

SPECIAL MEETING-SALEM TOWN BOARD
THIRD 2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING-GEORGI C.R.
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council Members: Brenda Levey; Wyeth Coburn; Tom McMorris; Howard Law; Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathleen Chambers

Absent: Eric Rogers-Water; Maurice Patrick-Planning Bd.; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Herb Perkins-Courthouse; Larry Haber-Economic Devel.; Sandi Haber-Georgi; Jeanne Smith-Georgi

Public Present: Scott Eastman; Winnona Hathaway; Al Nolette-Wash. Co. Treasurer

5:00 p.m.-Meeting called to order by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

2025 Budget-Supervisor Clary reported that taxes could only be raised by \$26,939 w/o overriding the tax cap, which is at 2% for this year. A 1% increase would amount to about \$.065/\$1,000 of assessed value. The 2025 Budget, staying within the 2% tax cap, would be \$1,665,312.00 according o a sheet Al Nolette handed out. The override @ 3% would be \$1,681,965.00; 4% would be \$1,698,618.00; 5% would be \$1,715,271.00. The current roll taxable value of real property for the TOS would be as of July 1, 2024.

Thank-you to Wash. Co. Treasurer, Al Nolette, for attending the meeting. Questions were asked of Al, comments made & hopefully, we gained some insight on the Budget process! Difficult to say the least. Al reported that it looked like the County's Tax Sale Auction would be in November, 2024--not October as originally thought.

Reviewed Proposed Figures Page by Page:

GENERAL

Line 10-Justice-Personal Services-Up \$481 from \$9,630 to \$10,111 (5% increase, Judge Thetford requested)

Line 11-Justice-Personal Services (Clerk)-Up \$976 from \$5,211 to \$6,187 (Judge Thetford requested)

Line 23-Assessor-Personal Services-\$19,512 (4%); (Jean requested \$22,638--80/20 split on health ins.)

Line 24-Assessor-Equipment-Down \$300 from \$1,800 to \$1,500

Line 44-Central Printing/Mailing-Con't. Exp.-Up \$200 from \$3,300 to \$3,500; go to \$4,000

Line 64-Control of Dogs-Con't. Exp.-At \$6,500-change to \$6,565 (1% inc. requested by DCO)

Line 81-Sup't. of Highways-Con't.-\$4,000 o.k.

Line 104-Youth-Salem Youth Programs-Up \$500 from \$1,000 to \$1,500 (Supervisor Clary reported that the NYS Comptroller's Office says a definite 'NO' to giving Boy Scouts money & no to Germany Music Trip.)

Line 108-Library-Con't. Exp.-Up \$6,700 from \$33,300 to \$40,000 (Library requested this 20% increase; quite an increase in Director & Deputy Director salaries & part-time went up. Only 6% was requested from Salem School Budget, which passed. Changed salaries to 4% on last page of Budget like everyone else rec'd.

WATER APPROPRIATIONS/REVENUES

Line 399-Departmental Income-Metered Sales-\$117,177 last year; 2-1/2% inc. now to \$119,822; 3% would be \$121,075; 5% would be \$123,036

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

Line 444-Fire Protection District-Con't. Exp.-Salem-Change from \$189,295 to \$209,316 (15% inc.)

Line 445-Fire Protection District-Con't. Exp.-Shushan-Currently \$63,378, which was am't. requested; leave as is.

PULIC COMMENT

Scott Eastman-Feels more work is needed on Beattie Hollow Road (dirt part); been really dusty (no rain).

Could some calcium be put down?? Scott said he rode around the secondary roads in White Creek & they seem to be doing a better job w/their dirt's. Councilman Law says use crushed sand, but probably too expensive.

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Travis reported that CHIPS says every ten (10) years for re-paving. Grade every 10 days to 3 weeks; potholes are bad. Al Nolette responded that he thought there was grant money out there for roads, depending on what was being done. Supervisor Clary will check on this.

Why is Lewis Tree Service parking at the Town Barn??

NEW BUSINESS

Anthem Sports-Letter rec'd. from Dieter Drake, Event Director, by e-mail regarding Tour of Battenkill bike race to be held on 05/10/2025, looking for permission to use several Salem Town roads. Wait until October meeting to act on.

Chamber of Commerce-has requested \$1,000 from the Town for 14 Christmas trees to be placed in front of whatever businesses want one. **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, approving the amount of \$1,000 for the Chamber of Commerce's request for Christmas trees; passed unanimously 5-0. (May be able to use ARPA funds??)

Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund & Salem Food Pantry-Supervisor Clary would like to use \$2,000--\$1,000 to the Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund & \$1,000 to the Salem Food Pantry for Town of Salem residents--money to come from the Salem Community Fund that was established many years ago by the Village of Salem, now belonging to the Town of Salem. **Resolution #41-Motion made by** Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to take \$2,000 from the Salem Community Fund, giving \$1,000 to the Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund & \$1,000 to the Salem Food Pantry; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolutions-from Clerk to Supervisor Chambers:

Resolution #42-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris for a Budget Increase as follows:

A3820-Youth Program-County	\$ 781.00	
A7310.4-Youth Program		\$ 781.00

To reflect money rec'd. from County for Lunch, Learn & Play; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #42A-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, for a Budget Increase as follows:

GM2770-Unclassified Revenues-LARAC	\$ 650.00	
GM7450.41-LARAC		\$ 650.00

To reflect money rec'd. from LARAC; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #42B-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, for a Budget Increase as follows:

A4990-Government	\$30,000.00	
A6989.42V-Sewer		\$30,000.00

To reflect money rec'd. from USDA-sewer; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #42C-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris for a Budget Increase as follows:

A4089-ARPA	\$ 1,000.00	
A7310.4-Salem Youth Programs-Chorus		\$ 500.00
A7310.4-Salem Youth Programs-Boy Scouts		\$ 500.00

To move funds from ARPA to pay back Salem Youth Programs Line Items--\$500 given to Boy Scouts; \$500 given to Salem Central School Chorus for a total of \$1,000; passed unanimously 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

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Bids for ADA Handicap Accessible Path @ Georgi-will be published in the Post-Star print editions on the following dates: Thursday-09/19/24; Saturday-09/21/24; Thursday-09/26/24; Saturday-09/28/24 & Saturday-10/05/24. Bids will be opened @ the regular monthly meeting of the Town Board on Wednesday, 10/16/24.

Rat Problem-South Main St.-When garbage is being removed from the home, rats are running around the neighborhood. Other areas in former Village are having similar problem w/rats; this has been on-going.

Route 29 Property-Issue went before County Court--bottom line: cannot prosecute!

ARPA Funding Review-Clerk to Supervisor Chambers handed out sheets showing who requested funds, in what amount & the amount that was expended to each entity that requested funds.

Available	\$43,612.96;
Committed Funds (not yet expended)	<u>-33,853.43</u>
Bal. of ARPA Funds available	\$ 9,759.53
(As of 08/31/2024)	

Sue & Kathy will meet again to nail down the final amounts requested & what was paid by Nov. mtg.

Special Meeting of the Salem Town Board for Insurance Quote-A special meeting will be held on 10/01/2024 @ 5 p.m. in the Salem Town Office; 214 Main Street; Salem, NY, to hear a presentation by Melissa Davidson of Northern Insuring, Agent, coverage provided by NYMIR. Following this presentation, @ 6 p.m., there will be a presentation by an Agent from Amsure of Saratoga. There could potentially be a third presentation from the Reiss Group, as Agent, @ 7 p.m., coverage provided by either Trident/Argo or Arch/Liberty Mutual (this will only happen if the Reiss Group can secure quotes in the required time frame).

Next 2025 Budget Workshop Meeting-4th2025 Budget Workshop Meeting will be held on 10/09/2024, beginning @ 5 p.m. in the Georgi Community Room; 21 Adams Lane; Shushan, NY 12873.

Regular Monthly Meeting-of Salem Town Board will be October 16, 2024, in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY, beginning @ 5 p.m. for review of Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10 for payment; regular meeting will be called to order @ 6 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to adjourn the 3rd 2025 Budget Workshop meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0; meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk-Town of Salem

