

TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 14, 2011 MEETING

Present: Supervisor Seth Pitts; Town Council Members: Joe Wever, Dottie Schneider, Harold Gilchrest, Bruce Ferguson; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist
Absent: Cheryl Baldwin-Georgi Museum; Jessica Barrett-DCO
Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Al Cormier-Historian; Herb Perkins-Youth Assn.; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Chief
Public Present: Jay Bellanca; Tom Clark; Julie Brown; George Nolan, III-Eagle Newspaper
6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #12 and Highway Abstract #12 for approval and payment
7:00 pm-Meeting called to order by Supervisor Pitts, followed by Pledge of Allegiance
Review of minutes from November 09, 2011, regular board meeting. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to accept minutes as presented. Passed 5-0.
After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to pay Warrants #12 and Highway Abstract #12 of 2011 as presented. Passed 5-0

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Salem Fire Department-Report provided by Chief Graham. There were eight calls for the month of November. 2-Village of Salem (2-CO calls; 1-lawn mower fire); 2-Town of Salem (1-propane leak; 1-power pole fire); 1-Town of Jackson (alarm activation); 2-Mutual Aid Calls: 1-Cambridge (stand-by); 1-Hebron (MVA) Cold water rescue; driver training; air pack training done for month
Schools-3-members completed fire officer one; 2-members completed pump operator course
Total Hours for the year: 1466
Report will be filed.

Courthouse- Donna reported that she had a meeting with Architect, Jack Waite on November 11th. The southeast corner of the building was damaged by the flood waters and the building has moved about 2". The approximate cost to repair will be \$85,000-\$115,000.00 (no repair could be done until spring). FEMA has been notified about the problem. On November 23rd, Spectrum Environmental checked for mold in the basement and there were no high levels of mold present. Some minimal work still to be done. Longworth Environmental checked the soil and everything is ok there. The pottery studio opened back up on November 28th.

The Courthouse will be on the Lakes to Locks geo-tourism site.

December Board meeting was held on 12/13 and Dottie Schneider was honored as the out-going President. Bob Akland will assume the duties of President in January; Herb Perkins will be Vice-President; Karen Sheldon will be Secretary and Rob Sellar will be Treasurer.

A very successful craft sale was held on December 3rd with 27 vendors. Breakfast and lunch was also available. December 10th was the holiday homes tour and that also was well attended.

The 10th Anniversary of the courthouse will be celebrated in 2012, with lots of events to be held. On January 10th, 2012, there will be a birthday party and there will be an old Washington County Courthouse exhibit with CD/DVD done in conjunction with Historian, Al Cormier.

Highway-Joe Boisclair reported that he would like to appoint Mark Woodell as Deputy Highway Sup't. at the January organizational meeting. Cleaning ditches and grading pot holes; cut and chipped on several roads; worked around the barn and cleaned trucks. Report provided and will be filed.

Georgi Museum-Councilman Gilchrest reported in the absence of Cheryl Baldwin. Furnace is down and the pipes have been drained for the winter. Held an advisory committee meeting with Cheryl, Butch, Bruce and Judy Flagg. Decided that the museum could be open by appointment and the community room and grounds would continue to be rented out. A few weddings have already been booked for 2012.

Planning Board-Mo Patrick reported that there was only one application for a porch extension. Kim is waiting to hear from Alan Wrigley re the appointment of a substitute member when they can't get a quorum.

DCO-No report in absence of Jessica Barrett.

Comprehensive Plan-Dottie and Supervisor Pitts had a conference call with John Brennan from the Dep't. of Ag and Markets. John's concern is in preserving the ag lands. He will do some checking with ASA. Closing paperwork still needs to be done and John will work with Dottie to accomplish the same.

Courthouse Generator-Herb reported on the generator at the Courthouse: Cement slab provided by Kevin Keyes and courthouse volunteers. The shed is on the slab and the generator is in place in the shed. Propane tanks have been delivered and filled; still need underground piping from the tanks to the generator and engine exhaust needs to be dealt with. Air intake is needed—1-1/2 times output for intake and can probably be done on the side of the building. Scott Thetford will meet with Herb.

Historian-Al Cormier, reported that the Revolutionary War Cemetery was also on the Lakes to Locks home page. Stone wall is completed as far as it can be at this time; donations will be accepted for completion of the work. Kent took down part of the wall that was up and the new wall is higher than the old one. The cost to finish is about \$5,000.00-\$6,000.00. Art Hempel will put up the wooden rail fence along road.

Glens Falls National Bank opened on December 5th

The Tomasi building is proceeding nicely. A new septic system will need to be installed and a new fountain will have to be put in.

The Central House will be opening and serving breakfast and lunch. Chocolates and baked goods are also for sale.

Youth Assn.-Herb reported that the Youth Assn. meetings will be moved from evening meetings to meetings in school during the day. There will still be monthly meetings with adults and those students who can attend. Keith Kelly and Debbie Earthrowl are working with Bev Kratzert. There was a meeting on December 13th and the students discussed the possibility of working with senior citizens. The winter ski program looks like a go. Approximately \$7,000.00 was needed in extra funds for heat that was provided last year. The cost will likely be in the neighborhood of \$15,000.00 this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Julie Brown reported that she has been helping DCO Jessica Barrett walk dogs. Some are good on a leash; others are not. Jess has taken in four beagles from Shushan and several other dogs. Doors to the outdoor pens are in bad shape and need fixing. The Route 22 location is not the best for walking dogs. Foster families are needed if only for a couple of weeks. Accepting donations of old carpeting and dog toys.

Jay Bellanca asked that the web site be updated. The Chamber website needs updating also.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Supervisor Pitts reported that a post closure landfill report needs to be filed and CT Male will do the same at a cost of \$600.00. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to proceed with the report thru CT Male.

Bill McCarty from Washington County Real Property notified Supervisor Pitts that if properties affected by the storms lost 50-65% of their value those assessments would be reduced.

County tax rates for 2012 have been received.

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA Update-Highway Sup't. Joe Boisclair and Supervisor Pitts met with FEMA on December 13th. Time and materials will be covered. The food pantry was turned down as well as the railroad for any FEMA funding.

White Creek Commission-NRCA (USDA) working with County. Bob Chambers will grant permission from his property on Beattie Hollow to shore up bank. A tree needs taken out by the train trestle.

County Update-The Health Committee met and has narrowed its search to two organizations for the purchase of PVI and Public Health.

There will be a tax insert placed in the envelopes with the January 2012 tax bills explaining tax dollar breakdown. They will already be in the bills when they are received from Real Property.

Rent Contract-A new two-year Lease was signed on the town office building with the Successor Executrix of the Carlene Banks estate at the same rate as before--\$500.00/month.

Postage Meter-Supervisor Pitts has been contacted by Pitney Bowes about the possibility of purchasing a postage meter for the office. Smaller one is about \$17.00/month, larger one about \$35.00 per month. There are discounts being offered at this time to reduce the price. Board members felt that since the post offices were already in enough trouble that the business should be given to them for as long as possible. Motion opposed to purchase any kind of meter.

Board Concerns-Supervisor Pitts will contact DCO Jessica Barrett re heating issues at the kennel.

Year-end Meeting-The date for the year-end meeting will be December 28, 2011 at 6:00 pm. Town Clerk books and Clerk to Supervisor books will be signed off on at this time and any resolutions that need to be taken care of will be done at this meeting.

Organizational Meeting-The date for the Organizational Meeting will be January 04, 2012, at 6:00 pm.

Resolutions:

Resolution #51-Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, in support of the Lake to Locks Passage, realizing that the Town of Salem will benefit as a supporter of the same and as a Lake to Locks Passage Waypoint Community will participate in the planning, implementation and promotion of Lake to Locks Passage initiatives to the furthest extent possible. Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #52-Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to support said resolution to establish an Agriculture Advisory Committee as part of the Salem Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, required by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for grant monies received. Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #53-Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, for a resolution requesting assistance from federal and state legislators in response to the White Creek flooding in the Village and Town of Salem. (Add Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand to the list of legislators.) Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #54-Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilcrest, for a budget increase as follows:

A510 Estimated Revenues	\$ 3,655.00	
Recycle A2130		
A960 Appropriations		\$ 3,655.00
LandfillA8160.4a		

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #55-Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, for a budget increase for monies received from Shushan Youth Group (\$3,456.59 received) as follows:

B510 Estimated Revenues	\$ 1,240.26
Shushan Youth Program B2189	

B960 Appropriations \$ 1,240.26
 Shushan Youth Program B7310.4

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #56-Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, for a budget transfer consolidating accounts, eliminating 4a, as follows:

A2544a Dog \$ 4,000.00
 A2544 Dog \$ 4,000.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #57-Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, for a transfer for salt purchase as follows:

DA5130.4 Machinery \$ 1,486.58
 DA5142.4 Snow Removal \$ 1,486.58

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #58-Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, for a transfer for culverts; health insurance as follows:

DB5110.4 General Repairs \$ 1,466.86
 DB5112.2 Improvements \$ 555.24
 DB9060.8 Health Insurance \$ 911.62

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #59-Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, for a transfer as follows:

A3510.4a Dog Warden \$ 545.09
 A3510.4 Dog Warden \$ 545.09

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #60-Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, for a transfer for phone and Williamson service as follows:

A1220.1a Supervisor \$ 1,387.36
 A1220.4 Supervisor \$ 1,287.36

Resolution #61-Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, for a transfer as follows:

A9730.6a BAN-Courthouse \$ 6,792.86
 A5132.4 Garage \$ 3,792.86
 A9060.8 Health Insurance \$ 3,000.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #62-Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest for a transfer for FEMA damage as follows:

A1910.1 Unallocated Insurance \$ 2,377.48
 A1620.4b Courthouse \$ 2,377.48

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #63-Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, for a transfer for final bill on Comprehensive Plan as follows:

A3510.4a Dog Warden \$ 2,500.00
 A1620.4c Comprehensive Plan \$ 2,500.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #64-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, for a transfer for the Phoenix bill as follows:

A1420.4 Attorney	\$ 1,087.87	
A8160.4 Landfill		\$ 1,087.87

Passed unanimously 5-0

Motion to adjourn made by Town Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever. Passed unanimously 5-0; meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk