

SPECIAL MEETING-SALEM TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025 FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTS, THE 2025
PRELIMINARY BUDGET & LOCAL LAW #6 OF 2024 TO OVERRIDE THE
2025 TAX CAP &
FIFTH 2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP REVIEW-SALEM TOWN OFFICE
OCTOBER 29, 2024

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

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

Public Present: Steven Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't. Chief; Joe Wever-Salem Fire Dep't. Board

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

5:05 p.m.-Supervisor Clary opened the Public Hearing for the proposed 2025 Fire Protection Contracts per the 2025 Preliminary Budget: Fire Protection District-Salem-\$209,316; Fire Protection District-Shushan-\$63,378

Supervisor Clary asked the required three times if there were any public comments/questions regarding the Fire Protection contract amounts, w/no response any of the three times. Public Hearing on proposed 2025 Fire Protection Contracts in the amount of \$209,316 for Salem & \$63,378 for Shushan in the 2025 Preliminary Budget declared closed.

5:15 p.m.-Supervisor Clary opened the Public Hearing for the proposed 2025 Preliminary Budget, asking the required three times if there were any public comments/questions on anything in the 2025 Preliminary Budget, w/no response any of the three times. Public Hearing on proposed 2025 Preliminary Budget was closed.

5:35 p.m.-Supervisor Clary opened the Public Hearing on Local Law #6 of 2024 to override the 2025 tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law S3-C, asking the required three times if there were any public comments/questions regarding Local Law #6 of 2024 to override the 2025 tax levy limit, w/no response any of the three times. Public Hearing on the filing of Local Law #6 to override the 2025 tax levy limit was closed.

Resolution #51-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to adopt said Resolution #51, entitled "Override the 2025 Tax Cap Limit" of the Town of Salem & hereby is adopted as Local Law #6 of 2024, adopted by a vote of five (5) Ayes, Zero (0) Nays. The Supervisor declared said Resolution #51 adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

2025 Proposed Preliminary Budget Review:

GENERAL

Line 23-Assessor-Personal Services-\$22638 (Jean's request) back down to 4% inc. of \$19,512 (Split between Jean & Tim is 70%-30% & insurance increased \$2,700 for T/O/S)

Line 49-Special Items-Other Gov't. Support-Reduce to \$7,500 from \$10,000 (\$3,991.50 spent; \$6,008 left)

Line 94-Economic Devel.-Con't. Exps.-Lower figure from \$2,000 to \$500

Line 95-Economic Devel.-Con't. Exps (sewer)-Lower from \$1,000 to \$500

Line 108-Library-Con't. Exp.-Lower from \$38,900 to \$34,632 (min. wage going up to \$15.50/hr. 01/01/25)

Line 116-Historian-Con't.-Lower from \$3,300 to \$2,300

Line 143-Cemeteries-Con't.-Lower from \$18,000 to \$16,700

Line 151-Employee Benefits-Hosp./Medical Ins.-Up from \$32,000 to actual figure of \$36,000

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Line 466-General-Down from \$574,487 to \$564,293; over to last column 'Less unexpended fund balance'
Down from \$230,633 to \$220,439

Line 522-General-Est. Taxable Prop. Values-Down from 0.89 to 0.85

Line 524-TOTAL -Down from 5.29 to 5.26

Clerk to Supervisor Chambers sent the copy of the Bancroft Public Library 2025 Tentative Budget to all.

Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris to accept the 2025 Preliminary Budget w/cuts as discussed; no second so Motion failed to pass. Councilman McMorris rescinded his Motion to accept cuts as discussed for the 2025 Preliminary Budget; Board needs to get some more answers to questions it has re figures in proposed 2025 Preliminary Budget.

2025 Budget Workshop Sheet-was emailed to all from Councilman McMorris, showing what the rate/thousand would be for the 2025 Budget, beginning w/a 7% increase (\$5.28/thousand), going down to 4% increase (\$5.10/thousand). The sheet also showed the amount that would have to come out of the budget for 6%, 5% & 4%.

After-school Program Funding-Councilman McMorris forwarded an email to all he had rec'd. from Sen. Jake Ashby's Office regarding funding for After-School Programs. There is no funding through the Senate office for such programs but possibly the LEAP program would be a place to begin. The RFP process begins in the Spring of 2025 for the following school year. Another option would be to go through Wash. County's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program or sometimes USDA has funding through the County, which can be used in poorer rural areas for after-school programming. This information was rec'd. from Nick Joseph, Chief of Staff, for NYS Senator Jake Ashby.

ARPA Funding-Linendoll Electric submitted an estimate for park lights at a total cost of \$2,350.00--\$2,100 for labor w/2men @ prevailing wage & \$250 for lift rental. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn to accept the estimate of \$2,350 from Linendoll Electric for the park lights, money to come out of the remaining ARPA funds; passed unanimously 5-0.

Trees in Revolutionary Cemetery & Moravian/Camden Valley Cemetery-Trees need to come down in both cemeteries that are causing problems or will cause problems if a big storm hits. This will need to go out to bid; can pay for cost of whatever needs to be done for one Cemetery through the 2025 Budget & the other cemetery through remaining ARPA funds.

Balance of ARPA funds is \$5,409.53

Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to use ARPA money to take down the trees in either the Revolutionary Cemetery or the Moravian/Camden Valley Cemetery, depending on cost of clean-up/removal of trees when bids are received. Passed unanimously 5-0
Travis Keys will show Buddy Nolan what trees need to be cut down in the Moravian/Camden Valley Cemetery. Councilwoman Levey gave Buddy's contact information to Travis.

Sotheby's Appraisal of 15 Georgi Paintings was finally rec'd. & will be given to the Hyde for insurance purposes for the exhibit.

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Shoveling for Bancroft Trust & Glens Falls Hospital Office-The person that does the shoveling at these locations is requesting an increase from \$17/hr. to \$21/hr. for shoveling snow. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to increase the per hour cost for snow shoveling from \$17/hr. to \$21/hr.; passed unanimously 5-0.

Salem Community Foundation Award-Rec'd. notification of grant of \$5,000 rec'd. from Salem Community Foundation to be used toward cost of an HVAC system @ the Georgi Museum. A big thank-you to the Salem Community Foundation for this grant money!

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NYSERDA Grant-Supervisor Clary rec'd. an email advising that the Town's grant application in the amount of \$10,000 under the Clean Energy Communities Program was approved by NYSERDA.

Revised Bid from Grasshopper Gardens-included fencing in the amount of \$2,850; Town Board had asked for fencing to be included at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. **Resolution #52-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, approving the addition of \$2,850 for fencing, Grass-hopper to remove the fencing & dispose of off-site; passed unanimously 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Xmas Trees-\$1,000 requested by Chamber of Commerce for the purchase of Xmas Trees will be taken from ARPA fund balance.

Alarm @ Georgi Museum-Councilwoman Levey reported that she & Clerk to Supervisor Chambers had been working on this; a new battery was put in & will need replacing every 2-3 years. Kathy has code now, also.

Historic Preservation Commission-Al Cormier has met w/the Commission to review their responsibilities. Al gave them copies of the map of the current district; the HPC administer signs in the district. They will need a copy of the current Local Law. The Commission will need a replacement for Judy Flagg & maybe one other member who has not been able to attend meetings. Current members are Michele Bardwell, Chris Preble, & John Clark. They need at least two new members. Michele also leaves for Florida during the winter months so that will leave them w/o a quorum if no new members can be found. Al's email will be filed.

Regular Monthly Meeting-of Salem Town Board will be held on November 13, 2024, at Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY, beginning @ 5 p.m. for review of Warrants #11 & Highway Abstract #11 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 Public Hearings required for the 2025 Preliminary Budgeted meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0; meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk-Town of Salem

