

SPECIAL MEETING-SALEM TOWN BOARD
SECOND 2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING, ETC.
OCTOBER 01, 2025

Draft

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council Members: Brenda Levey; Wyeth Coburn; Tom McMorris; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathleen Chambers; Highway Sup't./Water-Travis Keys

Excused: Councilman Howard Law

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 Ullion-Courthouse

Public Present: None

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

2026 Budget

Line 11-Justice-Personal Svcs. (Clerk)-Increase requested \$8,000 (over & above what was just given thru year-end). Extra work needs to be done to research prior cases; ask for this was \$20/hr. No idea how long it will take to review the back cases. Supervisor Clary said she could take w/District Attorney Jordan to see how to proceed or what he might recommend; the Board concurred & told Supervisor Clary to contact District Attorney Jordan. Leave @ \$8,000 for now.

Line 23-Personal Svcs.-Assessor-Leave @ \$22,638 (new Assessor was ok w/this figure)

Line 24-Equipment-Assessor-Drop back from \$1,500

Line 29-Personal Svcs.-Deputy-Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Increase to \$4,500

Line 33-Attorney-Con't.-From \$15,000 in 2025 to \$12,000

Line 40-Con't. Exp. (Med. Clinic)-Bldgs.-\$500 in 2025 to \$0

Line 41-Con't. Exp.-BBT-Bldgs.-\$32,184-bring down to \$31,247 (heat, lights, etc.; \$15,000 spent through Aug.)

Line 44-Con't. Exps.-Central Printing/Mailing-Leave @ \$4,000 for now; Clerk Gilchrist will figure cost of stamps for taxes

Line 47-Unallocated Insurance-Leave @ \$54,000. If going to \$2,500 deductible, the savings would be \$1,260; for a \$5,000 deductible, the savings would be \$2,528. For the paintings that were shown @ the Hyde, plus four others, Huntington T. Block Ins. Agency, who insures fine art, would insure @ a cost of \$2,500, w/a \$1,000 deductible. Inland Marine Fine Arts maximum coverage is \$5,000 thru NYMIR for any painting, regardless of value. Omit Fine Arts am't. & go w/new company. Councilman McMorris feels that all the other paintings need to be added to the Huntington policy @ current value, so all are covered.

(NOTE: Prime Storage in Saratoga has NYMIR's insurance certificate; do they need something else to reduce the am't.?)

Line 50-Contingent-Special Items-Same as 2025-\$28,000

Line 74-Con't. Exp.-Ambulance-\$16,172 down to 2% increase of \$14,996

Line 80-Personal Svcs.-Sup't. of Highways-5% increase from \$56,680 to \$59,514

Line 81-Con't. Exp.-Sup't. of Highways-\$4,000 (same as 2025); check w/Travis

Line 84-Con't. Exp.-Garage-\$40,000 to \$45,000; Travis explained 2nd waste oil furnace needed to be installed.

Line 88-Con't. Exp.-Signs-\$4,000 is o.k.

Line 101- Con't. Exp.-Parks-\$1,500 to \$1,750; pd. \$1,035 thru August, 2025

Line 104-Youth-Salem Youth Programs-Increase to \$1,781 per info Supervisor Clary obtained from the County

Line 108-Con't. Exp-Library-Changed to \$40,000

Line 115-Personal Svcs.-Deputy Historian-Leave @ \$525

Line 123-Con't. Exp.-Records Mg'mt.-Leave @ \$850; Al needs Microsoft Office software install/license

Line 139-Con't. Exp.-Refuse & Garbage (Landfill)-Leave @ \$4,000; this is for both testing & mowing. Councilman Coburn asked about mowing of the landfill in 2026; Town will pay to mow in 2026 per Travis.

Line 143-Con't. Exp.-Cemeteries-Changed \$10,000

Line 149-State Retirement-Employee Benefits-Added correct figure of \$13,299

Line 180-Planning Bd. Fees-Departmental Inc.-Reduce to \$1,200 (same as 2025)

Line 184-Int. & Earnings-Use of Money & Property-\$6000

Line 214-Youth Program-State Aid-Increase to \$1,781 (matches Line 104 so it washes)

HIGHWAY

Draft

Line 278-Con't.-Gen. Repairs-\$170,000 o.k.

Line 282 & Line 340-CHIPS-Improvements & CHIPS State Aid-Zero's out with what comes in & goes out

Line 290-Equipment (New)-Machinery-O.K. as is @ \$350,000; new truck is here w/ cab & chassis (no plow w/2026 truck)

Travis explained that it is taking about 2 yrs. for the dump box that goes on the truck; trucks are now only 6 months out.

Line 291-Con't. Exps.-Machinery-Left @ \$120,000; cost for tires is about \$500/tire

Line 298-Con't. Exps.-Snow Removal-\$162,000 is o.k.

Line 304-State Retirement-Employee Benefits-now \$46,260 (38% increase)

Line 308-Hospital/Medical Insurance-Employee Benefits-now \$38,000 (one person has no insurance; that's why the drop)

Line 314-Principal (payloader) & Line315-Principal (tractor)-\$32,000-payloader; \$52,764-tractor

Resolution #72-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, adding the payloader payment & the tractor payment to the pre-pay list of bills; passed 4-0.

WATER

Line 357-Personal Svcs.-Home & Comm. Svcs. Adm.(Billing Clerk)-\$2,000

Line 358-Con't. Exp.-Home & Comm. Svcs. Adm.-Stay @ \$20,000

Line 362-Equipment-Supply Power/Pumping-@ \$2,500 (Will a new computer be needed? Travis will check)

Line 363-Con't. Exps.-Supply Power & Pumping-\$22,000 (@ \$8,093 spent)

Line 368-Personal Svcs. (stipend)-\$10,920 (need stipend for 2 part-time water guys-\$25/hr. ?)

Line 374-Con't. Exps.-Trans & Distribution-to \$22,000

Line 378-Con't. Exps.-Other Water Expenses-left @ \$18,500 (generator, tests, etc.)

Line 382-Retirement-Employee Benefits-to \$19,009

Line 384-Health Insurance-Employee Benefits-\$0 (down from\$4,800 in 2025)

Line 395-Special Assessments-Water Revenues-\$90,359 (same as last year; Clerk Chambers waiting for figures) Debt svc. should be paid off in 2035-\$177 currently, billed in January on the Town-County tax bill for all in water district whether hooked in or not.

Reserve for Debt-\$165,591.86 as of Aug. 31,2025

Fund Balance-\$316,000 as of Aug. 31 2025 (need to keep \$42,000 in acc't.; debt svc. pay'mt. will come out shortly)

Line 402-Metered Sales-Departmental Income-Water Revenues-Increase by 2% to \$125,464

Line 424-Con't. Exp.-Lighting District-Shushan-\$4,000 from \$5,000 (Fund Bal.-\$15,000; paying \$340/mo. x 12 = \$4,080

Line 428-Shushan Lighting District-Unexpended Bal.-\$2,000 from \$0

Line 430-TOTAL SHUSHAN LIGHTING-\$4,000

Line 434-Con't.; Exp.-Lighting District-\$13,000 from \$15,000 (\$1,300/mo.

Line 440-Salem Lighting District-Unexpended Bal.-\$3,000 from \$0 (Fund Bal. thru Aug. 31, 2025-\$43,000)

Line 447-Con't. Exp.-Fire Protection District-Salem-\$213,502 (2%) asking \$255,000 for 2026

Line 448-Con't. Exp.-Fire Protection District-Shushan-asking for 2% in 2026 to \$64,646; \$63,378 in 2025

General Fund Balance-is tight; Clerk to Supervisor Chambers reported that the Fund Bal. was \$230,000. Need to keep \$130,00 in the acc't; that only leaves \$100,000 wiggle room until end of 2025

Highway Fund Balance-Will need to figure; truck pay'mt. just went through.

Georgi-Councilwoman Levey reported that Buddy Nolan cut down some trees this past week. Last wedding of the year will be on Saturday, 10/04/2025 @ 3 p.m. Museum will be open on Saturday, 10/04/2025, from 10 am-2pm.

Laura Dunham applied for a grant in the amount of \$4,500 to replace the Battenkill Room entrance door to the Georgi Museum (back handicap entrance) thru the Washington County Home for Aged Women, Inc. Said grant was approved!

Great job, Laura! Clerk to Supervisor Chambers reported that she has been working on the financials for the last four years for the 501(c)(3) paperwork. She also advised that Jeff Suite has been contacted to turn off the water after election, Casella has been notified to stop garbage pick-up, & Bove has been notified to fill-up the propane tank.

Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to open the Georgi Museum on the weekend, from 10 am-2pm until it gets too cold; passed 4-0. May look at opening year round in the future, but there are no bathrooms available after elections in November.

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Salem Town Board-will be held on Wednesday, 10/08/2025, at the Salem Town Office; 214 Main Street; Salem, NY. Review of Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10 for payment will begin by the Board @ 5 pm; regular monthly meeting will be called to order @ 6 pm. Public Hearings for Moratorium on Battery Storage & Public Hearing to amend the Site Plan Law-Appendix A will begin @ 6 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to adjourn the second 2026 Budget Workshop Meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned @ 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist, Town Clerk-Town of Salem