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**TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
MAY 14, 2025**

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

Others Present: Travis Keys-Highway Sup't./Water; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Larry Haber-Economic Development; Herb Perkins-Courthouse; Beth Ulion-Courthouse

Public Present: None

Absent- Eric Rogers-Water Dep't.(report provided); Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Al Cormier-Hist./Records Mg't.(report provided); Mary Menard-Proposed Georgi Trustee; Sandra Haber-Georgi; Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't.; Nancy Quell-DCO

5:00 P.M.-Review of **Warrants #5 & Highway Abstract #5 of 2025** for approval & payment.

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

Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to pay Warrants #5 & Highway Abstract #5 for payment; passed unanimously 5-0.

Highway-Travis reported that CHIPS paperwork was completed & signed.

Resolution #35-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, approving the two latest contracts from Eagle Associates, with the new wording added, granting permission to Supervisor Evera Sue Clary to execute both contracts tonight--one on the 72' x 180' Britespan sand storage building @ a total cost of \$554,690.30, with downpayment of \$15,000 due upon contract signing. The other contract is for the 40' x 60' Britespan salt storage building @ a total cost of \$104,268.84, with downpayment of \$10,000 due upon contract signing; passed unanimously 5-0. Travis will send back executed contracts tomorrow, 05/15/2025. Still waiting for contract from NYS

Union Contract-Travis is working w/Benji on amendments to the contract for new hires, including adjustments to H.S.A. disbursements & uniform allowances.

Short report for May mtg. (emailed to all by Sup't. Keys)-Most of the dirt's have been graded once--some twice. Doing tree trimming around former Village & from the red light north on Rte. 22. Mowing w/new tractor for better sight lines; grad-all is back together & ready to go. First part of paving is done for now--first half of Smith Rd. & first half of Hanks Rd. Sweeping is also completed in Town & former Village. FYI-Alex Keys last day was 04/21/2025. Day by day work report for month of April, 2025, was also emailed to everyone; both reports will be filed.

Water-Eric emailed his report to all board members. 321 meters in service; regular upkeep & maintenance was performed; had a few dig safe mark-out. Eye wash & fire extinguisher checks were done as well as yearly inspection. Monthly water sample required by D/O/H met the bacteriological requirements for a public water supply as set forth in subpart 51.5 of the NYS Sanitary Code under Public Health Law 225. Spring fire hydrant flushing went well; firemen performed hose testing along w/a handful of other departments. Attended water school in Saratoga. Report will be filed.

Eric's last day w/the T/O/S will be May 26, 2025. In his own words: "I would like to thank the Salem community for the past 25 plus years of being able to work with & in Salem from 1998, where I started part-time w/the Village for springtime clean-up that led to mowing & laborer work. When the water system was put in in 2003, I started full time, getting my water license that same year. It was a big help watching the system being put in from the start to know how the system works & where things are located. In 2016, when the

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Village merged into the Town, I continued in my position producing safe, drinkable water & also working w/the Highway Dep't. crew to present. I'm sure lots will be missed. Moving on, I wish the best of luck w/the

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system, hoping it moves in the right direction. Thank you for the opportunity for 25 plus years between the Village & Town of Salem!" The Town of Salem thanks you for your years of dedicated service, including the former Village; you will be missed!

Travis announced that Andy Erbe & Mario Canalini are both interested in getting licensed for water. The hours will be 10-12 hours each @ \$25/hr. w/no stipend & no benefits. There will be a class coming up in September for water. Coverage is very important in the event something happens to Travis, should he be out for an extended period. Mark Rogers could also cover, working under Travis' license. Call Melissa @ insurance company to make sure he will be covered.

Resolution #36-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to hire Andy Erbe & Mario Canalini as part-time employees in the Water Dep't. @ a rate of \$25/hour w/no stipend & no benefits; passed unanimously 5-0.

Water Clerk-Travis had a meeting w/Rebecca Brown, current Water Clerk, & Winona Hathaway, proposed new water clerk. The water office has been moved to the water barn, with the water program being installed on the newest computer @ water barn; Mark Rode will check everything out to make sure the program is working properly.

Resolution #37-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to hire Winona Hathaway as part-time Water Clerk @ the rate currently stated in the 2025 Budget; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #38-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to declare the old Village computer as surplus, selling the same to the Bancroft Library for \$1.00; passed unanimously 5-0.

Courthouse-Herb Perkins congratulated the Town on the ribbon cutting for the opening of the new Hudson Headwaters Health Network's facility in Salem, thanking the Board for their efforts in making it happen. Herb announced that Michael Ammaturo had to step away as Co-President & that Beth Ulion was now taking the reins as President, w/Mary Menard as Vice-President. He introduced Beth to the Board & she reported that renovations had been completed on the inside & the Courthouse was once again open. Free concerts have been happening on Thursdays @ noon w/senior citizens & different classes coming from Salem Central every week. There are also refreshments provided; these have been very well attended & the seniors love the kids! These have been made possible by grants secured by WCHAW through Café Lena in Saratoga. Beth wants to remind everyone that L, L, & P will begin in July. Minutes from 02/05/2025 Board of Directors meeting were emailed to all Board members & will be filed.

Installation of fencing-HSCPA is proposing the installation of a "modest, historically appropriate aluminum fence around the Courthouse front lawn to enhance child safety, especially during the L, L & P summer program. The fencing is white aluminum (w/flat rail on top), designed to reflect a modest historical style in keeping w/the character of the Courthouse." The design was recommended by Matt Scheidt, Preservation Architect, of Thaler Reilly Wilson Architecture & Preservation, paperwork to be submitted to the NYS Historic Preservation Office for review & approval. Total cost will be approximately \$18,400; grant funding has been secured to cover all associated expenses. Quote was rec'd. from Access Anvil, a Fort Miller Group subsidiary. A drawing was handed out showing the approximate location of where the fence would be located. Beth explained that the next step was approval from the Salem Town Board. Supervisor Clary told Beth that this would require approval from the Town of Salem Historic Commission, which currently does not have a quorum for meetings. Michele Bardwell resigned from the Commission, effective May 5th, 2025. Currently looking for one or two people to serve on the Commission. Photo of the design will need to be presented to them, along with w/the Certificate of Appropriateness, before approval. Call Chris Preble, who may be able to help.

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Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, granting conditional

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approval for HSCPA to move forward with this project, securing the necessary approvals from the Salem Historic Commission & Washington County Code Enforcement ; passed unanimously 5-0.
Minutes from 04/02/2025 Board of Directors meeting rec'd. & will be filed.

Salem Fire Dep't.-Chief Saunders emailed April, 2025 report: **10 Calls for month:** 7-Salem Fire District (1-EMS lift assist; 1-trees & lines; 1-grass fire; 1-LP gas leak; 1-priority 1 ECHO; 1-good intent; 1-vehicle fire)

Mutual Aid: 1-Cambridge (stand-by drill); 2-MA Hebron (1-grass; 1-alarm w/illness)

Meetings, etc.-Held fire dep't. monthly meeting; committee meetings; performed station maintenance
Training-Driver training; BEFO Training-last class was 05/05/2025; all five have graduated; SCBA & bailout training all month.

Recruitment-Salem School Recruitment Drive-w/all fire dep'ts. Salem has rec'd. applications from students

New Membership-Chief Saunders requests that the Town Board approve Lucas Casey, a transfer from Hartford Fire Dep't., for new membership. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve Lucas Casey as a new member of the Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., having transferred from the Hartford Fire Dep't.; passed unanimously 5-0.

Need to approve Savannah Foster to stay as a member of the Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't. as she has moved out of the district. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve that Savannah Foster may stay as a member of the Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., even though she has moved out of the district (Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't. already approved her to stay as a member); passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the following as new Junior Members of the Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., Inc.: Nicholas Buck, Jr.; Logan Harper; Wyatt Armer-Marion; passed unanimously 5-0.

2025 Fire Protection Contract-Response to NYMIR'S Issues-Joe Wever emailed everyone the response from the fire dep't. attorney concerning the NYMIR wording issues: "Paragraph 4 simply has the town holding the company harmless if it does not respond to a call due to low staff. It is not a full release from liability. The town, by law (Sawyer v. Town of Lewis), is liable for all acts & omissions of the fire department. That is why Paragraph 5 exists. So, Paragraph 4 is about a lawsuit by the town vs. the department. Paragraph 5 is about the fire department & town getting sued, & the department providing coverage. They do not conflict as they are unrelated."

Tag Sale @ Carnival Grounds-Salem Fire Dep't. has given approval for Andy Erbe to hold a tag sale @ the old carnival grounds over Memorial Day weekend; needs to be approved by Salem Town Board. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, giving the Board's approval for Andy Erbe to hold a tag sale @ the old carnival grounds over Memorial Day weekend, providing the proper insurance certificate; passed unanimously 5-0.

Rescue Squad Report-Vicky Campbell emailed report to all. Total calls for April-40; Year-to-date total-162; 4431-0; 4451-5; 4452-0; 4453-35

Call Origin: Salem-24; Hebron-12; Jackson-1; Vermont-1

Call Disposition-GFH-22; Saratoga Hosp.-7; SVMC-2; RMA-8; Albany Peds-2
Stand-by-1

Ten Minute Response Time-78% (31-Yes; 9-No)

Volunteer are always needed, doing o.k. w/funds currently
Report will be filed

Bancroft Library-Needs smoke detectors in every room; C/O detector by boiler. Would like to split the cost between Bancroft Trust & Bancroft Library.

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NOTE: Email rec'd. from Ed Donoghue advising that he & Mark Cooney installed six (6) smoke detectors in the Bancroft building rooms & one (1) combination smoke/CO2 detector in the library as required by Wash. Co. Code Enforcement. All detectors have ten-year batteries.)

Economic Development-Larry reported that for the time being the grant funding final application was pulled on the solar project for the landfill. Can probably redo in the fall. NYS Community Solar interested in looking @ landfill site. John Bardwell & Larry met w/NY Power Authority-12-1/2% fee vs/ 27% fee. Councilman Law has name of someone who might be interested.

Northeast Rail Trail-Meeting held; lots of interest in railroad depot building & a rail trail. Head of Battenkill Railroad was present & is not in favor of the trail.

Memorial Day Parade-Andy Erbe & Jack McKeighan put up the flags for Memorial Day. Those Legion members that can march will do so, but there are more aging members now. There are older materials in the barn by the Revolutionary War Cemetery. Purple signs (4 different ones) regarding Veteran's @ entry points to the Town. Supervisor Clary will investigate, but we may have to be designated as a Purple Heart Community first.

Sewer-Talked to Stanton Hill LLC (SAW) re property site; would like the option to be able to hold the site until the referendum & then purchase after the results of the referendum are known. **Motion made by** Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to exercise the option to hold the site @ a cost of \$100 until after the referendum; passed 4-1, with Councilman Law voting no. Councilman Law requested that the Board needed to receive minutes from the Sewer Committee. Wyeth said he had been lax in sending them out & would get that done.

Georgi-Sandi Haber emailed her report to everyone. Provisional Charter was not approved at either the April or May meetings of the Board of Regents. Regent's Council will be sending a letter to Attorney Pero, requesting information asking why the previous Charter is not in force & what has changed; will be discussed once Attorney Pero receives the letter from the Board of Regents Council.

Mold Remediation-Ryan Wilde submitted the mold report (emailed to all Board members); this will be going out to bid as soon as the funding is secured. Georgi Board will do initial cleaning of certain areas as suggested by Mr. Wilde.

ADA Path-Grasshopper still has not yet set a date to fix the path to comply w/the original specs (slope is not right). David Owens will meet w/Grasshopper when they come.

Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to move forward w/the back platform, putting in gravel; passed unanimously 5-0.

ADA Door-David Owens is working on new specs to comply w/ADA requirements.

Paintings-The Hyde has been asked to hold the Georgi paintings from the exhibit in the Hyde's vault until 06/30/2025. Hopefully, the mold remediation will be completed by this time. There are currently four (4) unwrapped paintings in the Museum as they are too fragile for normal wrapping per Sotheby's & the Hyde. The Hyde has recommended Northeast Transit Fine Art Services to wrap these paintings at an approximate cost of \$1,200 (\$300/painting). Each of these paintings have been appraised by Sotheby's at between \$60,000-\$120,000. Supervisor Clary suggested a call to Pearl Rucker regarding the wrapping; this is what she used to do. She could possibly volunteer her services if she can even do the same.

Dehumidifier-It was suggested by David Owens to put the dehumidifier above ground rather than where it is currently located.

IOU Lease Agreement-sent to all Board members in February for their review. Board members needs to review Agreement & make a list of questions they might have to be given to attorney--sooner rather than later. Brenda will check w/the Trustees to come up w/some dates to present to the Board for a separate

meeting. The Board prefers to set up a meeting after the provisional charter is granted. The 501(c)(3) will still have to be applied for by Attorney Pero.

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Upcoming Events:

05/22/2025-Student Service Day-Brenda has a list of projects for the seniors to do.

05/31/2025-Plant Sale 8:30-11 am

06/14/2025-Bruce wedding (full facility)

06/24; 6/25/25-Primary election set-up & voting (if necessary)

06/26 or 06/27/2025-Country Night at the Georgi

06/28/2025-Ballard Reception (CR only)

07/11 or 07/12/2025-PossibleMettawee Players

08/07/2025-Washington County Band

08/16/2025-McKenzie Wedding (full facility)

08/23/2025-Talmadge wedding (full facility)

09/18/2025-Chamber Mixer hosted by the Georgi

10/04/2025-Rogers/Waite wedding (full facility)

11/04/2025-Election for District 2 in the CR

Board of Trustee's Director Brenda Levey announced that she would remain involved w/the Georgi operations until the end of 2025 but does not wish to continue as a Trustee on the Board of Directors.

Report will be filed.

Planning Board-Chairman Kim Erbe announced no minutes for the 04/24/2025 regular monthly meeting of the Planning Board as the Board did not meet as no applications were submitted. Agenda for May 22, 2025 meeting has two (2) Site Plan Applications & one (1) Subdivision Application to review.

Historian's Report-Al's report emailed to all. Bonnie Hoag donated former Town Board member Jeff Ovington's landfill & board meeting minutes of 1990 to the Town Archives, as well as three folders regarding the Georgi Museum from 1989-1992.

John Pitts of East Greenwich donated a 1927 meeting manual/oath of membership used by the Klu Klux Klan chapter in Troy, NY, which was found in the attic of a home in East Greenwich.

April 17, 2025 Meeting @ the Courthouse-Ken Gottry was the guest speaker talking about the history of the Northern Turnpike, running from Eagle Bridge to Granville. Salem's Gen. John Williams was on the Turnpike Board of Trustees. Approximately 25 people attended to hear Ken's presentation.

Short film recorded on 05/01/2025-Tom McMorris recorded re-enactor Jared West (co-owner of the Form Salem Theatre) @ the St. John Honeywood gravestone in the Revolutionary War Cemetery. Honeywood graduated from Yale University, was a nationally known writer of poetry, local politician, lawyer, & 2nd Principal of Salem Washington Academy. Film may be viewed on Facebook or by going to McMorrisphoto.com.

'Early History of Salem'-Parts 6 & 7 have been sent to the Salem Press & the Eagle newspapers.

'Early History of Salem to the End of the Revolutionary War'-Book will be available in early June.

Records Management-Five more cubic feet of unneeded records from the walk-in vault in the archive room have been disposed of.

Report will be filed.

DCO Report-No report; everything quiet

PUBLIC COMMENT-None

OLD BUSINESS

sidewalk Update-RFQ has been put on the NYS website & was in the Salem Press.

Master Comprehensive Plan-an approximate 18-month commitment; volunteers so far include: Kay

Tomasi (Sewer/Economic Development), Larry Haber (Economic Development), Ed Donoghue (Planning Board) Jared West (Fort Salem Theatre), Robert Perry (new resident), Jen Cary (agriculture), Michael Hatzel (SAW), Julie Adams (Salem Central School Sup't.), & Supervisor Evera Sue Clary (would like someone from Shushan)

Community Service Day-next Thursday, 05/22/2025

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NEW BUSINESS

Mortgage Tax-This will be discussed @ Friday's Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Camden Valley/Moravian Cemetery Clean-up-will take place on 05/16/2025 from 8:30 am-1 pm

Tree Removal in Moravian/Camden Valley & Revolutionary War Cemeteries-At least two trees in Moravian Cemetery & 3-4 in Revolutionary War Cemetery need to come down. Travis reported that Josh Phillips has a small piece of equipment, but he isn't sure that would fit in the tight spots.

Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to put Legal Notice in Eagle, seeking bids for removal of the two trees in the Moravian/Camden Valley Cemetery & the three-four trees in the Revolutionary War Cemetery; passed unanimously 5-0. Sup't. Keys & Clerk Gilchrist will work on drafting the Legal Notice.

Tree Stump Removal-Williams Street-Need to get an approximate cost

Salem Community Foundation-Pot Luck Dinner @ the Courthouse on 05/31/2025; bring a dish to pass & your own place setting.

Town of Salem Historic Preservation Commission-needs at least two new volunteer members. The Commission does not currently have a quorum to conduct.

Justice Audit-Supervisor Clary announced that an audit of Justice Thetford's books needs to be done. Councilman Wyeth Coburn volunteered to conduct the same w/Supervisor Clary.

Executive Session-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to go into Executive Session for matters of employment for particular persons & possible litigation; passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to come out of Executive Session; passed unanimously 5-0. No action taken in Executive Session

Shortages in Building Cleaning & Deputy Town Clerk Line Items-Clerk to Supervisor Chambers reported that cleaning hours for Bancroft Library & Proudfit (Judge's chambers) has tripled in hours from what the prior person submitted in hours--currently approx. 13-1/2 hours every two weeks @ an average of \$245, including town office, which is also twice/month. Will have to cut back to once a month cleaning for both.

Town Clerk-Personal Svcs. (Deputy)-This line is short in the amount of \$1,554 currently. Need a resolution for a budget increase. **Resolution #39-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, for a Budget Increase as follows:

A1990.4-Contingency	\$ 1,554.00	
A1410.11-Personal Svcs. (Deputy)		\$ 1,554.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #40-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, for a Budget Increase as follows:

A4089-ARPA	\$ 12,299.75	
A19809.4-Other Gov't. Support		\$ 12,299.75

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #41-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, for a Budget Increase as follows (remainder of Grant money rec'd.):

A599 Fund Balance	\$ 27,000.00	
A6989.42V-Con't. Exps. (Sewer)		\$ 27,000.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

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Next Meeting-of the Salem Town Board will be the regular monthly meeting on 06/11/2025 beginning @ 5 p.m. in the Salem Town Office; 214 Main Street; Salem, NY 12865, to review Warrants #6 & Highway Abstract #6 for payment. Business meeting will be called to order @ 7 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem