

SPECIAL SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING
INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTION FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #4-2026
AMENDING THE ZONING LAW IN THE TOWN OF SALEM and
TO REVIEW ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD
PROUDFIT HALL-5 pm
08/07/2026

PRESENT: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council: Tom McMorris; Brenda Levey; Scott Eastman; Howard Law-Video-conferencing from his home, located @ 2277 State Rte. 313; Shushan, NY 12873; Town Clerk-Pat Gilchrist

OTHERS PRESENT: Al Cormier-Historian/Records Mg't.; David Wren-250th Anniversary Comm./Deputy Historian

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sherri Slater

5:00 P.M.-Supervisor Clary called the meeting to order, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Solar on the Landfill-Supervisor Clary asked Councilman Law if he would be willing to join the Committee looking to establish solar on the landfill, working w/herself & w/John Bardwell. Councilman Law agreed to join the committee since Larry Haber (the other committee member working w/John) has his house listed & will likely be moving out of the area.

Resolution #58-Motion made by Councilman Thomas McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to pass said Introductory Resolution for proposed Local Law #4 of 2026-Proposed Local Law Amending the Zoning Law in the Town of Salem, Washington County, NY. **Roll Call Vote:** Councilman Thomas McMorris-Yes; Councilwoman Brenda Levey-Yes; Councilman Howard Law-Yes; Councilman Scott Eastman-Yes; Supervisor Evera Sue Clary-Yes; passed 5-0.

Resolution #59-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to schedule a Public Hearing on the passage of Local Law #4 of 2026-Proposed Local Law Amending the Zoning Law in the Town of Salem, Washington County, NY, at a special meeting scheduled for August 19, 2026 @ 5 pm, in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY; passed 5-0.

New Business

Blockhouse Funds-Supervisor Clary advised the Board that she had called the Comptroller's Office regarding funds that will be coming in for the Blockhouse. There needs to be a new dedicated line item in the budget & also a receipt must be given to the person(s) donating the funds. Give a duplicate/triplicate receipt as the case may be so the Town has a record & the donor has a receipt. This also needs to be included in the minutes of the meeting when the donation(s) are being accepted.

Floodplain Insurance-Supervisor Clary met w/a homeowner on Black Creek Rd. who was very upset about the new floodplain maps & the newly filed Local Law for Flood Prevention. He rec'd. a notice from his mortgage company advising that he would now have to purchase flood insurance. His mortgage is approximately \$18,000 & the increase in his payment would be \$150-\$200 more/month. He will probably benefit from doing a LOMA Application for removal; he will need help doing this.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Program-The amount of this grant is for \$350,000 to establish an owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program, said program to be administered by the North Country Rural Development Coalition. The application would be to the New York State Office of Community Renewal. A Public Hearing must be held before the passage of the Resolution to apply for the grant

money & a 2nd Resolution is necessary designating the Essex County Land Bank Corporation to Administer Fair Housing Responsibilities & Adopting Required Community Development Block Grant Policies. Please review the

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paperwork sent by Supervisor Clary so a Public Hearing can be scheduled at the regular monthly meeting on 08/12/2026.

Supervisor's Report-Supervisor Clary reported \$4,947 was rec'd. in State Aid for AIM payments. Just an FYI- the price of diesel keeps going up; need to prepare the bid notice on the fuel sooner rather than later. Supervisor Clary also asked about a Local Law for Games of Chance—she could not find one on the Dep't. of State's website. Clerk Gilchrist will check; the former Village had one but it would not have automatically passed over to the Town after dissolution.

DASNY Grant-\$175,000-Resolution #60-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Thomas McMorris, to proceed with the application process; passed 5-0. This is money that has been sitting w/NYS since the T/O/S tried to apply for grant money after the dissolution of the former Village to rehab the fire bays on West Broadway to possibly use the space as a Town Office. Since the Bancroft Trust owned the building, NYS said the T/O/S could not apply for grants for that space & all paperwork was withdrawn. Supervisor Clary rec'd. notice today that the money was still available to use if the Town wanted to reinstate the grant paperwork for another project. Yeah!!

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT-David Wren commented that people wanted to give donations to the Blockhouse anonymously; can these people still stay anonymous for the minutes. Supervisor Clary said absolutely; no name(s) need to be mentioned but the am't. of money donated would have to be stated in the minutes.

Historian Al Cormier-advised that work would be continuing in the fall on the gravestones in the Revolutionary War Cemetery, paid for by the Asa Fitch Historical Society. Brush/trees need to come out on the west wall; Asa Fitch Historical Society will pay to have the trees taken down/brush removed. Al will probably use the same person that removed trees in the past; insurance will need to be provided to the Town.

Al also advised that there are two new portraits up in Bancroft Library next to Colonel John Williams; both portraits are John Wesley Jarvis portraits of the Hon. Anthony James Blanchard & his wife, Mariea Williams Blanchard. Both were donated by Jan & Timothy Sams of Florida, who purchased them some time ago at an auction. Their one stipulation was that shipping had to be paid in the am't. of \$1,000 to get them to Salem; Bancroft Trust paid half & Al raised the other half to pay the cost of shipping.

Hoping to be able to create a railroad museum in the depot; all artifacts of Northeast Rail that were in that bldg. have been inventoried & pictures have been taken of everything that was found. They are currently in a safe place in the basement of the Bancroft Trust bldg..

MOTION TO ADJOURN-Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to adjourn the August 08, 2026, special meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned @ 5:37 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING of the Salem Town Board will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY. Review of Warrants #8 & Highway Abstract #8 for payment will begin @ 5 p.m., business meeting to begin @ 6 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem