerned re the roof leakage, as the shingles are the same as on the community room that had to be replaced. The roof needs immediate attention & may potentially mean removing the skylights.

DCO Report-Nancy provided report. Responded to complaint from resident on Park Place; neighbor's dog attacked her dog. Tickets were issued for dangerous dog complaint. Left notice on door of resident complaining about the dog re her court appearance on her case. Resident withdrew the complaint for the second time! Report will be filed.

Town Clerk's Report for October, 2023-Clerk Gilchrist reported to the Board that the only monies rec'd. for the month of October was \$110.00 in dog licensing fees, w/\$14 being sent to NYS Ag & Markets for licenses issued, leaving \$96.00 for the Town of Salem.

NEW BUSINESS

Dog Control Contract-Need motion to contract w/Nancy Quell of

to renew contract from 01/01/-12/31/2024. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to sign new contract for 2024 for dog control for the same amount of money, as approved by Nancy; passed unanimously 5-0.

Town Office Lease-Current owners will be putting in new ventless propane heating unit so rent will be higher, plus the Town would be paying for the cost of a tank & propane deliveries (with the possibility of charging for electricity when upgrades are made), in addition to monthly rent (paying \$1,000/month now). Supervisor Clary will check w/Code Enforcement re the ventless issue as this is commercial space. Councilman Law spoke w/Bartlett Fuel on Rte. 29; he could have a 500 gall. tank in the 1st week of December, if necessary, @ a cost of \$2.59/gall. Town would not be responsible for water and/or sewer. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to execute the new Lease Agreement for 2024; passed unani-mously 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

2024 Budget-Need a motion for a Resolution to move from the 2024 Preliminary Town Budget to the 2024 Adopted Budget.

Resolution #83-**Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to adopt the 2024 Budget, moving from Preliminary to Final; passed unanimously 5-0.

MOU w/Salem Courthouse-The 2004 document filed in the Town Office needs to be scanned & sent out. Councilman McMorris will review what Herb sent everyone before, along w/scanning the 2004 document, put in some kind of order & re-send to all Board members, Clerk Gilchrist & Clerk to Supervisor Chambers.

Resolution #84-Union Contract- **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to go into Executive Session to discuss the Union Contract; passed unanimously 5-0. Much discussion back & forth; Councilman Law will take results back to the Union Rep. **Motion made by** Councilman

Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham to come out of Executive Session; passed unanimously 5-0.

Rail Trail Meeting-Another meeting will be held on 11/15/2023 @ 6 p.m. @ the RRPC office in Rutland, VT & online on Microsoft Teams.

Other Business

Solar Farm on Rte. 153-Supervisor Clary reported that Key Bank is the current owner.

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Minutes

Car Charging Stations-Councilman McMorris reported that there are charging stations that were put in for free in Poultney, VT. He will check this out & report back to the Board.

Travis is receiving phone calls from residents complaining that power lines are scraping houses & trees along the sidewalks are coming up by the roots, pushing up the sidewalk. Trees also need trimming. He also reported that he has noticed debris being pushed into the ditches; is this a Town issue or a property owner issue?

Rockwell Pictures & Exhibit are now @ Crandall Library in the Folklife Museum, probably through Dec.

Correspondence-A lovely thank-you to Supervisor Clary & the Town Board was received from Harold "Butch" Gilchrest on the presentation of his Proclamation at the Georgi Community Room before the Rockwell Presentation. He felt very honored & also thanked all for their dedication & hard work given to the Town of Salem.

Well deserved for sure-congrats Butch for all your years of service to both Salem & Shushan!!

Public Comment-Cynthia Weinrich asked if NYSEG trimmed trees or do they hire someone. She also made an observation re the lighting on the bridge being bright--there are shields on the lights by her house so could something be installed like that on the bridge lights? This could be a consideration but would have to be looked at by both Washington County as it is a County bridge & also NYSEG.

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0; meeting adjourned @ 8:22 p.m.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main St.; Salem, NY, beginning @ 5:00 pm for review of Warrants #12 & Highway Abstract #12 for payment. The regular business meeting will be called to order @ 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk-Town of Salem

