

Draft

**TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING – JULY 09, 2025**

Members Present – Evera Sue Clary, Supervisor; Brenda Levey, Town Councilwoman; Howard Law, Town Councilman; Thomas McMorris, Town Councilman; Wyeth Coburn, Town Councilman; Travis Keys, Highway Superintendent and Water Treatment Operator; Kathy Chambers, Clerk to Supervisor

Members Excused – Patricia Gilchrist, Town Clerk

Others Present – Norabelle Greenberger, Sr. Planner, LaBella Engineering, Travis Keys, Hgwy Superintendent; Wendy Hull, Wayne Cassidy, Beth Ulion

Meeting opened at 6:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker Norabelle Greenberger, Sr. Planner, was present to discuss:

1. The Federal Funding on the Main Street Connections Plan, repair project (Salem Auto Parts to the Salem Tavern). This is federally funded, and they work NYSDOT needs to review the scope of the project. LSA will be presented to the town before next month's meeting, along with the scope. Since it's a state road, the state will be giving more money, with the upcoming intention in 2026 for Main Street to be likely repaved, along with fixing curbs. The state road match will only be 5% vs 20%.
2. Master Comprehensive Plan – a lot of work is involved with the project, once we get the agreement ready to go. **Resolution #50** from Councilman Law to have LaBella Engineering be appointed as the consultant for the Comprehensive Plan, **seconded** by Councilman Coburn, **carried**. Agriculture is important, me with Woody Hill Farm on road size and curbs. Doug Teater will be at next month's meeting with LaBella for a more informative conversation.
3. Northeast Rail – They have reorganized with Bruce Ferguson dying. Larry Haber is taking Bruce's place. The plan is to reactivate the trails to Greenwich. Will benefit Cargil and Carovail. Northeast Rail is in the planning phase of possibly having a museum and creating tourism and a place to repair rail cars, in Greenwich. Empire State Grant – Washington County has agreed to put in for a grant for a feasibility study. They are requesting that Salem be the lead agency. Requesting funds from Salem and Greenwich in the amount of \$10,000 from each. **Motion** by Councilman McMorris to have Salem be the lead agency as long as and contingent upon receiving funding to pay this \$10,000, with no funding coming from taxpayers, **seconded** by Councilwoman Levey, **carried**.

RFQ Appraisal for MPR – no bids were received. Sue will make some phone calls and see if there are some names available of certified planners. Will get some advice from County. Also, needs to be advertised in a different paper. NYS Contact Weekly.

Draft

Vouchers – Lunch Learn and Play voucher was discussed. A note is to be put on the voucher stating that \$781 will be covered by the funds received from the county and the remaining \$219 will be paid for by the taxpayers. The \$219 represents an increase from last year's payment of \$781. **Motion** by Councilman Law to make a note on the voucher stating the before mentioned that \$781 is funded from county, balance of \$219 from budget, seconded by Councilman McMorris, **carried**. Discussion took place on difference in charging on Animal Safe voucher. Nancy Quell was contacted on a Saturday for 2 dogs that showed up at Travis Keys house that were severely emaciated and dehydrated. Dogs came from Coon Road and Mrs. Quell is familiar with the dogs, bad situation. **Motion** by Councilman Law to approve the vouchers as presented, with the above note for Lunch, Learn and Play, seconded by Councilman Coburn, **carried**.

Minutes to be reviewed next month

Highway –

1. Salt Barn – waiting on paperwork to come back from the State. Eagle was here today. If the contract is not here by the end of next week, we will need to sign a new contract. They are confident that everything will be here, we will then start the project. **Motion** by Councilman Law, for Supervisor Clary to sign the SLS so we can get our \$, **seconded** by Councilman McMorris, **carried**. Eagle agrees to hold the buck until loan is approved. They're very confident no problems will arise.
2. 2026 truck has come in early. Lease payment for 1 year on \$194,000+ will be 6.8%, 2 years 6.12%. Spoke with Arrow bank – 1 year BAN will be 3.7%. Box will come out of next year's budget. Approximate cost of \$140,000. 2 trucks on hold right now. **Resolution** by Councilman Coburn, to proceed with the Arrow Bank and pay for the 2026 truck at Allegiance (formerly Delurey's), **seconded** by Councilman Law, **carried**.
3. New mowing tractor is great. We will need to have the windows tinted. Too hot in the tractor, even with AC on.
4. Remake of the truck in Granville should be back by 10/01.
5. Old tractor – nothing done yet.
6. PT guys are working out o.k.
7. Travis is signed up for the fall conference
8. Request Sue to go back to doing the agenda in Word as an attachment so it can be opened.
9. Kathy check on moving \$ for mowing the landfill into Hgwy? We have the new tractor; can we do the work? If it can be done **Motion** by Councilman Law to move the money from General to Hgwy, **seconded** by Councilman McMorris, **carried**.
10. Getting ready for the Chambers Road project
11. Discussed the condition of Joe Beane Road, it is very rough. It should be noted this road was just fixed and will not be fixed for at least 6-7 years. Chips roads have a 10 year wait period. 17-year cycle is our current plan on blacktop

Draft

12. Capital Plan – 2027 is the year for the next plan. It was suggested that Travis bring back the original plan so it can be reviewed.

13. Salt Shed – any external costs will need to be looked at in another year. Will go by the current plan and nothing above and beyond. Looking at foundation work in the next week or so.

Water –

1. Part-time employees working well
2. 5 hydrants flushed, valves done
3. Big water tests were done on Tuesday
4. Monthly bacterial counts done, Mario took to Queensbury, remaining to JH Consulting
5. Mowing, etc. has started at the water barn
6. Rebecca Brown and Winona Hathaway, Water Clerks have relocated to the water barn
7. Working with Mark Rode to get general email going, Rebecca's also
8. Mark Rodgers, Seaway Diving – working on 2 wells that are being used, Well 3 is for emergencies only
9. Drone never came last year, hoping for this year
10. Travis has requested that he receive part of Eric's stipend since he is doing all the work, until the part-time individuals receive their license. **Motion** by Councilman Law, that Travis receive an additional \$200/paycheck, **seconded** by Councilman McMorris, **carried**.
11. Need to work on getting the Town water bills eliminated, foolish to just issue a check from the town to the town.
12. Discussion took place on getting a PO box for the water department, for water bills.

Courthouse –

1. Thanks for LLP funding. Funding has been much better this year, anticipating being above budget. Looking for additional funding for food and paper goods
2. Parade went well
3. 7/19 – Alfresco – hope to see all board members attending. Pretty much all the food has been donated
4. Bear seminar last night, due to the increased sightings. Well attended
5. Pat Niles is doing a presentation on Thursday on the Salem Revolutionary War individuals
6. Bruce Ferguson's celebration of life will be Saturday at 11:00

Planning Board

1. Need to read the Battery Storage paperwork Kim forwarded to everyone and be ready to vote at next month's meeting. Once reviewed paperwork will be forwarded to Dave Klingebiel.
2. Site Plan revision for Telecommunication's tower. Just a wording change. **Motion** by Councilman Coburn, to approve the amended change, **seconded** by Councilman McMorris, **carried**.

Draft

Library –

1. Next month will review, no one present
2. Ed has presented bills for Al Wilson and Willie Linendoll for the finish work on windows and electric, Library is paying

Trees beatification –

1. Tom McMorris, Beth Ulion, Liz Barnard, Rob Sutherland, Sherri Slater and Chris Hubbard. Jim Gariepy has suggested that trees be donated via his site, for individuals that have donated trees in memory of someone, this way keeping the trees local. Meeting will take place at the courthouse and decisions will be made on what to plant and where. Travis would like a say in this; he reminded everyone that we can't afford to take the trees down and remember in the future you won't have money to deal with taking them down. Trees can be part of the climate smart program and possibly eligible for grants to purchase. Supervisor Clary to investigate.
2. Bread tree received a USDA grant in the amount of \$1m to process chestnut flour. Hoping that by placing these trees will also help with any potential flooding.

Georgi –

1. Brenda gave special thanks to Travis and his boys for coming to the rescue in an emergency with the septic. Toilets were clogging due to baffle issue. He has it temporarily rectified. Will complete in the near future. Brenda now has a much better understanding of the plumbing aspect. Place was left spotless
2. Sandra Haber has resigned as a committee member. Feelers have been placed out for someone to replace her.
3. Laura Dunham has applied for a grant from WCHAW since Georgi is now a charter and is applying for 501c3, they are now eligible.
4. Theo, Code Enforcement, will look at the ramp and let us know what he thinks of the work that Grasshopper has done.
5. Once Georgi obtains their 501c3 status, it should be noted that no more bids will be needed for anything, they will no longer be under the town
6. \$16,900 that was obtained from deaccessioning can be used on anything with the Georgi. David Owens is looking at central air vs mini splits. Need a dehumidifier, big one does not work. Under the Georgi, crawl space, it is completely dry. David Owens will work on insulating around the dehumidifier.
7. Mettawee will be at Georgi on Friday, rain date Saturday. Brenda is to obtain an insurance certificate
8. Alarm went off when a young couple went into the museum looking for a bathroom. Anyone that is on the call list should put the number into their contacts, so it does not go to SPAM
9. MOU – discussion took place on maintaining insurance through the town. Insurance will remain through the Town's policy, with the Georgi Museum reimbursing the town for their

Draft

share. Electric should remain in the Town's name. Councilman Law does not want the electric changed over. May require having to get a whole new service. No title is transferring; section needs to be removed. Supervisor Clary will make these above changes and forward onto David Klingebiel to have him review the MOU.

Kay Crank has resigned from the HCPA. **Motion** by Councilwoman Levey to appoint Mike Muggitts to fill Kay's position, removing him from alternate, **seconded** by Councilman McMorris, **carried**.

Public Comment –

Georgi paintings were discussed as to what the responsibility is, if a one-of-a-kind painting is destroyed. Need to be properly insured. Need to protect our assets. Could artwork being leant out balance the cost of our insurance premium. Need to ask the insurance agent and get all specifics and make sure we are abiding by the will. Discussion took place on going back to surrogate court and seeing if we could sell a painting vs getting funds from the trust. Our current policy covers the appraised value of the painting. Councilman Law said it's the gift that keeps giving. Received the museum in '88, followed by a failed lawsuit. It's not exactly for the people of Salem/Shushan, but more for outsiders. RECORDING

Assessor – The Town Clerk has received the job specs from county. She will be advised to advertise for the position or positions. Councilman Law has sent letters to Jean McLenithan and Timothy Grogan thanking them for their service.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chambers
Clerk to Supervisor