

TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 13, 2011 MEETING

Present: Supervisor Seth Pitts; Town Council Members: Joe Wever, Dottie Schneider, Bruce Ferguson; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist

Absent: Harold Gilchrest-Town Council; 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 Ass'n.; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Chief

Public Present: Jay Bellanca; Megan LaPorte; Pablo LaPorte; Jennifer Waite-Harsha-Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #4 and Highway Abstract #4 for approval and payment

7:00 pm-Meeting called to order by Supervisor Pitts, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Review of minutes from April 13, 2011, regular board meeting. Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to accept minutes as presented. Passed unanimously. After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to pay Warrants #4 and Highway Abstract #4 of 2011 as presented. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Salem Fire Department-Report provided by Chief Bob Graham. There were nine calls for the month of March, 2011. 1-Village of Salem (telephone lines down); 3-Town of Salem (1 alarm activation; 1 landing zone for helicopter; 1-boiler malfunction); MVA; Mutual Aid Calls: 2-Rupert (1-standby; 1-MVA); 1-Hebron (chimney fire); 2-Shushan (1-MVA; 1-standby)

Training-Engine company operations; fast team training. Water rescue scheduled but cancelled due to fire call.

SCBA bottles were hydro; all passed

Truck committee met three times for a total of 50 hours.

Total Hours for the year: 4679

Report will be filed.

Courthouse- Congressman Chris Gibson, Senator Betty Little and Assemblyman Tony Jordan will be present at the Courthouse to answer questions from the public on Tuesday, April 19, beginning @ 6 p.m. The Chamber Music series with Dan Shulman began on Sunday, April 10th, @ 3 p.m. and the play, 'Who Stole Salem's Mojo' was held on April 8th and 9th. Both were well attended. The second and third chamber series will be held on May 15th and June 12th. May 20th and 21st-Poster contest and fashion show in Courtroom @ 7 p.m., w/dessert auction both nights. Proceeds will benefit Lunch, Learn n Play. Auctioneer will be Charlie Perry and you don't want to miss that! Susie Trombley will be choreographing and producing the show with the help of Salem Central School students.

Plans are already underway for the community garden; June 3rd will be planting day.

Auditions will be held soon for the talent show to be held on June 4th, 7:30 p.m. @ Fort Salem Theater.

Al Fresco tickets will go on sale on June 4th--\$50.00 for the dinner and \$25.00 for the brunch, \$5.00 for ages 5-12. The dates this year will be Saturday, July 23rd, for the dinner and Sunday, July 24th for the brunch.

Lunch, Learn n Play will begin on July 5th and end August 12th, with swimming lessons in the morning @ Lake Lauderdale for those wishing to participate. Should be a great summer again for the kids!

Highway-Joe Boisclair reported that the grader was back but not shifting properly. Taken back to Capital Tractor--John Mattison says probably a bushing problem. They are looking into fixing the same. Joe reported that he hopes to do culverts on Blind Buck and Riley Hill. Supervisor Pitts informed the board that there was

only \$5,900.00 left in the DA5142.4 account regarding contractual expenses for snow removal for the months of November and December of 2011. Mr. Boisclair's report will be filed.

Georgi Museum-Cheryl Baldwin provided report. First meeting of the season will be held on Thursday, April 28th, @ 7 p.m. Spring clean-up will be held Saturday, May 7th, 9-noon. Painting workshop w/Janine Thomas starts Tuesday, May 3rd @ 2:30 p.m. and will run for four Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 p.m. Cost per student is \$60.00. This is a LARAC supported event. Ted Berndt from Cambridge is offering fly fishing for women the weekend of June 11th & 12th. First wedding of the season is June 25th. There may be a frozen water pipe outside the Community Room; have had communication with the plumber. Hopeful that the problem is only a frozen pipe! Will let Supervisor Pitts know as soon as we hear anything about resolving this issue. Requesting a meeting with Councilman Harold Gilchrest and Supervisor Pitts re lawn mowing bids since Cheryl was not at meeting. Report will be filed.

Planning Board-Mo Patrick reported that the Planning Board reviewed the Kasuba application (upgrade on mobile home); Ryan Lourie is adding second story to his residence--neighbors have been notified of the public hearing. Sub-division application received from Dawn Pierson on a parcel of land she owns in Shushan.

Historian-Historian, Al Cormier, reported that the iron rail exhibit will begin May 1 and continue through June 10 at the great hall in the Courthouse. Dr. Asa Fitch Historical Society and LARAC funded the display in association with Al. Period photographs have been mounted for display. Articles on the Civil War will be appearing in the paper as well as photographs taken by Peter Hanks. Bill Kratzinger, from NYS Archives, met with Al and Steve Saunders regarding the roof work on the brick firehouse. Mr. Kratzinger thinks it is worth repairing and maintaining because of its value as such a historic building.

Stewart's is coming along nicely and hopes to use as much green as possible around the store. They are hoping to be open by the end of the month. Tanks will be coming out of the ground and pumps will be removed from the Mobil station next. Glens Falls National Bank hopes to start work on their lot very soon.

Dog Control Officer-Jessica Barrett provided report. Responded to approximately eight different calls/situations; took dogs to the vet from said calls. Attended the rabies clinic and helped out on March 26th. This should be the last heating bill from Paraco. Report will be filed.

Public Hearing on Local Law-Will not be held tonight as the legal notice was never put in the paper by the Eagle. Public hearing will be held at May's meeting.

Comprehensive Plan-Nothing to report.

Youth Commission-Youth association meeting was held on April 12th and was very well attended. More youth attended the ski season this year than last year. Grades 7-12 kids should be helping w/town wide clean-up. Some of the youth would like to be able to pick up garbage on the roads during the week, rather than the weekend. Is there a possibility of having two days of clean-up next year? Service learning credit will be given to those who help. Youth would like to be able to keep the weight room @ school open during the summer; working on this project. Ping Pong tournament will be held April 23, with all ages represented. Youth helping w/Georgi clean-up on May 7th. Town-wide tag sale will be held May 28th; rental space will again be available on the courthouse grounds, with proceeds going to youth association. Association would like to purchase tubes and have them for rent for trips down the Battenkill this summer as a way to raise some money, as well as having more dances in the youth barn. Youth will help w/Harvest Fest on September 10th. On October 1st, Dieter Drake and Dan Clary will sponsor a cycle cross event @ SAW that will end with a competition at the end of the day.

Fuel Fund-All funds raised have been expended do to the cold winter; donations have been given to get through the rest of the year--\$500.00 and \$1,000.00 were received recently.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Supervisor Pitts reported that he had received a letter from DEC re reviewing the Flood Plain Local Law at some point in the near future.

All CHIPS money has been received.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jay Bellanca requested permission to use the Rexleigh Bridge picture, as well as a SAW picture and one of the Courthouse from the town’s website for something he is doing. Permission granted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landfill Update-Still waiting to hear from C.T. Male.

Public Hearing on revisions to Local Law for Dogs-postponed until May meeting as reported under DCO report.

Town-wide Clean-up Day-Will meet @ Highway Barn on Saturday, April 16th, @ 8 a.m. No scouts will be available this year. Road assignments will be made at time of arrival. Hot dogs and soda served after.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cemetery Update-Met w/Joe Driscoll of Washington County Soil and Water at the site. Stone wall could be taken out and a tile leach field constructed. Objections from both Jean Eaton and Pablo LaPorte, adjacent property owners, who do not want more water on either property, as the drainage would affect both leach fields. Mr. LaPorte also commented that when the village put in the water system he lost trees in his yard and did not want to have to remove any more. It was reported that there used to be a drainage ditch in front of Peter Dillon’s property at some point in the past. American Legion donated \$1,000.00 for the project, but the water issues need to be addressed first.

Courthouse Feasibility Study-Supervisor Pitts introduced a discussion regarding the possibility of moving the town office to the courthouse. Lease on current building is up in December of 2011 and the building is up for sale. Taxpayers have been questioning why rent is being paid and since the building is up for sale, the town office should be located in the Courthouse since the Town owns the same. The Courthouse Facilities Committee had already done a study prior, but the report was never presented to the town board. Herb Perkins will make his report available at the May meeting. Several pros and cons discussed about the move.

Generator-Shoppe off Broadway would like the generator at the Courthouse moved out of the barn; the space is needed to use for more projects/programs for the youth. Shop building needs foundation work and it was felt that if the generator was moved outside and placed on a pad near the building, it would be in the way Willie Linendoll could disconnect for about \$200.00 +/- and generator could be moved and put in storage @ the highway garage for approximately two years. Councilman Joe Wever brought up the point that the Courthouse really needs the generator somewhere on the property, considering the past winter we just had. What if the power goes out in the Village for two or three days and the pipes in the Courthouse all freeze and/or burst? Everyone’s hard work and money spent would be ‘down the drain’ so to speak. All-Power will be contacted to see about moving the generator to an outside enclosure--approximately \$2,500.00 to build an enclosure. Councilman Wever will work with Herb Perkins on this project.

RFP-Supervisor Pitts reported that an RFP would be going out on Pleasant Valley, Certified Home Health Agency and Hospice, according to a report from the County.

Resolution #22- Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, for a budget increase to reflect the monies received from NYMIR for the insurance claim on the '07:

DA510	Estimated Revenues	\$5,136.30
	DA2680 Insurance Recovery	

DA960 Appropriations \$5,136.30
DA5130.4 Machinery

Passed unanimously.

Resolution #23-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to encourage the County of Washington to consider the enactment of a resolution known as 'The Law Against the Disruption of Funeral Related Events'.

Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes

Councilwoman Dottie Schneider-Yes

Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes

Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes

Passed 4-0

Opening Georgi Mowing Bids-Upon opening, bids were received from the following: George Whalen-Cambridge, NY; Busy Boy Lawn Care (Gary Sheldon)-Greenwich, NY; Country Snow Plowing & Maintenance-Salem, NY; T. Morrison-Salem, NY; Peter J. Baldwin-Eagle Bridge, NY; Niles Lawnmowing-Eagle Bridge, NY; Jeff's Lawn Care (Jeff Derby)-Greenwich, NY; Peace of Mind Property Services-Cossayuna, NY
Supervisor Pitts will organize all bids on a spread sheet and e-mail to board members to compare prices. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, that upon analysis of the above bids, the board members give authority to Supervisor Seth Pitts to select the bid. Passed unanimously.

Executive Session-Motion made by Supervisor Seth Pitts, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to go into Executive Session @ 8:29 p.m. to discuss tax assessment litigation. Passed unanimously, 4-0.

Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, second by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to come out of Executive Session @ 8:40 p.m., hereby giving instructions to Town Attorney, Alan Wrigley, for the town regarding the tax assessment litigation. Passed unanimously, 4-0

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to adjourn the regular monthly Town Board meeting. Passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned @ 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting-Next regular meeting of the Salem Town Board will be held on May 11, 2011, @ the Salem Town Office, with review of warrants and abstract for payment @ 6:30 p.m.; meeting will follow @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist
Town Clerk

Motion to adjourn-Motion to adjourn the regular monthly Town Board meeting was made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned @ 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting-Next regular meeting on May 11, 2011 @ Town Office @ 7:00 pm, with review of warrants and abstract for payment @ 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A Gilchrist-Town Clerk