

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council: Brenda Levey; Tom McMorris; Scott Eastman; Howard Law present through videoconferencing from his residence @ 2277 State Rte. 313; Shushan, NY 12873; Pat Gilchrist-Town Clerk; Kathy Chambers-Clerk to Supervisor

Others Present: Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Beth Ulion-Courthouse; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Laura Dunham-Georgi Trustee; Mary Menard-Georgi Trustee

Public Present: David Wren; Richard Lane; Susan Chapen

Absent: Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Al Cormier-Hist./Records Mg't. (report provided); Larry Haber-Economic Development; Kay Tomasi; Economic Development/Sewer; Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't.; Nancy Quell-DCO

5:00 P.M.-Review of **Warrants #2 & Highway Abstract #2 of 2026** for approval & payment.

6:00 P.M.-Regular monthly meeting called to order by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Warrant #2 & Highway Abstract #2 of 2026-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to approve Warrants #2 & Highway Abstract #2 of 2026 for payment; passed 5-0.

Trial Balances-were provided by Clerk to Supervisor Chambers for review on the General Fund, Highway, Georgi, Benjamin Bancroft Trust, Shushan Lighting District, Salem Lighting District, Salem Fire Protection District, & Shushan Fire Protection District. Please contact Clerk to Supervisor Chambers with any questions.

Highway-Travis' reports were provided via email to all. **Short Report for Jan.** (not provided before): Very active weather wise the past few weeks; have been using salt brine as we can. We now have three live-edge plows; they are a big help keeping the pack from happening--can't use if soft--have to switch to rubber edges. The 2025 truck is here; bodies are behind coming in currently. Hopefully, we will receive the same this week or next. we should have the bill by next month's meeting. Travis is running a big truck for the winter; Mike will be running the one-ton. 284 Agreement will be presented next month & bids for winter sand, gravel & topsoil will be ready then, too. Need to check on lawn/sign mowing bids to see if they were for two years or are up for this year. **Short report for February:** Lots of snow in January; we have been very busy! Have been using salt brine & treated salt; we now have four live-edge plows. Bids need to be put in the paper for winter sand, gravel, topsoil & tree work. Lawn/sign bids are not up this year. Have been helping Hebron plow just like we did last year; they have two employees out on medical leave. 284 Agreement for 2026 to Spend Highway Funds was presented for signature by all; copy will be sent to Deb Donoghue @ Co. DPW. Board needs to start thinking about ordering the 2027 truck; cost will be approximately \$350,000. Travis also provided copies to all regarding new State of New York Assembly bills being presented--one to amend the transportation law in relations to the storage of road salt & the other to amend the transportation law in relation to imposing certain requirements for the distribution of road salt. All reports will be filed.

Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to put the bids in The Eagle newspaper for winter sand, gravel & topsoil, as well as hourly tree work; passed 5-0.

Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, for all Board members to sign the 284 Agreement; Clerk Gilchrist will send to Deb Donoghue @ County DPW. Passed 5-0

Water-Travis reported 5-6 freeze-ups (some twice); please insulate your basements!! Insulate your meter & keep it in the middle of the basement. Curb stops have also frozen. Andy & Mario have been helping w/the freeze-ups; hope to be able to get them both licensed in April. Did quarterly testing for iron & manganese; did monthly testing @ Salem Central School. Helped w/the Phillips house in former Village. Councilwoman Levey

reported she has a much better understanding of winter storms & road clearing after having ridden w/Travis in one of the big trucks during a snowstorm!

Town Clerk Gilchrist-Taxes coming in with no slowdown; taking in many cash payments. Paid amount due T/O/S by 01/31/2026. January fees will be around \$250 +/- . People need to license their dogs; NYS Dep't. of Ag & Markets law says all must be licensed @ 3 months of age. \$10 if spayed/neutered; \$20 if not. Need to do an enumeration w/Nancy Quell, but it becomes expensive.

Courthouse-Beth Ulion reported that 2025 ended up w/a surplus of almost \$30,000 or unrestricted funds; this will help get the Board through the 1st quarter. 2025 Financial Report was filed; a copy was provided to all Town Board members. Working to keep the Lunch, Learn n Play summer program free of charge for all the kids attending. \$100,000 donation was rec'd. to make renovations to the carriage barn in back, which is used a lot during L, L & P. Hoping for three-season use; new bathrooms will be installed. Currently working w/Architect Bill Green on the project & will have to go through SHIPPO & Historic Preservation. Marissa will be coming to the March meeting, hopefully w/drawings.

Beth attended the last meeting of the Master Comprehensive Plan & would like to become a member of the committee.

Community Coffee Hour was held yesterday, 02/10/2026, from 10-11 a.m. At least a dozen people attended; the next one will be held on Tuesday, 03/10/2026 from 10 -11 a.m.4 p.m.

Movie Night-"Chocolat" (PG-13) will be showing on Saturday, 02/14/2026, @ 6:30 p.m., w/desserts prepared by 'On A Limb'. "The Sting" (PG) is scheduled for Friday, 02/27/2026, from 6-8 p.m. Another movie is planned for Sunday, 03/29/2026, @ 3 p.m. Popcorn! All are free of charge-donations gladly accepted!

Garden Planning Gathering-Hosted by Courthouse Community Garden, will be held Thursday, 02/19/2026, from 6-8 p.m. All gardeners are welcome to share ideas & tips.

Open Saratoga Education Tour-will visit the Courthouse on Thursday, 03/05/2026; this event is reserved for Salem Central School District students.

Spring Open House-Sunday, 03/08/2026, from 2-4 p.m. Food demos will be held in the Battenkill kitchen, info regarding the upcoming renovations to the Carriage Barn, & Shoppe Off Broadway will be open for visitors. Light refreshments will be provided; please stop by & check us out!

Folklife Concert Series-will feature Kalos on Friday, 03/13/2026; doors will open @ 6:30 p.m. w/concert beginning @ 7 p.m.

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-15 calls for month of January, 2026: 5-Salem (2- CO alarms; 1-MVA w/en-trapment; 1-structure fire; 1-service call) **Mutual Aid Calls**: 4-Hebron (3-MVA's; 1-standby); 2-Rupert(MVA's); 1-Shushan (standby); 1-Cambridge (Standby/structure fire); 1-Greenwich (standby/structure fire) **Jackson Fire District**-ECHO-Class 17

Monthly Meeting-Salem Fire Dep't.

Training- Air Monitoring class held in Middle Falls; HazMat training in Hebron; Incident Call Report Training was held in Salem. BEFO begins in Salem Thursday, 02/05, & goes until April, 2026, on Thursdays & Saturdays;-2 from Salem will be attending. Performed station maintenance; driver training; SCBA training; extrication training

Lauren Quick has resigned from the Salem Fire Dep't.

23 Fire Hours

Report will be filed.

Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't.-57 total calls for 2025 reported & broken down on Annual Incident Report First Response Calls w/Salem Squad-23; w/Cambridge Squad-19; 22-Mutual Aid Calls for 2025: 8-Salem; 5-Cambridge; 5-Arlington; 1-White Creek; 1-Easton; 1-Cossayuna; 1-Manchester; 0-Hebron; 0-Greenwich; 0-Rupert; 0-North Hoosick for total alarms of 121

55 Alarms-Salem; 44-Jackson w/4.42 average # fire personnel per alarm

Month of most alarms-May (14); least alarms June/October (5)

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Hours for 2025 for: Fire Calls-35,525 min. (54 hrs., 5 min.); Training-1,428 hrs.; Fundraising-240 hrs. for total Hours of 2,210 & 5 min.

2026 Budget Worksheet also provided

Reports will be filed.

Salem Rescue Squad-56 calls for January 2026: T/O/S305; Hebron-17; VT-7; Jackson-1; SVMC-1

Call Disposition: GFH-12; Saratoga-16; SVMC-6; RRM-4; RMA-7; List Assist-3; Fire Standby-1; Standby-3; Class 17-5; Cancelled-1

Total Year-to-Date Hours-446; **4431**-2; **4451**-3; **4452**-0; **4453**-43

10- minute response time: 90% (50-yes, 6-no)

Report will be filed.

Georgi-Closed for winter but checking being done periodically by both Brenda & Laura

No January Board of Trustees mtg.; February mtg. is 02/12/2026. Have Provisional Charter, MOU & Lease Agreement w/Town of Salem. Need to have separation from Town for 501(c)(3). "Go Daddy" acc't. bill came through & was paid for w/Town charge card. Funds need to be split from T/O/S to Georgi; contact Attorney Matt Fuller to have a meeting (in person or by video). Supervisor Clary, Kathy Chambers & Laura will meet. Clerk to Supervisor Chambers will give financials to Mary Menard, Treasurer, so she will have them.

Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to transfer funds from T/O/S to Georgi in March of 2026, w/approval of Attorney Matt Fuller; passed 5-0.

Riverbank Remediation-will be done in 2027 by Wash. Co. Soil Water; John Bracco is securing measurements for restoration. Indoor lights have been replaced & apple trees have been removed.

Community Events-3; No Country Night @ the Georgi this year; still waiting to hear back from Mettawee & Washington County Band. Have 3 weddings booked.

Plant Sale-May 31st, 2026 at Community Room

Questions from Dick Lane re the Georgi-Who owns the Georgi? Who pays bills? Does money raised go to the Town of Salem? All were answered by Board members & Supervisor Clary. Thank-you, Dick, for your interest!

Historian's Report-Al provided report. Anthony Anderson, researcher, will be giving a talk about the Irish Cahans Exodus & Rev. Thomas Clark, Salem First UP Church, the "White Church", on 02/21/2026 @ 2 p.m. in the Bancroft Library. Stephanie Core, a member of the Peoria, Arizona chapter of the DAR has requested permission to place a National Society DAR marker in the Revolutionary War Cemetery at the gravesite of Rev. War soldier, John Lytle; Supervisor Clary has written a letter to her giving permission to do so. Al attended a book signing 03/07/2026 @ the Cambridge Depot; Ken Karlewich has published a new book, **Batten Kill**

Country, a picture story about the D & H Railroad & the beginning of the short line freight train from 1982-present. There are many photos of Salem & Shushan & other towns in Wash. Co. There is a copy in the Town Archives. Al also met w/Megan Albert on 02/23/2026, who is the new Village Historian; she will be moving to Salem in the near future. Realtor Mathew Abrams contacted Al regarding the old Salem Press Building, currently owned by Don McPhee. The building is in the historic district on Main Street; Mr. Abrams is interested in purchasing the same. Ann Bigbee, a descendant of the Steele family, sent 12 early copies of 'The Salem Press's that contained the original printing of Dr. Asa Fitch's 'Early History of Salem, 1929'. The final pages of this story will be completed in the coming issues of 'The Eagle' & 'Salem Press'. The revamped printing of this story in book form, edited by Judy Flagg & William 'Al' Cormier is currently available. Al met w/the Court-house July 4th planning committee, led by Melissa Perkins, CEO. Assignments were given to each member to contact potential participants for the parade. Town Councilman Tom McMorris continues to gather information regarding the building of a replica John Williams blockhouse on the grounds of the Memorial/Veteran's Park. Met w/Chris Hubbard regarding the Deputy Historian position; she declined because of her already full

schedule. Al has been in contact w/a local organization regarding the financing of a reprinting of 'A Bed for the Night', Kay Crank's story about the Salem jail; waiting for an answer. Report will be filed.

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Planning Board-Kim reported no meeting was held for December as there was nothing submitted; January mtg. was held on January 22, 2025. Elections were held @ this meeting: Chairman-Maurice Patrick; Vice Chairman-Edward Donoghue; Secretary-Jay Watters; Attorney-Matthew Fuller, Esq.; Newspaper-The Eagle; Meeting Date-4th Thursday of the month. Present at this mtg.: Chairman Patrick; Vice Chair-Ed Donoghue; Secretary-Jay Watters; Clerk-Kim Erbe; Compliance Office-Mario Canalini & Board Members Willie Linendoll & Ken Bordwell. Public attending: Scott Eastman & Robert Dennison. Due to the fact that the Town Board did not vote on the re-appointment of Ken Bordwell for another five-year term on the Planning Board @ their Jan. meeting,, Ken was asked to be present but could not vote. The Town Board will vote on Ken's re-appointment at their February Town Board meeting. John Dennison presented an Application for Site Plan Review for placement of two (2) 12 x 24 prebuilt sheds on property located @ 6 Battenkill Woods Way, tax map parcel i.d. #216.1-4-18. Said shed will be purchased from Johnny Sheds; Whitehall, NY, & will be placed 15' from the fence line that serves as a boundary line for their parcel. Approval from Battenkill Woods Association Boad will be necessary to move forward. Ed still working on Battery Storage Law. Ed Donoghue, Willie Linendoll & Maurice Patrick did training; Clerk Gilchrist will file their Certificates. Minutes were rec'd. & will be filed.

Resolution #21-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, re-appointing Kenneth Bordwell to a five-year (5) appoint on the Salem Planning Board, term beginning January 1, 2026 & ending December 31, 2030; passed unanimously. **FYI**-Jay Watters term will end in December of 2026; Ed Donoghue's in December of 2027; & Chairman Patrick's in December of 2029.

Assessor-Currently working on all exemptions (except STAR, which is now totally handled by NYS Dep't. of Taxation & Finance). Also, there will be new exemptions coming out for Veteran's.

Economic Development-No report rec'd. from 01/26/2026 meeting

Bancroft Library-Working on proposition for Salem Central School vote in May. As was reported in Histori-an's Report, Anthony Anderson will do a presentation @ Proudfit Hall on Saturday, 02/14/2026 on his re-search of Dr. Clark & others.

Sewer Committee-SAW Board of Directors (which is a new Board) denied the Town purchase of their property for the sewer plant. This will be taken back to the Sewer Committee at their Feb. mtg. The Committee would like to meet w/the SAW Board of Directors sooner rather than later. Possibility some (or all) of SAW Board & some of the Sewer Comm. members could visit whatever Town has a similar system to check out what they have & how it works. \$3,500 paid for the property appraisal was paid for w/ARPA funds & a grant. David Wren asked about the possibility of the former Linke properties being used; the cost would have been approximately \$1-1/4 million to take down if not done through land banking, which could come into play now since Washington County currently owns them all. Land banking will be discussed @ the 02/21/2026 mtg. of the Washington County Board of Supervisors for approval through DEC.

Mike Miller-wanted to clarify that because the County now owns these properties, they would not be going in the tax auction; Supervisor Clary assured him that was correct.

David Wren-250th Anniversary Celebration-David reported that he, Al, Tom McMorris & Melissa had met @ the Courthouse, discussing the parade, etc. Would like to set up an encampment after the parade behind the former Joan Green property; David was there for the Civil War Encampment. Should the encampment be in 2026 or only in 2027?? Pat Niles will be the MC for the parade & will be reading the Declaration of Independence on the steps of the Courthouse. It would be great if the businesses in Town could put up buntings prior to July 4th through the holiday; perhaps the person who paints the Nu-You window, could do

other windows in the former Village. Would love to have Salem's veterans riding in cars during the parade. David is also working on a commemorative coin. Tom is working on blockhouse plans w/ architect Jack Waite & historical architect, Paul Huey. Base will be 20' x 20' & go up around 12' in the air. There will be electricity in the blockhouse but no water or bathroom facilities. Again, Planning Bd. Clerk Erbe reiterated that the

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blockhouse was not a conforming use in that area according to the current Zoning law (which is only in the boundaries of the former Village). Because there has been a Revolutionary War Cemetery there for many years & also the Carnival Grounds used prior by the fireman every year for their carnival, the zoning law could be amended to include this use.

Tree Committee-Looking for a better price per tree.

Veterans/Memorial Park Bricks-Tom McMorris has applications for the purchase of the forever bricks.

DCO-a Vet from Warren County is pushing for a County Animal Shelter in Washington County. We already have 'Salem Community Cats' & 'The Pinkie Foundation', set up by Jim Gariepy, in memory of his dog.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Eastman asked if the Court Clerk had reported (or could report) on the progress being made on prior fine and/or Court issues. No report rec'd. yet.

OLD BUSINESS

NYS DOT Sidewalk Salem Pedestrian Connection-will not begin until after July 4th on the road or the sidewalk.

Master Comprehensive Plan Update-Postcards were sent out to residents asking them to go online to fill out a survey. Next mtg. will be 04/22/2026, beginning @ 5 p.m., @ the Courthouse. Supervisor Clary will check on the date to make sure that is correct.

Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, appointing Beth Ulion as a member to the Comprehensive Plan Committee; passed unanimously.

Salt & Sand Shed update-Final paperwork was filed for reimbursement of \$449,000.

Hudson Valley Greenway/Washington County EDC Grant Award-This is \$62,000 total (\$30,000 from Hudson Valley Greenway & \$32,000 from Wash. Co.). The T/O/S is the lead agency, but this could involve both the T/O/S & the Town of Greenwich. This involves the rail corridor from Rte. 22 to Thompson. The study will explore how rail-related infrastructure can support local businesses/employment, like Caro-Vail & Cargill. Questions were raised on ownership along different sections of the corridor, access issues & track conditions (like the West Broadway crossing). There will be no replacement of tracks; there could be a walking trail or a highlander trail, etc. Allison Gaddy, Laura Oswald, Laura Belle, Supervisor Clary & Councilman Tom McMorris are all on the committee & will meet soon. Friday, 02/13/2026, in the morning. Northeast Rail should pay the match; having a meeting on Friday, 02/13/2026; this will be brought up then.

Sewer Land Option Agreement Resolution-As mentioned under the Sewer Committee above, this is no longer in effect as the Option was rejected by SAW Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS

2026/2027 Website Compliance Regulations-There are new NYS guidelines governing municipal websites going into effect. Councilman McMorris has spoken to Karen Hickland about putting the video conferencing w/Howard on the website.

Glens Falls Hospital/Salem Clinic Assessment-LaBella Engineering will work w/Glens Falls Hospital as far as what days/hours they will be entering (or can enter) the building for their assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Miller-asked about the Sangate issue/Vt. purchasing land above him & wanted access from Beattie Hollow Rd./and or Chambers Rd. w/coverage from Salem Fire Dep't. & Salem Rescue Squad in case of any emergencies on the property should they move forward w/ purchasing. Mike thought approximately 80 +/- lots were to be created on approximately 250 acres behind Scott Eastman's. Scott will ask Joe Nolan if anything is going on currently. Access from Rupert would be too steep.

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SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Salem Food Pantry-Supervisor Clary reported that the Salem Food Pantry still had to be out of their current space behind the Episcopal Church by the middle of June, 2026. Freezers will probably have to be removed through the windows as that is how they got in the first time. Still need a place to move to.

Public Information Meeting-Supervisor Clary announced a meeting would be held on Thursday, 02/26/2026, from 6-7 p.m. @ the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center; 30 Ferry St.; Schuylerville, NY. NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation will share an update on renovations & gather input on future programming at the Susan B. Anthony State Historic Site on NYS Rte. 29 just before Battenville. There is a poster to hang in the Town Office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-Resolution #22-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter of employment; passed unanimously.

Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to come out of Executive Session; passed unanimously. Much discussion; no decision(s) made & no vote(s) taken in Executive Session.

Motion to Adjourn-the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey; passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned @ 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting-of the Salem Town Board will be the regular monthly meeting on 03/11/2026, beginning @ 5 p.m. in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY, to review Warrants #3 & Highway Abstract #3 for payment, regular business meeting will be called to order @ 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem

