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TOWN OF SALEM  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD  
JUNE 11, 2025

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

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

**Public Present:** Elizabeth Barnard

**Absent**-Town Councilman Howard Law (ex.); Town Councilman Wyeth Coburn (ex.); Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Al Cormier-Hist./Records Mg'mt.(report provided); Mary Menard-Proposed Georgi Trustee; Sandra Haber-Georgi (report provided); Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't. (report provided); Nancy Quell-DCO (report provided)

**5:00 P.M.**-Review of **Warrants #6 & Highway Abstract #6 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 Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to pay Warrants #6 & Highway Abstract #6 for payment; passed 3-0.

**Economic Development-Climate Smart/Solar**-Larry reported that a sample contract document was rec'd. from NYPA w/adjusted rates between 3-6%, down from the 12%-27.5% previously quoted. Sep't. grant submission might now be more feasible. Several add'l. solar farm developers have been identified; John Yardwell & Larry will be contacting them to discuss Salem's plans for the landfill. Spoke w/NBRC who stated they will be accepting intent to apply letters this fall.

**Co-op**-Still checking into the possibility that community residents from Salem & Shushan can become involved w/the on-line ordering system developed through the co-op.

**Northeast Rail**-Meeting set for Saturday, 06/14/2025,w/ Max Sanders regarding the train station & barn. NE Rail Board needs to determine ownership of building(s), so they are talking to Canadian Pacific to discuss trans-fer of ownership to NE Rail if owned by Canadian Pacific. Larry has now become a member of the Board for NE Rail & will continue to report on any developments to EDC. Laura Oswald from Washington County is also involved.

**Sewer Committee**-Supervisor Clary reported that discussions re a possible site location are almost complete. The EDC will help w/the community marketing approach.

**Master Comprehensive Plan**-Committee has been formed; more info will be provided shortly.

**Grant Funding**-CFA is out for brine maker & working w/LaBella regarding grants for sidewalk replacement.

**Linke Properties**-A letter has been sent to the Governor's office to see if any assistance is available to get these properties back to the Town.

**Tree Removal Bid(s)-Revolutionary War Cemetery; Moravian/Camden Valley Cemetery**-One bid was rec'd. for both cemeteries from Josh's Tree Service:

**Revolutionary War Cemetery**-Take down one (1) dying double cherry tree on Rte. 22 side of lot; take down one (1) large dead ash tree down to the crotch on left side of stonewall (lease trunk approx. 20' tall); take down one (1) large double ash tree that is dead on left side of stonewall next to other large dead ash; prune extra-large cherry tree over gravestones; remove large lights from left side to relieve stress & weight from tree; clean up all wood, brush & debris

\$4,000

**Total Cost-**

**Camden Valley/Moravian Cemetery**-Remove extra-large dead center of maple tree in back left corner of lot; also remove lower limbs over gravestones. Take down one (1) large dying maple tree in back right corner of lot; cut stumps as low as possible; remove all wood, brush & debris **Total Cost-\$6,000**

Total cost for both cemeteries is \$10,000; non-collusive bidding certificate provided. Certificate of insurance will be provided. There is \$6,300 in budget--need \$3,700. **Resolution #42-Motion made by** Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve the two bids for tree removal in the Revolutionary War Cemetery & Camden Valley/Moravian Cemetery submitted by Josh's Tree Service & to move the remainder due of \$3,700 from the money received from the Spectrum Contract to the Cemetery Line Item; passed 3-0.

**RFQ's Received from Engineering Firms to Oversee the Sidewalk Grant Project**-Two RFQ's were received—one from LaBella Engineering & one from MSK of Bennington, VT. Both submissions were very thorough, but LaBella is already familiar w/Salem as they prepared the Community Pedestrian Study.

**Resolution #43-Motion mad by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve LaBella Engineering as the engineering firm to oversee the sidewalk grant; passed 3-0.

**Approval of Minutes**-Minutes from **January 29 Special Meeting: Motion made by** Councilman McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Levey, to approve the minutes from the 01/29/2025 Special Meeting; passed 3-0. **February 18, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting: Motion made by** Councilman McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Levey, to approve the minutes from the 02/18/2025 Regular Monthly Meeting; passed 3-0. **February 26, 2025 Special Meeting: Motion made by** Councilwoman Levey, seconded by Councilman McMorris, to approve the minutes from the 02/26/2025 Special Meeting; passed 3-0. **March 10, 2025 Special Meeting: Motion made by** Councilman McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Levey, to approve the minutes from the 03/10/2025 Special Meeting; passed 3-0. **March 17, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting-Motion made by** Councilwoman Levey, seconded by Councilman McMorris, to approve the minutes from the 03/17/2025 Regular Monthly Meeting; passed 3-0. **April 09, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting-Motion made by** Councilwoman Levey, seconded by Councilman McMorris, to approve the minutes from the 04/09/2025 Regular Monthly Meeting; passed 3-0. **April 28, 2025 Special Meeting-Motion made by** Councilman McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Levey, to approve the minutes from the 04/28/2025 Special Meeting; passed 3-0.

**Georgi-Councilwoman Levey** expressed her heart-felt thanks to Sandy Haber for all her efforts obtaining the Preliminary Charter for the Georgi Museum, as well as her diligent efforts in getting the Georgi paintings to the Hyde Museum for their exhibit. Larry-please express the Board's gratitude to Sandy for a job that went above & beyond what was required of her & give her our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

**Prime Storage**-Georgi Board would like to use Prime Storage; Rte. 50; in Wilton, for the paintings that were displayed @ the Hyde beginning 06/30/2025; the Hyde will wrap & transport them from Glens Falls to Wilton for us. Cost is approximately \$120/month (Sandy Haber paid the one-time admin fee of \$29.99) for a 10 x 10 inside storage unit. Town needs to decide about insurance--using current insurance or use the company the Hyde uses; Sandy has asked for a quote but does not have it yet. **Resolution #44-Motion made by** Supervisor Clary, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to use Prime Storage for the 11 paintings going from the Hyde Museum, who will wrap & transport them to Wilton; passed 3-0.

**Northeast Fine Art**-There are 4-6 uncovered paintings that need wrapping and/or boxing for storage to stay in the Museum. **Motion made by** Supervisor Clary, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to have Northeast Fine Art wrap and/or box the 4-6 paintings that need taken care of, but especially the 3 very fragile ones that need special attention. The cost will be approximately \$1,200; passed 3-0.

**Provisional Charter**-Approval was granted on 06/09/2025 by the NYS Board of Regents. Work can now begin on the 501(c)(3) filing. **Motion made by** Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, approving the \$1,500 downpayment, for Attorney Megan Pero to begin the process for filing for the 501(c)(3)

Draft

Page 3

June 11, 2025 Minutes

status. (NOTE: Attorney Pero needs the MOU & Lease Agreement finalized & signed before beginning the work on the 501(c)(3) paperwork.)

**Special Meeting** on Monday, 06/23/2025, @ 5 p.m., in the Salem Town Office, to review the MOU & Lease Agreement as a Town Board, noting questions, changes, and/or concerns for Attorney Pero to answer. Attorney Klingebiel will also need to review any changes made by the Board.

**Washington County Band**-will be performing on the grounds of the Georgi on Thursday, 08/07/2025. Cost will be \$400 for the band to perform.

**ARCH Grant**-Supervisor Clary advised Councilwoman Levey that she felt someone from the Board of Trustees could apply for an ARCH Grant in the amount of \$15,000 now that the Provisional Charter has been approved & rec'd. & the 501(c)(3) status will be forthcoming. **Resolution #45-Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, approving the Board of Trustees of the Georgi Museum to apply for an ARCH Grant in the amount of \$15,000; passed 3-0.

**Rockwell Paintings**-Councilman Tom McMorris has offered Norman Rockwell paintings that can be hung in the Georgi Community Room. **Motion made by** Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to accept the offer of the Rockwell paintings to be hung in the Georgi Community Room from Councilman McMorris; passed 3-0. Thank-you Tom for the very generous offer!

**Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.**-Chief Saunders reported there were 12 calls for May (total of 19 fire hrs.): 5-Salem (1-EMS lift assist; 1-tractor fire; 1-good intent ECHO; 1-fire alarm; 1-control burn Farm Supply); 7 Mutual Aid Calls (1-trees/lines down-Jackson; 1-MVA-Hebron; 1-MVA-Cossayuna; 1-MVA-Shushan; 1-MVA-Argyle; 1-MA-Shushan pump out; 1-MA-Victory Mills)

**Monthly Meeting**-Dep't. held their monthly meeting; committee meetings held

**County Chiefs & Officers Mtg.**-held @ Salem Station; Chief Saunders is still the Treasurer

**Training**-Station maintenance; driver training; pump training; physical fitness

**Members attending trainings**-Zach Johnson is attending BEFO in Hartford; John Bink is attending pump class in Middle Falls

**Year-to-date hours**-2,923.5

Report will be filed.

**Rescue Squad Report**-Vicky reports 46 calls for May, w/a year-to-date total of 208--4431-0; 4451-11; 4453-34; Salem Town-30; Hebron-11; Jackson-1; VT-4

Disposition: GFH-10; Saratoga-9; Samaritan-3; SVMC-1; RRMC-3; RMA-5; Stand-by-2; cancelled-9; lift assist-4  
10-minute response time: 78% (36 yes-9 no)

Report will be filed.

**Highway**-Travis' short report: Trying to get final summer grading & dust control done; will be doing gravel in some areas as we go along. New mowing tractor is working well; began ditching/installing tubes; hauling some gravel back to Town Barn for stockpile; box for the 2025 truck is slated for August, which is 5 months early. Will probably have to do a 12 or 24 month lease, which Travis will check on. Have repaired & replaced some road signage; need to declare the old mowing tractor surplus (can put in on-line auction to see what it might bring). Looking @ grant funding for Brine maker & tanks next year. No NYS Contract yet for the salt & sand sheds. Shoulder machine will be coming from Kingsbury week of June 16<sup>th</sup>. Travis reported that there are still bike race signs that were never removed after the race, mostly in Shushan. He removed ones he could get at. Supervisor Clary will call or send an email to Dieter Drake.

**Motion made by** Councilman McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Levey, to declare the old mowing tractor surplus, giving permission for Highway Sup't. Travis Keys to list on auction, seeing what it will bring; passed 3-

0.

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**Resolution #46-Motion made by** Councilwoman Levey, seconded by Councilman McMorris, for Highway Sup't. Travis Keys to apply for a WIIA Grant underwater infrastructure for approximately 30 curb stop replacements; passed 3-0

**Binninger Bridge**-Rocks are missing in hole--replace rocks.

**Grading on Beattie Hollow Rd.**-was done last week

Short report for 06/11/2025 meeting & monthly report for May, 2025 will both be filed.

**Courthouse**-Report from Beth Ulion provided flyers for upcoming programs/events, along w/sponsorship forms for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, as well as float registration forms for the parade. There was a community coffee hour yesterday (06/10) @ 10 a.m.; Jan Baxter will be giving a talk on the 'History of the Salem Press' on 06/12, beginning @ 6:30 p.m.; Little Villagers Playgroup will begin @ 11 a.m. on 06/17 & the very well attended L, L & P Dessert Auction will be held @ 3 p.m. on 06/22. The July 4<sup>th</sup> parade will begin @ 4 p.m. & there will be live music, lawn games & a picnic, beginning at approximately 4:30 p.m. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month, come & enjoy the recipe swap potluck dinner; bring your favorite dish & a copy of the recipe to share. Also attached is the HSCPA fence information for that project, provided by Architect Matt Scheidt, of Thayer Reilly Wilson, submitted for SHPO approval. It includes the historical image the new fence is based on, along w/a hand drawing of what the fencing will look like. Company if fabricating it specifically for this project.

**Repair Café**-Thirteen (13) bikes were repaired at the recent Repair Café

**Lunch, Learn n Play**-Has raised to date over \$60,000; the program will begin the Monday after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Second Grant Proposal**-The HSCPA would like the approval from the Salem Town Board to submit a second grant proposal to the Adirondack Architectural Heritage Rural Revitalization Program to complete the wood restoration of the three remaining chestnut doors in the Courthouse Great Hall & the wainscoting in the second floor Courtroom anterooms in the approximate am't. of \$15,000. The Courthouse is aiming to submit the proposal by 06/27/2025, & if awarded, work should be completed by spring of 2026. The grant requires 25% matching funds or \$3,750, which the Courthouse will raise. Board says just go ahead a bid it out.

**Planning Board**-Chairman Kim Erbe reported that the Planning Board would like to work on a new Sign Law (there has been an issue on W. Broadway). Ed Donoghue is working on the Battery Storage Law, which will have to go to Attorney Klingebiel for review & approval before being filed. Nothing rec'd. yet for June mtg.

**Bancroft Library**-Windows have been completed by Al Wilson; smoke detectors/co's installed. The increase the library was asking for in this year's School Budget has passed. What will happen to the After School Program & Director after school closes?? Kim will bring up @ the next library board meeting.

**Sewer Committee**-No meeting last month. **Resolution #47-Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to put RFP in The Eagle newspaper for a Certified Appraiser of Stanton Hill LLC property to be rec'd. by 3 p.m. on 07/08/2025; passed 3-0. Clerk Gilchrist will draft from what Attorney Matt Fuller advised had to be done.

**Historic Preservation Commission**-Three people have volunteered to serve on the Commission: Charles Perry, Patricia Phillips, & Michael Mugits as the substitute if a quorum is not present. They will replace Judy Flagg & Michele Bardwell. Still on the Commission are John Clark, Chris Preble, & Kay Crank.

**Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, approving the addition of Charles Perry & Patricia Phillips as members & Michael Mugits as the member substitute if a quorum is not present. The following language needs to be added to Article III-Section 1 if Attorney Klingebiel thinks this is sufficient: "An appointed substitute can be called by the Chairperson to ensure a quorum." Passed 3-0, with approval from Attorney Klingebiel.

**Historian's Report**-Al's report emailed to all. He assisted Tom McMorris in the filming of two reenactors on the Revolutionary War Cemetery—Jared West (Fort Salem Theater) portraying St. John Honeywood on 05/01 & John Hubbard portraying Isaac Gray of Old Head Allen fame on 05/30. Episodes can be found on mcmorris photo.com.

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**Jan Baxter** will speak on 07/12 in the Courthouse Archive Room about the evolution of the 'Greenwich Journal-Salem Press' to today's 'Salem Press' & the importance of printed newspapers throughout history.

**South Wall of Revolutionary War Cemetery**-was examined by Jude Clary, restoration consultant/restorer, on 05/26; it was determined that the southwest end of the wall needs to be repaired. Jude will also contact Joe Farrannini, gravestone restorer, to discuss further repair of gravestones. There is some new damage to the base of some of the stones, most likely caused by mowing machine getting too close. Person mowing needs to be contacted re this problem. A hands-on guest book, as well as an electronic guest book (created by Tom McMorris) is now available at the entrance to the cemetery.

"The Early History of the Town of Salem" was discussed by Al, Judy Flagg, & Steve Snyder; arrival of the finished produce will be forthcoming. The book is a 48-page, 5 x 8, soft-covered book edited by Judy, illustration work done by Al, & it now has 13 illustrations & 6 QR codes of reenactors in the Revolutionary War Cemetery. Selling price will be \$15.

**Tour of Courthouse & Jail**-will be given to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders on June 16 @ 1 p.m. Each student will receive a flag pin memento in anticipation of the Declaration of Independence 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 07/04/2026.

**Bill Taggart**-Al continues to receive inquiries about Bill Taggart, who spent many years w/the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. Bill also did curating @ the Lyndhurst & Sleepy Hollow historical mansions & w/Don McClain & the Hudson River clean-up project. Richard Freed from Granville was the latest contact inquiring about Bill.

**Records**-Two more cubic feet of disposable records were culled.

Report will be filed.

**Water Dep't.**-Travis reported that there will be a four-day water school coming up @ SUNY Morrisville; Mario Canalini & Andy Erbe will be attending. Need credit card for Water Dep't.; Eric's is at the Water Barn & will have to be cancelled or possibly transferred to a new name?

**Town Clerk's Report**-Clerk Gilchrist reported that total NYS, County & Local Revenue collected for month of May, 2025 was \$598.00. Of this am't., \$17 went to NYS Dep't. of Ag & Mkts. for dog licensing for APCP & \$22.50 went to NYS Health Dep't. for their share of one marriage license issued. Am't. paid to Town of Salem for month of May was \$558.50. She also reported that Resolution #59, from the July 19, 2019 regular monthly board meeting, was passed appointing current Assessor Jean McLenithan to another six-year term, beginning 10/01/2019 & ending 09/30/2025. Some of the Board members had inquired when the appointment had been made & when it was expiring. A certified copy was provided to Washington County Real Property, as requested, at the time. A copy of the Water & Billing Summary for 06/01/2025 will be added to the minutes as requested by Water Clerk, Rebecca Brown.

**DCO Report**-provided by Nancy Quell. Missing dog reported on Juniper Swamp Road; goats are running loose daily from 130 South Main Street-door was tagged about the problem. Nancy was advised the goats would be re-homed. Report will be filed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-None

### OLD BUSINESS

**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) Robert Perry (new resident), Michael Hatzel (SAW), Julie Adams (Salem Central School Sup't.), Thomas Clary (School Board), & Supervisor Evera Sue Clary.

**Georgi MOU/Lease Agreement**-Special meeting on 06/23/2025 @ 5 p.m. in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem so these two documents can be reviewed by the Town Board & questions brought up to be answered by Attorney Meagan Pero.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Justice Audit**-An audit of Justice Thetford's books will be done on Monday, 06/16/2025, by Councilman Wyeth Coburn & Supervisor Clary.

**Medical Bldg.**-Supervisor Clary reported that the drain on medical bldg. was going into Bob Beaver's basement. Scott Thetford looked at the same & advised he could fix the problem for \$300 or less.

**Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to have Scott Thetford fix the drain issue at the medical bldg., owned by the Town of Salem; passed 3-0.

**Assessor's Position**-RFQ needs to go in the newspaper for the Assessor position, beginning 10/01/2025 & ending 09/30/2031. **Resolution #48-Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to RFQ for an Assessor for the Town of Salem, term beginning 10/01/2025 & ending 09/30/2031; passed 3-0. Clerk Gilchrist will call Washington County Real Property about what is required.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-None

**Supervisor's Report**-Supervisor Clary advised that there was an EPA lien on the Linke mill in Shushan-interest would run approximately 9%.

**Next Meeting**-of the Salem Town Board will be the special Town Board meeting on 06/23/2025 beginning @ 5 p.m. @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY 12865, for the Board to review & discuss the Georgi MOU & Lease Agreement.

**Regular Monthly Meeting**-of the Salem Town Board will be held on July 09, 2025, in the Salem Town Office; 214 Main Street; Salem, NY 12865 beginning @ 5 p.m. Review of Warrants #7 & Highway Abstract #& for payment will begin @ 5 p.m. Regular monthly meeting will be called to order @ 6 p.m.

**Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed 3-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Town of Salem