SPECIAL MEETING-SALEM TOWN BOARD
5th 2027 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING & ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY NEED TO BE CONDUCTED
NOVEMBER 04, 2026

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council Members: Tom McMorris; Brenda Levey; Scott Eastman; Howard Law, present through videoconferencing from his residence @ 2277 State Rte. 313; Shushan, NY 12873; Travis Keys-H'Way Sup't./Water; Kathleen Chambers-Clerk to Supervisor; Patricia Gilchrist-Town Clerk

Others Present: Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library

Public Present: Sherri Slater; Mike Miller

5:00 pm-Meeting called to order by Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

NEW BUSINESS

2027 Preliminary Budget Review

Line 18-Equipment-Supervisor-down to 0 from $2,800

Line 30-Personal Svcs.-Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Increase from $21,390 to $21,700 (5% increase-same as others)

Line 39-**Personal Svcs.-(cleaner)-Bldgs.**-Up to $3,713 from $3,213 (larger space in new office; Councilwoman Levey spoke to the person who cleans the current office & she is good w/doing so @ new location.)

Line 44-Con't. Exps. (BBT)-Buildings-Down to $23,466 from $33,466 (fund bal. end of Oct. was $34,000)

Line 50-Unallocated Ins.-Special Items-Up to $56,797 from $55,797

Lines 73-Personal Svcs.-Registrar of Vital Statistics (Pat)-Down to $386 from $500 (5%)

Line 111-Con't. Exps.-Library-Down to $40,000 from $42,000

Line 138-Con't.-Planning Bd.-Down to $500 from $1,000

Line 146-Con't. Exps.-Cemeteries-Down to $15,000 from $17,000

Line 180-Franchise Funding-Local Sources-Up to $24,000 from $22,000

Line 215-Mortgage Tax-State Aid-Up to $25,000 from $22,000

Line 221-Federal Grant-Sewer-Federal Aid-Down to $0 from $30,000 as grant was rec'd. in prior year

Line 311-Hospital/Med. Insurance-Employee Benefits (under highway)-Up to $52,200 from $43,000

The above changes were made by Supervisor Clary & Clerk to Supervisor Chambers, reviewing the prior figures in the 2027 Preliminary Budget to see where cuts might be made.

Supervisor Clary reminded the Board that two (2) months' rent would need to be added to the2027 budget for the old office (Jan. & Feb.).

2027 Int'l. Truck-Councilman Law reported that International does do municipal financing, the Town could go out two (2) years instead of one for approximately $90,000 + interest (put figure in for $95,500). This will affect Travis's capital plan on truck replacement somewhat; the capital plan wasn't just for trucks. At some point in time, the grader will need an upgrade & the excavator will most likely need to be replaced (neither need to be new). Councilwoman Levey feels that w/costs going up constantly, the capital plan may need adjusting. Councilman Eastman feels that possibly go out 7 years for replacement instead of 5 years, which would save some money. Councilman Eastman asked Clerk to Supervisor Chambers if Easton was still requesting sheets re salaries for h'way employees. Clerk Gilchrist rec'd. another email w/the request & forwarded to Kathy. Need spread sheet from all Towns for all positions w/salaries, benefits, etc. Kathy says all Towns used to receive them years ago from Wash. Co.

Howard & Travis will contact Internat'l. salesman & continue working on financing plans/figures for next week's meeting.

Line 53-Contingency (emergency fund)-Councilwoman Levey asked if this line item could be dropped from $32,000 to $28,000. This will be changed w/above figures when calculating new am'ts.

Line 83-Personal Svcs.-Sup't. of H'Ways-Councilwoman Levey asked about the buy-out on health ins. for Travis; Councilman Law reported no buy-out would be considered. Health insurance benefits amount to approximately $30,291 w/HSA & dental coverage. Councilwoman Levey posed the question: "Which does Travis want more--a salary increase or insurance?" Councilman Law responded, "He wants both." Councilwoman Levey still feels the 11% salary increase is too much w/all others receiving 5%. She also feels very strongly that there needs to be checks & balances w/shared services from all other Towns. Health insurance benefits just increased by $9,441 for one employee ($2,700 for HAS in this figure, which is already changed in the 2027 Preliminary Budget @ Line #311). There is a fifth full-time person already included in the 2027 budget, which will cost approx. $60,000. Supervisor Clary also quoted salaries for other Town H'Way Sup'ts. in Wash. Co.: T/O/Cambridge-$70,250; T/O/Putnam-$74,715 & T/O White Creek-$67,860 (they have full insurance). Travis is lowest paid Superintendent in the County. He also does his own plow route; four other routes done by other employees. Councilman McMorris says maybe there should be a stipend line item for Travis in Highway portion of 2027 budget, also. He is o.k. w/salary as he feels Travis goes above & beyond in his position.

Supervisor Clary reminded the Board that Travis is part-time in the water; to hire a full-time, licensed Water Operator would cost between $50,000-$60,000. Two are required; we only have one in Travis. Councilman Law said to be careful--the water & h'way were two totally different positions. Mike Miller asked where the Town stood on certifying Andy Erbe; waiting on D/O/H notification for final hands-on testing @ the water barn for both Andy & Mario to get their certifications. Councilman Law also told the Board that Cambridge is a private water system & Greenwich has only one operator.

Line 531-General-Fund-Figure will now be $281,187 (down from $282,687). Estimated Taxable Prop. Values will now be $1.08 (down from $1.09).

Line 532-Highway-Fund-Figure will now be $1,192,891 (down from $1,288,501). Estimated Taxable Prop. Values will not be $4.59 (down from $4.95), for a total of $5.67 (down from previous $6.04). Clerk to Supervisor Chambers plugged in figures that were to be changed so the result of those changes is as above.

Clerk Gilchrist reported that the final 2027 Budget must be passed by November 20, 2026 or the 2027 Preliminary Budget as it now stands will become the Final 2027 Budget.

Budget Handout-Councilman McMorris gave everyone his projection sheets on percentage increases to 2027 Budget and amounts to decrease according to percentage increase.

Community Assistance Fund-Supervisor Clary brought up the fact that the T/O/S had used this fund in the past to back the Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund & the Salem Food Pantry. Now would be the time to do this again if the Board so chooses since time is getting short. The fund balance is currently $61,913 (this is the former Village's 'Poor Man's Fund'). Councilwoman Levey asked about the Greenwich Senior Citizens group request since so many people from Salem have joined this group in the absence of a group in Salem. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, to give $300 from the Community Assistance Fund to the Greenwich Senior Citizens as so many from Salem are now attending & a presentation was made from them @ our prior Board mtg.; passed 5-0. (Get mailing address from Jane Keys.)

Motion made by Councilman Thomas McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to give $1,000 to the Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund from the Community Assistance Fund; passed 5-0.

Motion made by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Thomas McMorris, to give $1,000 to the Salem Food Pantry from the Community Assistance Fund; passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

New Town Office-Councilwoman Levey reported that she will meet w/John Ketchum on Thursday, 11/05/2026, regarding the new sign design. Councilman Law asked what the cost would be & who would be paying for the sign. Brenda needs to have the mtg. first & get the design & the estimate on the cost, which

she will forward to all Board members. **Fuel & Electric Costs**-Was anything rec'd. from G. F. Hospital? Howard checked his emails & Supervisor Clary forwarded that she had rec'd. from the hospital to all on 10/16/2026.

Phone/Internet for new office-Tom asked Assessor Bobbi Stone if she would like to print from the big copier instead of the one on her desk; she said she would love that! Tom can take care of that for her. First Light is current internet provider in new office, which is fiber optic already; Town should go w/them. SLIC uses Westelcom for phone service, which can be transferred to new space under the same contract. SLIC will check out new office connections w/Tom a tech person from G.F. Hospital next Thursday, 11/12/2026. We now pay $200/month w/Westelcom for the current phone system; First Light will be $463/month. There will be no down time w/SLIC to move to new office. Tom also feels that we need to ask about the stackable chairs if the hospital doesn't want them. The hospital said to put stickies on whatever we might want or think we can use; they will let us know if we can keep what we tag. Supervisor Clary reported that the hospital's intent was to work until the middle of December & then take the last two weeks to move everything out. Councilman Law questioned who was going to move the equipment out of the old Town Office.

Master Comprehensive Plan-Public Hearing on the Master Comprehensive Plan will be held on Monday, 11/09/2026 @ 6:30 pm upstairs in the Historic Salem Courthouse. The Town Board will need to schedule a Public Hearing on this for their monthly December 09, 2026 meeting (this will be discussed @ the 11/12/2026 regular monthly meeting of the Town Board).

ZBA Meeting-Clerk of Planning Board Kim Erbe checking on location of the Town Board meeting as there will be a ZBA meeting in the Town Office on 11/12/2026. Regular monthly meeting will be @ Proudfit Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Blockhouse-Councilman McMorris would like the Board's permission to move forward with the following, as the Planning Board approved the project: 1.) Let Bob Akland know that 80 Japanese Larch will be purchased @ a cost of $30/tree for a total of $2,400. 2.) Hire Bill Green as the Architect as he drew up the plans. 3.) Hire Greg Burch @ $350/load to move the trees. All of this will be @ no cost to the Town taxpayers; money will come from donations to the project. Wayne Underwood, from Shushan, has a sawmill & volunteered to cut the trees free of charge. Thank you, Wayne!! **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Scott Eastman, granting permission for Thomas McMorris to move forward with the three above listed items; passed 5-0.

Veteran's Day Celebrations-Sherri Slater announced that the annual Veteran's Day dinner would be held on Saturday, 11/07/2026 @ the Salem Firehouse. Councilman McMorris announced the annual Veteran's Day ceremony held at Salem Central School would be on Tuesday, 11/10/2026, beginning @ 9 am.

Shared IT Services-Supervisor Clary reported that the County will be sharing their IT services w/any Wash. Co. Towns that wished to take advantage of these services. Travis reported that the Water Dep't. would need a cyber security person, as everything on the computer needs to be updated by March 01, 2027; this is a mandate from NYS, not a request. Supervisor Clary will email the County IT person to get on their list.

Vouchers-Clerk to Supervisor Chambers needs two pre-pay Vouchers signed tonight: one for Delaware Engineering for the Flood Plain Determination on the Blockhouse @ the new location & one for Travis for Atlantic Salt. Board members just need to sign as these are prepaids.

New Signs for Parking Lot @ New Town Office-Need 'No Overnight Parking' & 'Town of Salem Employees Only' (for parking) to put on side of bldg.; Travis will order them.

PUBLIC COMMENT-None

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Scott Eastman, seconded by Councilman Thomas McMorris, to adjourn the 5th 2027 Budget Workshop meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed 5-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 6:34 pm.

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Salem Town Board-will be held on Wednesday, 11/12/2026, @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY. Review of Warrants #11 & Highway Abstract #11 for payment will begin by the Board @ 5 p.m.; regular monthly meeting will be called to order @ 6 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem