

TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 08, 2012 MEETING

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

Absent: Joe Wever-Town Council; Herb Perkins-Youth Assn.; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Chief

Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Cheryl Baldwin-Georgi; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Al Cormier-Historian; Jessica Barrett-DCO

Public Present: Tom Clark; Dieter Drake; Tina Fleming; Mike Buckowski; Linda Setchfield; Ashleigh Morris-Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #2 and Highway Abstract #2 of 2012 for approval and payment

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

Review of minutes from January 11, 2012 regular board meeting. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to accept minutes as presented. Passed 4-0.

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to pay Warrants #2 and Highway Abstract #2 of 2012 as presented. Passed 4-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Salem Fire Department-Report provided in absence of Chief Graham. There were eight calls for the month of January--3-Village of Salem (1-electrical fire; 1-carbon monoxide call; 1-smoke condition); Town of Jackson-1 priority one echo; 4-Mutual Aid Calls: 2-Hebron (1-MVA; 1-priority one echo); 1-Cambridge (standby); 1-Rupert (MVA)

37members had annual physicals; 28 completed CPR & AED

OSHA training and electrical fire training was held, as well as quarterly air pack check.

Training hours for the year=2,240

Report will be filed.

Courthouse- Donna Farringer reported that the cost to repair the crack in the southwest corner of the wall would cost approximately \$95,000-\$115,000.00 to repair. She is working on grants to cover the cost of the repairs and has also submitted a claim to FEMA. February 18th was the last-day cleaning effort from the flood. The pottery studio is up and running and all classes are full.

The LARAC exhibit on the 'Old Washington County Courthouse' is up and running and will be there until April. History lectures begin on March 15th, 22nd, and 29th with the main theme being the Civil War. Historian Al Cormier will be giving the talk on March 29th.

Highway-Joe Boisclair reported that the grade-al is leaking and it would be foolish to spend money in repairs. Put a for sale notice in the paper for bids on old grade-al before putting bids out for purchase of a used one. Joe says it may be better to just sell for scrap metal. He will look into this. The Highway Capital Reserve account currently has \$50,000.00 in it, but a purchase over that amount would be subject to a permissive referendum, which would result in a 30-day waiting period from the date of the resolution. Money for the reserve would be replaced as soon as the FEMA reimbursement money comes in. Only \$2,567.00 has been spent in overtime so far this year for snow plowing, compared to \$4,547.00 spent at the same time last year. Report provided and will be filed.

Georgi Museum-Cheryl Baldwin reported that everyone is looking for pictures of the wall that was damaged during the flood for FEMA to be able to cover the cost of replacement. Nothing has been found so far but Cheryl will put up a notice in the Town Office and at the Shushan Post Office asking if anyone has any pictures of what the wall looked like before the flooding. She has also been receiving calls for summer rentals.

Councilman Bruce Ferguson asked Willie Grimke to look @ damage done to deck from flooding. He suggested that the slate be pulled off, a membrane installed and then the slate be put back down. The floor was not compromised and this would provide some means of waterproofing at an approximate cost of \$3,800.00. His services were billed for the opinions Bruce asked him to give. The Committee will meet and bring their findings/suggestions back to the Town Board.

Planning Board-Mo Patrick reported that there was to be a public hearing from a sub-division application last month and a garage application for site plan review.

DCO-Jessica Barrett reported that she has two dogs for the Town; one was transported to Granville Animal Shelter after having been spayed. There will be a dog control seminar in April in Guilderland which she would like to attend and we should think about doing an enumeration in the spring. Both Hebron and Jackson have done one with much success.

Comprehensive Plan-The Ag Commissioner has approved the plan.

Historian-2006 records have been archived and are in the vault. Donations continue to come in for the cemetery wall. Al has talked to Scott Thetford re a new gate and Scott will meet with Kent Foster when the time comes. Kent should be able to finish the restoration sometime during the spring/summer season.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dieter Drake-Spoke about Tour of the Battenkill bike race to be held this year the weekend of April 14-15. The amateur race will be all day on Saturday with the professional race on Sunday. There will be two teams competing from England this year. No Village routes will be used in Saturday's race and the bikers will not be coming into the Hamlet of Shushan on Sunday as in previous years. Some concerns mentioned about garbage as there seemed to be much more after last year's race. Dieter reported that garbage will be picked up and that Hanks Road will be a designated spot for garbage drop-off. **Resolution #11** was introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to support the Tour of the Battenkill Race and the use of Salem's Town Roads on the weekend of April 14-15. Passed 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Only \$642.00 will be available from the state for funding the summer youth program this year instead of the usual \$1,000.00 budgeted. Many, many thanks to Tour of the Battenkill organizer, Dieter Drake, who graciously volunteered to make up the difference of \$358.00. This is much appreciated.

Letter received from Mayor Anne Dunigan inviting the board to a meeting on February 22nd @ 7 pm @ Proudfit Hall to hear a discussion regarding the expansion of the Salem Fire District. A bill needs to be passed by the NYS Legislature for this to occur so that the fire department could operate as they did prior to becoming a Village Department. A presentation will be given by the attorney who has completed eight of these districts so far at an approximate cost of \$13,000.00.

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA Update-All paperwork has been signed off on and the money should be forthcoming.

White Creek Committee-Supervisor Pitts and Mayor Dunigan have met with a hydrologist from C.T. Male. They toured Route 153 to the Vermont line along the river and White Creek and checked out the Archibald Street bridge. He will be reporting back to the town on costs and what might be done to mitigate flood damage. There are a number of grants available, including one that would allow homeowners who live in a flood zone to tear down their homes for more green space.

NEW BUSINESS

County Update-Public meetings will be held on the proposed sale of PVI and public health/hospice in the towns of Whitehall, Greenwich and Hudson Falls in the coming weeks. The cost per person for Medicaid is \$1,463.00 and total cost of approximately \$11,000,000 after reimbursement.

Mobile Home Applications-Two applications have been received--one from Fred Barker at 40 Coon Lane, who is putting in a new 2012 home to replace the old one that was there. He has 3.1 acres and will be placing the new home on the same pad as the old one, adding anchors and outside stairs to code. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to approve the placement of the new home with the express condition that the old mobile home be removed from the premises. Passed 4-0.

Application from Roxanne Barrett at 4297 State Route 22 in the Town of Salem to replace existing trailer with a 2012 Skyliner double-wide. Currently under contract with Greg Burch. Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to allow new double-wide to be placed on property with the express condition that the old mobile home be removed from the premises. Passed 4-0.

Resolution #12-Supervisor Pitts asked for a resolution to honor Shushan resident, George Gilchrest, for his sixty plus years of service to the Shushan Volunteer Fire Company. Award will be presented at Shushan's annual banquet on February 11, 2012. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, with a unanimous second from all members present, to introduce Resolution #12 to honor George Gilchrest for his many years of service to the Shushan Volunteer Fire Company, having served as its Chief, Assistant Chief, Treasurer and Director with deepest appreciation and sincere gratitude.

Economic Development Brochures-Suggested that the brochure Tom McMorris designed be combined with the Chamber of Commerce brochure to come up with one informative brochure for Salem. Change brochure to read Georgi Park, not Georgi Museum. Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to split the cost of printing the brochure with the Chamber of Commerce, cost **not** to exceed \$500.00. Passed 4-0

Health Insurance CDPHP-Glens Falls Hospital is **not** a preferred site for x-rays as was thought when the program was presented to the board. It was thought that the \$35.00 co-pay would not be required when going to a preferred site and Glens Falls Hospital was thought to be a preferred site. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to reimburse Keith Boisclair \$70.00 for x-ray costs thought to be covered. Passed 4-0 with the understanding that this would be a one-time payment.

Supervisor Pitts attended a broadband seminar at the County Building. Prime Link is new and is talking about coming up the railroad bed. There is also talk about Hudson Valley Wireless coming to the area.

Dental Insurance-Supervisor Pitts asked for a resolution to amend the employee handbook so that he and Town Clerk, Patricia Gilchrist, could be covered by dental insurance. Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, introducing **Resolution #13** to amend employee handbook so that the Supervisor and Town Clerk could be covered by dental insurance. Passed 4-0

Resolution #14-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to put the old grade-al out for bid and solicit bids for a used grade-al. Highway Sup't. Joe Boisclair will meet with Supervisor Pitts and Town Clerk Gilchrist to review what needs to be put in the newspaper as a legal notice. Passed 4-0.

Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to adjourn the meeting. Passed 4-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 8:10 pm.

Next Meeting-March 14, 2012, with review and signing of warrants and abstract @ 6:30; followed by opening of meeting @ 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk

