

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
JULY 08, 2026

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council: Brenda Levey; 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; Moe Patrick-Planning Bd. Chair; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Mary Menard-Georgi Bd. of Trustees; David Wren-250th Anniv. Celebration

Public Present: Sherri Slater; Audrey Roosevelt

Absent: Councilman Tom McMorris (excused); Larry Haber-Economic Devel.; Kay Tomasi; Economic Development/Sewer; Steve Saunders-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't. (reports provided); Vicki Campbell-Rescue Squad (reports provided); Nancy Quell-DCO (nothing to report)

5:00 pm-Review of Warrants #7 & Highway Abstract #7 for payment

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.

Financials-were provided to all by Clerk to Supervisor Chambers for General Fund (this was reviewed by the Board); Highway; Water; Benjamin Bancroft Trust; Salem Memorial & Veterans Park; Salem Lighting District; Shushan Lighting District. If you have any questions on the other Financials, please direct to Clerk to Supervisor Chambers.

BANS-Clerk to Supervisor Chambers reported that with fees going up from last year, there is not much money left in the Attorney line. Two BAN renewals will need to be sent to Att'y. Fuller by the end of this month, w/ renewal in the fall of 2026 (\$1,500 each to prepare). Salt/sand sheds BAN will be \$635,000 renewal, plus interest @ 3.85%, of \$25,515.40 (unless pay'mt. comes in before due). The second BAN will be for the Pay Loader for \$32,000, plus interest.

Grant Money-Have rec'd. \$149,880 on salt/sand shed grant; \$5,000 initial pay'mt. on Master Comprehensive Plan, w/another pay'mt. of \$13,887.0. Rec'd. \$13,339.67 for Pedestrian Connection reimbursement on sidewalk. Still need a list of all grants applied for w/amounts, what has been rec'd. so far, & what is owed & to whom (if anything). **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, for Supervisor Clary, H'Way Sup't. Travis Keys, & Clerk to Supervisor Kathy Chambers to set date & time that they all can meet to secure numbers on these grants; passed 3-0. (Howard not yet connected.)

Approval of Warrants #7 & Highway Abstract #7 for Payment-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to approve Warrants #7 & Highway Abstract #7 for payment. Also, pay LaBella's bill for Comprehensive Plan work; passed 4-0.

Resolution #51-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to move funds as follows:

A1910.4-Contingency

\$ 8,600.00

A6989.4-Economic Development

\$ 8,600.00

Passed 4-0. (June Contingency balance was \$26,150.00)

Approval of Minutes-Motion made by Councilman Scott Eastman, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the 04/08/2026 regular monthly meeting minutes of the Salem Town Board; passed 4-0.

Motion made by Councilman Scott Eastman, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to approve the brief minutes from the 04/22/2026 special meeting of the Salem Town Board, for the Adoption Resolution for Local

Law #2 of 2026 for Flood Damage Preventing in the T/O/S; passed 4-0. (Proposed Introductory Resolution & the proposed draft Local Law could not be approved as written because corrections needed to be made to

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both, so nothing could be voted on at this meeting. There being no second to Resolution #42, said Resolution was rescinded.) Passed 4-0

Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to approve the 05/13/2026 regular monthly meeting minutes of the Salem Town Board; passed 4-0.

Motion made by Councilman Scott Eastman, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the minutes from the 05/20/2026 special meeting of the Salem Town Board to adopt Introductory Resolution #44, introducing proposed Local Law #2 of 2026 providing for Flood Damage Prevention in the Town of Salem & to set Public Hearing date on the passage of said Local Law #2 of 2026; passed 4-0.

Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to approve the 06/10/2026 regular monthly meeting minutes of the Salem Town Board; passed 4-0.

Highway Dep't.-Union Contract-Supervisor Clary received letter from the Union--proposing changes in wages, hours, & general working conditions. **Resolution #52-Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, approving Councilman Scott Eastman, Councilman Howard Law, & Clerk to Supervisor Kathy Chambers to work with the Union on drafting a new Contract; passed 4-0.

Supervisor Clary rec'd. letter from NYMIR re switches on trucks--need to negotiate on small trucks; she will scan the letter to Councilman Law. Will be working on storm drains on West Broadway & Archibald St.

Sup't. Keys would like a motion to put the fuel bids in the Eagle newspaper. **Motion made by** Councilman Scott Eastman, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to put fuel bids for heating oil & on-road diesel in the Eagle for three (3) years: 2026-2027; 2027-2028; 2028-2029. Passed 4-0

Currently Travis has an add'l. full time & 1-part time employee.

Water Dep't.-Suggested to buy a fixed mailbox for the Water Barn Office that will lock or get a P.O. Box @ the Post Office. Water Clerk will need to set hours to collect in person @ the Water Barn.

There is a new part-time employee splitting his hours (20 total) between highway & water @ \$21.84/hour. Will need a new Line Item for this position. **Resolution #53-Motion made by** Councilman Scott Eastman, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to create a new line item for the part-time employee, splitting his time between Highway & Water @ \$21.84/hour, not to exceed twenty (20) hours/week; passed 4-0.

Town Clerk Report-Clerk Gilchrist reported \$355 had been collected in fees for June, 2026. Dog Licensing was \$85; 3-Marriage License at \$17.50; 3-Marriage Certified Copy-\$10; 3-Site Plan Applications @ \$75 ea. = \$225. A check for \$8 was sent to NYS Ag & Markets for the APCP submission & a check for \$22.50 was sent to NYS Dep't. of Health for the marriage licenses issued, leaving \$324.50 paid to the Town of Salem.

Clerk Gilchrist has been working on amount of interest/fees from the 2026 tax collection. Report will be filed.

Courthouse-No Report

Lunch, Learn n Play-begins on Monday, 07/06/26, @ the Courthouse. Over 130 students have registered so far for this much loved program; some will be going to the swim program @ Hebron Camp.

Community Coffee Hour-will be held on Tuesday, 07/14/26, beginning @ 10 am. Please bring your favorite mug & visit w/your friends & neighbors!!

Al Fresco Dinner-will be held on 07/18/26, from 5-8 pm on the Courthouse lawn. There will be a silent auction in the newly renovated Carriage Barn, done by Patrick McLenithan, performances by Metawee Theatre Co., & David Cutie's Jazz Band.

Washington County Band-will perform on the Courthouse Lawn on 07/23/26, from 5-7 pm.

August Community Coffee Hour-will be held Tuesday, 08/11/26, beginning @ 10 am. You may bring your own favorite beverage if you like, although coffee will be provided!

2nd Annual Family Fall Festival-will be held on 09/26/26 from 5-8 pm @ the Courthouse. Savory Pig Food Truck, Casa Reyes Food Truck & Adirondack Brewery will all be on hand, as well as Reese Fulmer & The Carriage House Band.

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1st Annual Car Show-will be held on 10/10/26 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm for some awesome vehicles, local vendors, delicious food trucks, live music & more.

Check out all these events @ www.salemcourthouse.org/upcomingevents

Georgi-Brenda Levey reported that Devin Bulger, from LaBella attended the Georgi mtg. John _____, who was married on the Georgi grounds years ago, has volunteered to organize the Asian collection. Laura Dunham is currently working creating a new web page, which should be done soon.

More invasive species have been taken out around the grounds.

Open Museum hours will be from 10 am-1 pm on Saturdays

HVAC System-Should be installed & ready to go by now.

Metawee Players-will be performing on the Georgi grounds on Friday & Saturday, 07/10 & 07/11/2026 @ 8 pm.

Washington County Band-will perform on Thursday, 08/06/2026.

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-Reports provided by Chief Saunders. 13 Calls for June, 2026: 9-Salem (3-wire issues; 2-fire alarms—1 Commercial & 1 residential; 1-personal injury/unknown PI-MVA; 1-good intent; 1-CO alarm; 1-EMS assist); **4 Mutual Aid:** 2-Cossayuna (wires); 1-Rupert (wires); 1-Shushan (unknown PI-MVA)

District/Mutual Aid Y/T/D-Salem-53; Hebron-7; Rupert-6; Cambridge-5; Cossayuna-4; Shushan-3; Argyle-1; Arlington-1; Greenwich-1; Middle falls-1 for a total of 82

Incident Type Year to Date-82 Responses: 16-personal injury/unknown; 7-stand-by's; 8-structure fires; 7-wires; 6-control burn; 6-EMS Assist/Lift Assist; 5-ECHO response; 4-good intent; 3-residential fire alarms; 2-grass/brush; 2-hazardous condition; 2-LP gas leaks; 2-wires; 1-chimney fire; 1-property damage MVA; 1-rescue call; 1-svc. call; 1-traffic control; 1-vehicle fire; 1-smoke condition

Other reports-Members attending year to date; all reports will be filed.

Approve New Members per Chief Saunders-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, approving the following members, as indicated, pending the mandatory arson background checks: Jessica Mikels-Support Group; Chloe MacLeod-Jr. Member Support Group; Golan Willard-Jr. Firefighter Member; passed 4-0

Rescue Squad-May report: Calls-47 (6) YTD-208 (251); 4431-0; 4451-4; 4452-29; 4453-16

Salem Town-34; **Hebron**-9; **Vermont**-4

Where to: GFH-21; Saratoga-12; SVMC-2; RMA-4; Albany Med-1; Life Net-2

Fire Standby-2; **Standby**-1; **Cancelled**-3

10 Minute Response Time: 81% (38 Yes; 9 No)

June Report: Calls-44 (9) YTD-252 (304); 4431-0; 4451-2; 4452-41; 4453-1

Salem Town-24; **Hebron**-15; **Jackson**-4; **Hudson Falls**-1

Where to: GFH-25; Saratoga-5; SVMC-5; RMA-5; Life Net-2; **Cancelled**-2

10 Minute Response Time: 84% (37 Yes; 7 No)

Both Reports will be filed.

Assessor's Report-Bobbi reported that the final assessment roll was finalized & out on July 1, 2026.

March-May transfers have been received. Over the course of those 3 months, there were 20 transfers--of those 20, 5 were arms length sales.

Training-I will be out of the office for training & continuing education on Wednesday, 07/08 & the week of 07/19. Feel free to reach out w/any questions or concerns; report will be filed.

Planning Board-Clerk Kim Erbe reported the meeting for July would be on Thursday, the 23rd. There might be a Site Plan Application for roof mounted solar. ZBA issue regarding a property on W. Broadway; had to have a mtg. There is not 3 acres; an area variance was issued. Kim is **not** zoning; send anything pertaining to zoning in the former Village to Mario for determination. If o.k., then it goes on to the Planning Board, then to

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Washington County Planning Dep't. ZBA hears appeals; Special Uses go the Planning Board. Had one person that came to last month's mtg. get upset regarding solar panels for their house. Letter is needed from a certified engineer stating that the roof can sustain the weight of the panels, which was not done by a certified engineer. Can come back to July mtg. if he gets the letter. Waiting to hear from Att'y. Fuller on final draft copy of Zoning Law w/approved changes, & other paperwork needed to achieve the Local Law filing; also waiting on final BESS Draft Local Law approval & paperwork needed to file this Local Law.

Washington County Planning Agency Meeting-scheduled for Tuesday, 06/30/26, @ 9 am; referrals due for public notice must be in by Monday, 06/22/26, not later than 4 pm to be noticed on the Agenda for this mtg.

Bancroft Library- The next mtg. will be Tuesday, 07/14/2026, @ 7 pm in the reading room.

Economic Development-No formal report as Larry resigned at June's mtg. Will need to appoint a replacement for Larry @ July's mtg.

Sewer Committee-Mtgs. are at a standstill; will meet when Land Banking is closer to demolition of the Links properties.

Historian's Report-Al provided report. He met again w/Alexis Graham & David Wren to do more research on the McCracken, Barnes, etc. Met w/ Sue Gosline from Whitehall; she is a clairvoyant researching names that came to her from listening to paranormal recordings taken at the Courthouse last month. She will get Al a report; it was a very interesting experience for him! Jan Sams & her husband from Florida offered to give two John Wesley Jarvis portraits of Att'y. James Blanchard & Maria Blanchard to Bancroft Library. They both were purchased at an auction in 2016 & prior to that, had been lost for years. Shipping costs will be paid for by Bancroft Library; they will be hung next to Col. John Williams portrait in the library. The painting will be officially accepted by the Trustees on July 14, 2026. Al met w/Devin Bulger, Planner for LaBella Assoc., on the Master Comprehensive Plan.

July 4th Parade Committee-Met w/them on 06/29/2026. Marissa Perkins did an exceptional job of organizing the parade & the after parade Courthouse events. Photos can be viewed on McMorris Photos. David Wren organized the John Barnes Rangers & helped engage the 2nd Continental Artillery--both groups participated in the parade & cannon/musket firing at the Courthouse. David also took on the task of organizing the Town of Salem history table for the Washington County 250th fair @ the Washington County Fairgrounds. Reenactors were in uniform, were to be present @ the Town booth that also contained paper goods, photos, medallions, historical pamphlets, a life-size paper model of a Salem Revolutionary War Soldier, & a Civil War banner. Researcher Holly Miranda is scheduled to view the Jackie Rich collection on 07/13/2026. David Cheeseman was seeking info about his father, Reed Cheeseman, who worked as an automobile mechanic in the 1940's & 1950's. He worked for Andy Capuano, who ran the garage where Adam Matthews is currently located on South Main Street. Before Andy ran the business, the building on White Creek was owned by John M. Williams; it was known then as the Williams Machine Shop where metal equipment & parts were made, as well as small, two-wheel fire trucks. That bldg. has been demolished.

A complete inventory & reorganizing of materials is ongoing in the Town archive/history room; have been working on this for the past two weeks. The computer database is also being updated. Records management boxes & a work cart have been ordered. Report will be filed

Councilwoman Levey reported that Peter Bell from Cambridge knows a lot about Asa Fitch.

DCO Report-Nancy had nothing to report.

Tree/Park Committee- 2 trees were planted on Vale St. & 2 on West Broadway. ACA has been notified; he will let Tom know when he is coming. The 3 Arrow-wood Viburnums (bushes), at no charge from NYSEG, were also planted.

Stump Removal-Buddy Nolan will be doing this work & will work w/H'Way Sup't. Keys.

250th Anniversary Celebration-Dave reported that the Washington County Historical Society's History Fair would be held @ the Washington County Fairgrounds on Saturday, 07/11, from 10 am-8pm & Sunday,

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07/12, from 10 am-3 pm. The 250th Anniversary for the Battle of Bennington will be held sometime in Aug. of 2027. Dave is currently working w/Pat Niles @ Wash. Co. Historical Society & will begin planning for 2027 events in September of 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Supervisor Clary reminded that there were several bears (of all sized) wandering around the former Village of Salem. Be vigilant about garbage cans & be aware!

OLD BUSINESS

Master Comprehensive Plan Update-Another meeting on Wednesday, 08/05/2026, from 5-7 pm @ Bancroft Library. Devin Bulger will be going to the Planning Board mtg. in August.

Hudson Greenway Grant-\$30,000 & Wash. Co. EDC Grant-\$32,000-Town of Salem is the lead agency; structural assessment needs to be done on Northeast Rail bldgs. & what work might need to be done on the railbed. There was a mtg. last week w/Northeast Rail.

NYS DOT Sidewalk/Salem Pedestrian Connections-Will most like begin in the Spring of 2027

Brine maker Grant-Five-year reimbursable grant

NEW BUSINESS

C. T. Male Contract on Landfill-Net change in Contract Price due to change order is \$1,300; new Contract Price is now \$6,250.00

Councilman Scott Eastman-asked about the Town Office contract & how long the Town had to notify owners of building re not renewing the Lease for 2027.

Insurance Brokers-Reiss Group & Marshall Sterling have both contacted Supervisor Clary to discuss costs/coverages for the Town of Salem & to see if they might schedule a time to do presentations to the Town Board. Clerk to Supervisor Chambers advised that MVP was going up 21.4%; a 2-person deductible would be \$5,100.

Special Meeting of the Board-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to hold a special meeting of the Salem Town Board to pass the Introductory Resolution for Proposed Local Law #3 of 2026 Prohibiting Commercial Battery Energy Storage Systems in the Town of Salem. Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, @ 5 pm in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY 12865.

Motion to Adjourn-the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman; passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned @ 8:10 pm.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting-of the Salem Town Board will be the regular monthly meeting on 08/12/2026, beginning @ 5 p.m. in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY, to review Warrants #8 & Highway Abstract #8 for payment, regular business meeting will be called to order @ 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem

