

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
APRIL 08, 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: Town Attorney-Matt Fuller; Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Maurice Patrick-Planning Bd.; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library

Public Present: David Wren-250th Celebration; Sherri Slater

Absent: Al Cormier-Hist./Records Mg't. (report provided); Beth Ulion-Courthouse; Marissa Perkins-Court-house; Larry Haber-Economic Development (report provided); Kay Tomasi; Economic Development/Sewer; Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't.; Vicki Campbell-Rescue Squad (report provided); Nancy Quell-DCO (report provided)

5:00-5:50 pm-Legal Counsel-Resolution #34-Motion made by Councilman Scott Eastman, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to go into Executive Session w/Attorney Matt Fuller to discuss lease issues; passed 5-0. Discussion during executive session, with questions answered & comments made. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to come out of Executive Session; passed 5-0. No decisions made or vote(s) taken while in Executive Session.

6:00 pm-Regular monthly meeting called to order by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction of Board members made around the table & Councilman Law, who was video-conferencing.

Open Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2026-Extending a Temporary Moratorium on the Approval of Commercial Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town of Salem, N.Y.-Per Planning Bd. Clerk, Kim Erbe, SEQRA paperwork was read by Supervisor Clary & answered by Salem Town Board. **Resolution #35-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, for a negative declaration on Type II Action pursuant to SEQRA, under 6NYCRR, part 617 et. seq.; passed 5-0.

Supervisor Clary asked the required three times if there were any comments, questions, or objections to the passage of Local Law #1 of 2026. There being no comments, questions or objections, the Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2026 was closed.

Resolution #36-Resolution of Adoption of Local Law #1 of 2026-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by both Councilman Scott Eastman & Councilman Howard Law, to pass the Resolution of Adoption of Local Law #1 of 2026; passed 5-0.

Resolution #37-Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, instructing Town Clerk Patricia Gilchrist to file said Local Law #1 of 2026 with the NYS Secretary of State & to provide notice of its adoption to the Washington County Planning Dep't.; passed 5-0.

Financials-were provided to all for review by Clerk to Supervisor Chambers for General Fund; Highway; Water; Benjamin Bancroft Trust; Salem & Shushan Lighting Districts.

Approval of Warrants #4 & Highway Abstract #4 for Payment-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve Warrants 4 (w/exception of Vouchers for April & May, 2026, rent payments) & Highway Abstract #4 for payment; passed 5-0.

Courthouse-Beth Absent-Next community coffee hour will be 04/14/2026 @ 10 a.m.

Bike Day-Sunday, 06/14, from 1-4 p.m. for bike repairs, safety & more @ the Courthouse.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Clerk Gilchrist reported total fees collected for March, 2026, were \$260—with \$12 being sent to NYS Dep't. of Agriculture & Markets for dog licensing; fees paid to T/O/S were \$248. Tax collection is done & tax book/required records were delivered to Washington Co. Treasurer's Office on Monday, 04/06/2026.

Georgi-Brenda Levey reported that Mary Menard is doing well w/funds & paying bills. There will be a mtg. tomorrow night, Thursday, 04/09/2026. Community Room will be discussed--if it will stay as such or changes will be made. Erika Cuevas, current gardener, wishes to continue as a Town of Salem employee so she can keep NYS Retirement. **Resolution #38-Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to have Erika Cuevas stay on as a Town of Salem employee, being paid by the Town of Salem; passed 5-0.

Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, for the Town of Salem to pay the propane bill for the Georgi Community Room; passed 5-0.

ADA Compliant Door-David Owen will install the new ADA compliant door.

Museum-The plan is for the Museum to be open -3 times/month.

Other Items-Urinal is fixed & open; have bathroom floors painted outside the Community Room. Councilman Law said it would be better to seal the floors w/an acid cleaner first.

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-Reports provided by Chief Saunders. 18 Calls for March, 2026: 13-Salem (5-EMS Assist; 3 for lift assist & 2 ECHO response; 2-CO alarm; 2-control burn; 1-gas leak; 1-good intent; 1-residential fire alarm; 1-grass/brush;). 5 Mutual Aid Calls: 1-Cossayuna (traffic control); 1-Shushan (structure fire); 1-Cambridge (stand-by); 1-Arlington (structure fire); 1-Rupert (stand-by)

Trainings-OSHA; State Fire Class; Air Pack; Ice Water; Ropes/Knots; 'The Rural Challenge-Managing the Fire Ground' class; Monthly Mtgs.; Station Maintenance Note: 452.75 hrs. for 41 members attending either trainings, monthly mtgs. and/or station maintenance or all.

District/Mutual Aid Y/T/D-Salem-23; Hebron-6; Cambridge-3; Rupert-3; Cossayuna-2; shushan-2; Argyle-1; Arlington-1; Greenwich-1; Middle falls-10

Incident Type Year to Date-43 Responses: 8-personal injury/Unknow PI MVA; 7-stand-by's; 5-structure fires; 4-CO alarms; 4-EMS Assist-ECHO response; 4-EMS lift assists; 2-control burns; 1-chimney fire; 1-fire alarm (residential); 1-gas leak; 1-good intent; 1-grass/brush fire; 1-hazardous condition; 1-property damage MVA; 1-svc. call; 1-traffic control

Other reports-Members attending year to date; Event attendance report for 03/01-03/31/2026; all reports will be filed.

Rescue Squad-Captain Vicki Campbell provided report: **38 calls for March, 2026**—T/O/S-31; Hebron-5; VT-2 Year-to-Date: 126 calls

Glens Falls Hosp.-12; Saratoga-11; RRM-3; SVMC-2; RMA-2; Albany Med Peeds-1; Lift Assist-1; Fire Stand-by-2; Class 17-2; Transferred care-l; cancelled-l

4431-0; 4451-3; 4452-33; 4453-2

Ten-minute response time: 84% (32 yes, 6 no)

Report will be filed.

Planning Board-Clerk Kim Erbe reported no March meeting; Clerk Gilchrist reported that she had taken in an application for Site Plan. Meeting on April 23rd will be held in Proudfit Hall due to Town Office situation.

Economic Development-Larry Haber provided March 09, 2026, meeting minutes

Master Comprehensive Plan-next mtg. will be 05/11 @ Salem Central School; 274 survey responses were rec'd. from the survey & are being processed & should be available for the May mtg.

Climate Smart-Grant Funding Ledger sheet is being created to manage grants. Sidewalk grant is approx. \$200,000, w/add'l. \$30,000 grant for Main Street sidewalks on opposite of street.

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Land Banking-NYS has approved the program; awaiting details. Board of Directors has been formed, w/a committee yet to be established to identify/prioritize projects.

HHN-has announced plans to open the Pharmacy at its current location in Salem.

Historic Salem Courthouse-The courthouse has rec'd. a donation to revitalize the barn & upgrade the movie equipment.

Project Updates: Georgi-Continuing w/work on obtaining the 501(c)(3) status. **Sewer**-Use of SAW as a site for the sewer was declined for approval by the SAW Board of Directors. A possible alternative site has been identified off Stanton Hill Rd. & talks are ongoing w/owner. No March mtg. **Solar Farm**-NYPA Renewable Group has engaged a consultant to identify costs associated w/tying into the grid from Salem's proposed location.

Economic Development: NE Rail-Question of ownership of Salem Freight Barn has been asked. Work is continuing on the feasibility study for the Salem -to- Thompson Rail Trail.

Hebron/Salem Repair Café-is scheduled for April, 2026.

Next Meeting: April 13, 2026 @ 9 a.m. @ Courthouse. Report will be filed.

Tree/Park Committee-ACA will chg. \$600/tree for all trees installed, including gator bags. Red Oaks will be planted on Vail & Main Streets (in front of Catholic Parsonage) & by Sherry Allen's. Red Maples to be planted by John Lundgren's house on West Broadway & one other on West Broadway. Trees need to be watered every day for first 7-10 days & then every other day for next couple of weeks; Tom has asked Travis if the h'way crew can water during this period.

Stump Removal-\$300/stump for removal by Landon Nelson. 6 on Williams St. & 4 by Catholic Church that need to come out soon. Tom says approximately 30 +/- need to be removed in total. Possibly remove 5-10 in 2026 (depending on funds available; \$2,000 currently in Economic Development). Councilman Law says to check w/NYS & Wash. Co. to see if stumps are in their R/O/W. Could remove 5 stumps @ \$300/stump = \$1,500-under Procurement Policy am't. so don't need to go out to bid. Planting cannot be done on top of a ground-out stump; need to wait a bit before deciding.

Village Park/Gazebo-Clerk to Supervisor Chambers advised that Donna Anderson will work on the flower beds in the former Village Park.

Highway-Travis' reported that Granville has asked about a dump body that was deemed surplus. It's 8 years old; Granville offered \$2,000 & they will come pick up. If o.k. with Board, Travis will advise them tomorrow as there is a meeting in Granville tomorrow. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to sell the dump body to Town of Granville for \$2,000; passed 5-0.

2027 Truck-Purchase price on delivery will be \$375,432.83 w/90 days to pay. \$10,639.27 off-10 months @ 6.39% so bottom line price would be \$364,793.56. Probably take 2-6 months to get here—order mid-May for delivery in November, 2026. 2022 truck will go—would like to get 75% of purchase price, which was \$365,000. Two Towns have already inquired about the 2022 truck. Just an FYI-the purchase price on a new grad-all is between \$375-\$475,000. Councilman Eastman asked if it would be feasible to share a road grader with 3-4 other towns, but Sup't. Keys didn't think so.

Resolution #39-Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, allowing Highway Sup't. Travis Keys to proceed with the ordering of the 2027 truck; passed 5-0. Sup't. Keys will let Clerk Gilchrist know when he needs the Letter of Intent to purchase.

Brine maker Storage Grant-\$195,000-have five years to get this done.

Did some cold patching last week; will be stretching out mowing as much as possible due to gas prices.

Dean Watkins' last day will be 05/08; he has already turned in his retirement paperwork. Mike Finnegan is done as of today, 04/08/2026. Will be needing two full-time people.

Water-will be pushing back hydrant flushing due to cold weather. School vacation was early this year, also. Next day School is out will be Monday, June 19th.

Water school next week--Travis & Andy will be going.

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Dig Safe-need to take a new five-hour course. Travis took Cyber Security training today on computer through NYMIR. Changes in filing paperwork w/the NYS Dep't. of Health; would like to get them to Salem to do final testing for Andy & Mario for their licenses. \$4,589 to J & H for testing.

Assessor's Report-Currently working on building permits & Certificates of Occupancy; valuation of new inventory for the Tentative Assessment Roll, which will be available May 1st, 2026. Need to make plans on an alternative location to sit with the roll & for Grievance Day in the event Town Office space is not reopen-ed. Available currently by appointment to meet with anyone who needs to see me. Report will be filed.

Historian's Report-Al sent report to all. Met w/Wash. Co. Historical Society Book Club on 03/25/2026 to talk about the history/successes of the Salem Community Courthouse. Ellie Valentine gave a tour of her art-work in the Great Hall; we then toured the Courtroom & Jail areas. Present were Fred Brack, Ed & Ellie Valentine, Butch Gilchrest, Jane Murphy, Dianne & David Burger, & Connie Farrington. Met w/Larry Haber, a NE Rail Director member, to discuss return of NE Rail records to them. These records/artifacts have been under the protection of the Village/Town in their storage rooms since about 2004; NE Rail is in the process of developing a museum in the Salem Depot using these railroad artifacts. Said artifacts, D & H Railroad maps, specs, etc. will be held by NE Rail in their facility in Greenwich, transfer to take place in a few weeks. Met w/4 members from Fort Ann quilting group, led by Arlene Green, to view & take photos of the Civil War quilt hanging in the Town archive room. They are planning to create the Fort Ann Civil War quilt for the 250th Anniversary of the battle of Fort Ann. I also gave them a tour of the Great Hall & the Courtroom. Numerous researchers have contacted me regarding genealogy information about their Salem relatives. Report will be filed.

DCO Report-Owner reported 2 missing boxers on Smith Rd.; located @ Battenkill Creamery. Two beagles were found on County Rte. 30 & Smith Rd.; owner located. Report will be filed.

OLD BUSINESS

NYS DOT Sidewalk Salem Pedestrian Connection-pre-work continues. Nothing will be done before July 4th celebration.

Salt/Sand Grant Finalization-Still waiting to receive funds.

Hudson Greenway Grant (\$30,000) & Wash. Co. EDC Grant (\$32,000)-for Museum in railroad station & structural assessment on barn & tracks.

FEMA Maps-Final maps have been rec'd. Public Hearing on new Flood Plain Resolution will be held at June 10th, 2026 regular monthly meeting of the Town Board.

Grant Spread Sheet-Clerk to Supervisor Chambers would still like to receive a spreadsheet showing all grants listed w/amounts of money to be rec'd. This would make it easier to follow when money comes in as everything is automatically deposited into a highway acc't.

NEW BUSINESS

Blockhouse in Veteran's Memorial Park-Zoning Law needs revision to allow public facilities in residential areas so no Variance would be needed from ZBA. Revolutionary War Cemetery & Carnival Grounds are already located in this area & have been there for many years. Planning Board working on new wording to change law to allow said public facilities in residential areas. **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, agreeing to change in Zoning Law by Planning Board to accomplish

necessary changes in this area; passed 5-0. Said revised Zoning Law will be presented to the Town Board & will need to be approved by Attorney Matt Fuller.

David Wren-250th Anniversary Celebration- 96 hats can be ordered through Amazon-\$500 can come out of the Historian's contractual account. These will be worn by Salem Band members marching in the parade, judges for the parade, Grand Marshalls, etc. for the July 4th celebration. **Motion made by** Council-

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man Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to move forward with ordering the hats through Amazon; passed 5-0.

Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to pay \$130 deposit for a port-a-potty @ McCracken house; passed 5-0.

Greenwich Ladder Truck-See if available for July 4th, w/flag draped at end of raised ladder. Cost approx. \$300 +/- **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to contact Greenwich Fire Dep't./Mac Boston regarding the availability of the truck coming to Salem for July 4th; passed 5-0.

Banner for Gazebo @ Old Village Park-Brenda will see about ordering a 250th celebration banner to put across the front of the Gazebo as she decorates the same for July 4th celebration anyway.

Deputy Historian Position-David Wren announced that he would take the Deputy Historian position, working with Al Cormier. **Motion made** by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, appointing David Wren to the position of Deputy Historian; passed 5-0. Thank-you, David; the Town will graciously accept your offer & be thankful to have you aboard!

Town Office Discussion-Town Office has been posted for 'No Occupancy' by Chris Jones, fire inspector, from Wash. Co. Code Enforcement. New heater unit was installed & vented on an outside wall; landowner will have to notify Code Enforcement that this was done & the unit needs to be inspected. Landlord will most likely need to do a stove permit application on this latest unit. Councilwoman Brenda Levey, along w/Kim Erbe, Moe Patrick & some others, still feel like there should be a room at the Courthouse for the Town Clerk to use temporarily since the Town already owns the bldg. Also, someone should speak to Al Cormier regarding availability in his office--if there is any room to set up there. Does anyone on the Courthouse Board even know what is going on w/the Town Office issue?? Brenda would be glad to contact the Courthouse regarding the use of such space & could attend their Board mtg. on 05/06/2026, if necessary.

Water Barn availability-Travis offered a space in the Water Barn office temporarily for Clerk Gilchrist to work, if Councilman McMorris can figure out the computer & phone set up. Tom didn't see a problem w/ moving equipment. May need an extension cord and/or a surge protector but that won't be an issue. Move equipment & whatever is in Judge's office currently to Water Barn office tomorrow, Thursday, 04/09/2026.

Motion made by Council-woman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, agreeing to move Clerk Gilchrist to the Water Barn Office in a space made available by Water Operator, Travis Keys, temporarily so she will have a place to deal w/the public & do Town Clerk work; passed 5-0.

Anthem Sports-Dieter Drake send letter back in late December, 2025, asking for a resolution of support from the Town of Salem for the bicycle race to be held Saturday, May 9, 2026. The event will be held under NYS Permit 33A & needs Town approval for the use of the following roads: Roberson Rd.; Camden Valley Rd.; Juniper Swamp Rd.; Rich Rd.; & Newman Rd. Event volunteers & staff will coordinate w/participants, law enforcement, & medical personnel to ensure safety & a successful operation of events. Said event is being coordinated w/the Wash. Co. Sheriff's Office, NYS Police, & all Towns & Villages involved.

Resolution #40-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, allowing the use of the following Town Roads: Roberson Rd., Camden Valley Rd., Juniper Swamp Rd., &

Newman Rd. for the May 9th Anthem Sports bicycle race; passed 5-0. Please clean up any garbage from the cyclists after the race.

Mark Rode-IT-Saratoga Networks-Travis reported that Mark needs to pay bill for Office 365 ASAP. Higher cost is \$24 per mo. +/- per user; cheaper plan is \$11/per month & it's web based so internet would be used.

Resolution #41-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman to keep Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, Clerk to Supervisor Kathy Chambers, Town Clerk Pat Gilchrist, Assessor Bobbi Stone, Tom McMorris, Deputy Town Clerk & Water Clerk Winona Hathaway, & the Water Barn Office on the more expensive plan of approx.. \$24/month per user; passed 5-0.

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'Paint the Town Purple'-Rec'd. a letter from the committee for this event that raises money for Alzheimer's Disease to decorate the Gazebo in the former Village Park w/purple ribbon & purple lights for the June 19 walk/run, beginning @ 5 p.m. & ending by 8 p.m. & use the area as the starting point for the walk/run.

Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, agreeing to the use of the Gazebo in the former Village Park for the walk/run for 'Paint the Town Purple' on June 19th, 2026; passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilwoman Brenda Levey wanted to personally extend a **BIG** thank-you to Clerk to Supervisor Kathy Chambers from the George Board of Trustees for all her years of dedicated service to the Georgi w/keeping the account straight & working w/them for a smooth transition. It is all much appreciated!!

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT-Supervisor Clary reported that the Town's new electric speed limit sign was at the Co. Highway Garage. The original one was damaged when it fell out of a County truck & broke & has been replaced; it was previously located at the end of Adams Lane in Shushan. When it comes back, it will be put at the top of Shushan Hill by Kathy Gilchrest's house.
There will be a meeting next month w/Hubbard Hall.

Motion to Adjourn-the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman; passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned @ 7:50 p.m.

Special Meeting-to pass Resolution Introducing proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 for Flood Damage Prevention will be held on April 22, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m. in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting-of the Salem Town Board will be the regular monthly meeting on 05/10/2026, beginning @ 5 p.m. in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY, to review Warrants #5 & Highway Abstract #5 for payment, regular business meeting will be called to order @ 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem

