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SPECIAL MEETING-SALEM TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARINGS-FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTS, 2026 BUDGET,
& OVERRIDING THE 2026 TAX CAP
FOURTH 2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING, ETC.
OCTOBER 30, 2025

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council Members: Brenda Levey; Wyeth Coburn (came in late); Tom McMorris; Howard Law (remotely from home-can be counted as attending but cannot vote); Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathleen Chambers; Highway Sup't./Water-Travis Keys

Absent: Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Al Cormier-Historian; Laber Haber-Economic Development; Kay Tomasi-Sewer/Economic Development; Beth Ulion-Courthouse

Public Present: Scott Eastman; Winona Hathaway; Steven Saunders-Salem Fire Chief; Joe Wever-Salem Fire Dep't.

5:00 pm-Meeting called to order by Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTS W/SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEP'T. & SHUSHAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEP'T.

-Supervisor Clary asked the required three (3) times if there was any discussion or questions regarding the 2026 Fire Protection Contracts w/ both the Salem & Shushan Fire Dep'ts.

Joe Wever asked what the amount of each was: Salem-\$213,502 & Shushan-\$64,646. There being no further questions or discussion, Supervisor Clary declared the Public Hearing on the 2026 Fire Protection Contracts closed @ 5:08 p.m.

VIEW BUSINESS

Tree Committee Award-Supervisor Clary reported that the Salem Community Foundation awarded a grant of \$1,000 to the Salem Tree Committee. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to accept the grant money from the Salem Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 (check already rec'd. & deposited into General); passed 3-0. Tom McMorris reported that the committee is looking at a couple of places where trees could be purchased, depending on cost (ACA & Hannon on Rte. 22). Councilman Law advised Tom to call Steve Record from Battenville, who has a nursery in Cambridge & is reasonable; Tom said he would get in touch w/Steve.

Update NYSDOT/LaBella Engineering-Mtg. held in Town Office earlier in week w/two representatives from NYS D/O/T & Doug Tetter & Molly from LaBella Engineering. NYS will be replacing the road from Rte. 22 @ Archibald St. to Catholic Church or just past there. Also looking @ putting down curbing & repairing storm drains. Drainage was also talked about, especially the culvert under Rte. 22 that goes into the Memorial/Veteran's Park. John & Michelle Bardwell were also in attendance & had discussion re the storm drains. Supervisor Clary was advised that an extension of the current grant of \$200,000, asking for more money for sidewalk replacement on the opposite side of the street, could be done rather than applying for a whole new grant for that side of the street. Cost would probably be double so total am't. would be approximately \$400,000.00, which would have to be paid up front & then we would get reimbursed. Town's share would be 20% or \$80,000. **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, agreeing that Supervisor Clary pursue adding whatever paperwork is necessary to the current grant, requesting an increase of money for sidewalk replacement/repair on the opposite side of the street, doing whatever is necessary for curbing & storm drain repair and/or replacement; passed 3-0.

5:15 pm-Open Public Hearing on 2026 Preliminary Budget-Supervisor Clary opened the hearing for the 2026 Preliminary Budget as presented. She asked the required three (3) times if there was any public

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discussion or questions regarding the 2026 Preliminary Budget. There being none after the third time asked, Supervisor Clary declared the public hearing on the 2026 Preliminary Budget closed @ 5:20 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

NYMIR Insurance Contract/Insurance on Art @ Georgi-Trustee Brenda Levey reported that the insurance payment is still the main issue. Brenda's question was if something happened to the contents (art, gems/minerals, etc.) or if there was a fire & all was destroyed, who would get the reimbursement check. Councilman McMorris felt that the Georgi should pay the insurance, as the fee for insurance is part of the ongoing management of the Georgi. The Town currently owns the property & bldgs. & the contents—until the Georgi Museum ceases to operate/exist. Then everything would be disbursed according to the directions in the Will.

Councilman Law responded that he believes the Town is only responsible for the paintings, etc., as Trustees of the contents, as everything goes elsewhere per the Will once the Museum ceases to exist. He feels that is a question for Attorney Klingebiel & he needs to be present when we have this discussion w/the Trustees. Councilwoman Levey responded that they could also go to the Trust & ask for more money as they have a fiscal responsibility to do the best as managers of the Trust & they charge a fairly hefty fee to manage the same. The Trust was set up through Surrogate's Court by directions in Jessie Georgi's Will.

The Trustees will be meeting on Thursday, 11/06/2025, & Brenda will ask the Trustees what questions they have that need answering.

The property is now closed for the winter & Laura Dunham did a short video of things that happened this past year; check it out. She did an awesome job!

5:30 P.M.-Open Public Hearing for Tax Cap Override for 2026 Budget-Supervisor Clary asked the required three (3) times if there were any comments and/or questions regarding the Tax Cap Override for the 2026 Budget. There being no comments and/or questions, Supervisor Clary closed the Public Hearing at 5:38 p.m. **Resolution #78-Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the Tax Cap Override for the 2026 Budget; passed 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

2026 Budget-A new line item will be added under the Justice, labeled 'Stipend' for the extra work the Court Clerk will be doing tracking down old fines, etc. in the amount of \$4,800.

Line 155-Bond Anticipation-Debt Svc. Principal-will go from \$0 to \$635,000 (sand & salt shed BAN)

Line 167 Townwide-Total Appropriations-Gen. Fund-will go from \$559,153 to \$1,223,053

Line 184-Interest & Earnings-Use of Money & Property-will go from \$6,000 to \$30,000

Line 214-Salt Shed-State Aid-from \$0 to \$635,000 (Grant rec'd.)

Line 225-UNEXPENDED BAL. GEN. FUND-Townwide-will go from \$102,500 to \$77,000

Line 275-Personal Svcs.-General Repairs-will go from \$166,000 to \$168,000

Line 277-Personal Svcs. (p.t.)-General Repairs-will go from \$14,000 to \$21,000

Line 295-Personal Svcs.-Snow Removal-will go from \$114,000 to \$115,000

Line 297-Personal Svcs. (P.T.)-Snow Removal-will go from \$6,000 to \$16,000

Line 327-Townwide-Total Highway Approp.-will go from \$1,809,184 to \$1,829,184

Line 469-General-Less unexpended fund balance-will go from \$50,000 to \$77,000

Salem Legion Auxiliary-Dorothy Fairley talked to Supervisor Clary about putting up banners for veteran's on NYSEG poles like other communities in the area have done or are doing. They would like Town Board approval to proceed with the project. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, allowing the Salem Legion Auxiliary to proceed with their banner project for veterans, putting the same on NYSEG poles, with their approval; passed 3-0. This project would be paid for by the Veteran's family or whomever wants the flag to go up in someone's honor.

Shushan First Responders Agreement-Shushan has EMS 1st Responders under the Shushan Fire Dep't. Chief Saunders reported that a list needed to go to the County every year for both firefighters & 1st responders under workman's compensation. Some person from the Shushan 1st Responders emailed Clerk Gilchrist asking for an agreement/letter stating that the Town acknowledged that the Shushan 1st Responders were under the Shushan Fire Dep't. Councilman Law contacted Chief Cassidy from Shushan; there are only two 1st responders currently & their names were already submitted, along w/the list of Shushan firefighters for workman's compensation. Howard will get the names of the two 1st responders.

Safe in Judge's Office-Councilman McMorris brought up the issue of the safe in the Judge's office that he wants taken out. It is larger than the one in the Town Office, so should that one in the Judge's office be brought to the Town Office? Would it fit through the door? Travis Keys suggested that if the current one in the Town office ever needed to be replaced, the Town could go to Tractor Supply & purchase a fireproof, burglary proof gun safe & remove the shelves or whatever was in there. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to declare the safe in the Judge's office surplus & sell the same for \$300 to the person that inquired about it. There should be some simple agreement drawn up for the buyer to sign, stating that the buyer is to remove the same from the building at his own risk & any damage that may be caused from the removal will be the buyer's responsibility. Passed 3-0

New Appointment for Deputy Supervisor-Due to health issues with current Deputy, Howard Law, & the fact that Supervisor Clary was recently out sick, she would like a Resolution to appoint Thomas McMorris as Deputy Supervisor to become effective immediately. **Resolution #79-Motion made by** Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, appointing Thomas McMorris as Deputy Town Supervisor, replacing current Deputy Supervisor, Howard Law; passed 3-0.

Safe in fire bays that belonged to former Village-Councilman McMorris reported that Bill Becraft had it moved there when he sold his house; there is no combination & no one knows what the same might be. Safe is currently locked & no one knows what might be inside, if anything. Councilman Law advised Supervisor Clary that he had the name of a locksmith from Granville, whose only name he had was Chet. Howard gave the guy's phone number to Supervisor Clary, who will call him to see if he can open the same if the cost is reasonable.

Local Law for the use of extraordinary circumstance videoconferencing (ECV)-Councilman Law will contact Attorney Klingebiel w/a copy of the draft he has from the Association of Towns, asking him to draft a Local Law for the Town of Salem with all the necessary requirements for someone who cannot attend Board meetings in person.

Meeting w/NYPA-Supervisor Clary & John Bardwell will have a 11 a.m. zoom meeting w/NYPA regarding solar on the landfill, Thursday, 10/31/2025. NYPA could have a visual rendering for T/O/S Board mtg. on 11/12/2025. **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, allowing NYPA to do the visual rendering for the monthly Town Board meeting on 11/12/2025; passed 3-0.

E-mails & Passwords-Councilman McMorris would like a list of everyone's e-mails & passwords to keep in the Town Office safe.

1st Installment Payment on Salt & Sand Shed grant-Supervisor Clary rec'd. a check in the am't. of \$149,000 for the 1st installment that was submitted on the salt/sand sheds grant, which she deposited in the general acc't.

Sidewalk grant-Discussion on putting some money in 2026 budget; H'way Sup't. Keys suggested either putting some interest money for a BAN or part of the Town's amount due in the 2026 budget. Increase Line 225 from \$50,000 to \$77,000. That line item will be increased.

Master Comprehensive Plan-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to add Shane Nolan to the Master Comprehensive Plan Committee; passed 3-0.

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October 30, 2025 Minutes

Next Regular Monthly Meeting of the Salem Town Board-will be held on Wednesday, 11/12/2025, at Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY. Review of Warrants #11 & Highway Abstract #11 for payment will begin by the Board @ 5 pm; regular monthly meeting will be called to order @ 6 pm.

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to adjourn the Special Meeting for Public Hearings & 4th 2026 Budget Workshop Meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned @ 6:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist, Town Clerk-Town of Salem