

Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2026

Attendees: Sue Clary Bob Burger, Kay Tomasi, John Bardwell,

Sue On Ongoing Initiatives

- i. **Master Comprehensive Plan** – Community members including the Highway, water operators, town clerk, Georgi and Planning) are currently being interviewed to contribute information to LaBella to include in the Master Comprehensive Plan.
- ii. **Climate Smart** – Work on Climate Smart is temporarily on hold as there is a new point system needing review.
- iii. **Land Banking** –LGLCRP who secured a Brownfield grant has employed the Wesson and Sampson Engineering Firm to complete the Phase 1 on the three Linke properties here in the Town of Salem. The Board of Supervisor's have identified 5 properties' to potentially transfer titles to the Washington County Land Holding Company. This will be brought forward in the August Finance meeting then hopefully the Board of Supervisors meeting in August. Three Linke properties and 2 Whitehall properties to start with, with 12 identified for future recovery.
- iv. **Grant Funding** – Additional grants in development:
 - v. Salt Shed \$459,000.00
 - vi. Brinemaker Equipment \$195,000.00
 - vii. Pedestrian Connections Grant \$200,000.00 plus an additional sum to be determined
 - viii. Master Comprehensive Grant \$73,000.00

Project Updates

1. **Georgi** – Brenda
 - i. New A/C being installed.
 - ii. Rental revenues are up and ahead of last year.
2. **Sewer**
 - i. Currently on hold pending acquisition of a site.

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3. Solar Farm

- i. NYPA has presented the Town with an Option Agreement for the potential site. An initial review of the document has been done by Matt Fuller the Town's attorney and questions raised were sent back to NYPA.
- ii. Sue, John, and Larry held an additional review of the Option Agreement, and their changes and questions have been forwarded to Matt as well for incorporation.

4. Salem Washington Academy

- i. Mike Mugits was elected to the school board and has been named President of the School Board.

5. Economic Development - NE Rail –

1. Canadian Pacific provided the Quit Claim deed to Mac Sanders transferring the Salem Depot to NE Rail. The Quit Claim deed has been sent to the lawyer for filing.
2. The Steering Committee met July 26, 2026 and reviewed progress to date and future activities. At this meeting, LGLCRPG presented an MOU only between the Town of Salem and LGLCRPG for work. It will be reviewed by NERail for their concurrence with the presented scope of work.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday August 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Courthouse.