

**TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD**  
**MINUTES FROM JULY 10, 2013 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

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

Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Al Cormier-Historian; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Herb Perkins-SYO; Jessica Corey-DCO; Vicki Campbell-Salem Rescue Squad; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Department

Absent: Harold Gilchrest-Councilman; Gail Bearup-Georgi Museum

Public Present: Jay Bellanca; Eric Wilkins-Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #7 and Highway Abstract #7 of 2013 for approval and payment

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

Review of minutes from June 12, 2013 regular board meeting. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to approve minutes of June 12, 2013 regular board meeting.

Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to pay Warrants #7 and Highway Abstract #7 of 2013 as presented. Passed 4-0 in absence of Councilman Harold Gilchrest.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Salem Rescue Squad**-Vicki Campbell, Captain of the Squad, gave the six-month report on squad activities. Calls-226, down from 437 last year; miles logged-10,806. Calls in Town of Salem-81; Village of Salem-59 and Town of Hebron-56. A new ambulance has been ordered to replace the 2003 with 90,000 miles. The squad tries to trade every ten years. Report will be filed.

**Salem Fire Department**-Chief Bob Graham provided report for June 2013, indicating 14 calls for the month: 2-Village of Salem (1-priority one echo; 1-EMS assist); 6-Town of Salem (3-MVA's; 2-trees/wires down; 1-transformer fire); 2-Town of Jackson(1-trees/wires down; 1-EMS assist); 4-Mutual Aid Calls: 2-Hebron (1-MVA; 1-Car Fire); 1-Greenwich (stand-by in station); 1-Shushan (trees/wires down)

Training: Four members completed fire fighter class.

Department held their annual July 4<sup>th</sup> parade/carnival and carnival on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>; attended Granville Fire Department parade

Meetings: Fire Dep't. held June, 2013 meeting

Total Hours = 5,094; Report will be filed.

**Highway Dep't.**-Joe Boisclair, Superintendent, reported that the crew was busy cleaning ditches after all the rain, and mowing as often as they can, weather permitting. Lightning struck the highway barn and the computer and fax went down. Everything will be checked out to see how bad the system has been hit. Cutting and chipping trees that came down due to rain/wind storm; did grading on Appling Lane, Blossom Road, Quarry Road and Parqui Road; made gravel. Report will be filed.

**Planning Board**-Chairman Mo Patrick reported that there was one application for a sub-division. Still waiting to hear from County Code Enforcement re structure on Route 22. No agricultural exemption was ever applied for and the parcel does not contain the required amount of acreage to obtain an agricultural exemption. Chairman Patrick asked if the Board would approve Greg Burch as a member of the Planning Board. On motion from Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, the Board approved Greg Burch to fill out the unexpired term of former resigning member, Patricia Sheldon, who Chairman Patrick thought had two years left on her term. Approved 4-0 in absence of Councilman Gilchrest.

**Courthouse**-Donna Farringer reported that there had been two electrical strikes at the Courthouse—one on June 29<sup>th</sup> and one on July 5<sup>th</sup>. There are still no phone, routers or surge protectors. She will be working with the insurance company re coverage, etc. Moving ahead with the structural renovations, including the bell tower and the roof. Lightning rods will be installed on the bell tower when completed. Total cost will run approximately \$1.5 million. Donna is applying for a matching grant of \$500,000.00 through NYS Parks and Recreation and has been informed that a private donor has been found for the other \$500,000.00. Since the project has to be funded up front, Donna asked if the Town would be willing to cover the up-front cost of \$500,000.00 through a BAN or whatever would be required when necessary. She did not think there was any hurry on this as it was in the beginning stages but that she had wanted to approach the Board with the request. Board members did not think this would be a problem when the time came, depending on interest rates, etc. Donna will keep them apprised of what is going on with the paperwork at this progress.

Lunch, Learn n Play is once again very successful with a full house most days. There is a quilt exhibit in the great hall, entitled 'Forty Years of Quilting Joy', with beautiful quilts made by Majken Sellar, which will continue until August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Al Fresco tickets continue to be sold for the dinner and the breakfast to be held the weekend of July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The very popular silent auction will be held the night of the dinner. With each brunch ticket purchased, your name will be entered into a drawing for an I-Pad mini; raffle tickets may be purchased that day for a nominal fee. You must be present to win. There will be an antique and craft market open to the public on the day of the brunch from 11 am-2 pm. Come and enjoy one or both of these delectable delights!

**SYO**-Herb Perkins reported that the next meeting will be held in August. Lunch, Learn n Play has been facing weather challenges, but there are many children attending and activities have been on-going despite the weather. Lunch is being served at 11:30 every day and healthy snacks are being provided in the afternoon. A group of kids are working at Merck Forest and loving it! Kim Gariepy, Dottie Schneider, Chris Fronhofer and many others are making this a successful venture for an average of about 60 students per day. Thirty-eight are registered for the swim program at Lake Lauderdale.

**Historian**-Al Cormier reported that his phone was out at the Courthouse along with everyone else's and that his computer was gone. Data will be taken off, if possible. Signs are up at the north and south ends of the Village and they look great. People were in from South Carolina looking for information on Dr. Thomas Clark. Superior Repairs was looking at the cost of repairing the house that was Dr. Bryer's on South Main Street to ready it saleable. A new foundation is necessary and it looks like the office end would have to be torn down. Al has not heard anything further from them.

**Georgi**-Councilman Bruce Ferguson reported in the absence of Gail Bearup and Councilman Gilchrest. The committee met yesterday with Gail. Trench needs to be dug to extend power to grounds where tents usually go for weddings, etc. This will be put out to bid. Still need bids on roof work. 'Shushan Notables' exhibit has been very well attended. Hold Harmless Agreement is done. Need new rate schedule for use of the Community Room; table until Gail gets back.

**Dog Control Officer**-Jess Corey reported that she had a fairly quiet month. The brindle dog is still running and as of yet cannot be caught. Barking dog issue is being worked on and a report of an abandoned dog was unfounded. Beagle found on Roberson Road during the storm; the owner was visiting his mom and the dog was returned. He paid the impoundment fee and was impressed with Jess's set-up and donated \$50.00 to the dog fund. Complaint by jogger being harassed by dogs as he jogs on town maintained road. Advised by Town Attorney that as long as the dog(s) is/are on their owner's property, nothing can be done. There is invisible electronic fencing in the yard, and the dogs have collars that must be worn when the dogs are outside. Has five owners who will be issued tickets in the next few days for unlicensed dogs; Jess has been working with Town Clerk Pat Gilchrist on this issue. Report will be filed.

**Comprehensive Plan**-Dottie Schneider is compiling names for the Agriculture Committee. Clerk Gilchrist will copy the current Comprehensive Plan so that all board members have a copy. Dottie would like the board members to review the same to discuss at next month's board meeting. Large task to accomplish for one person so she is asking for help revising the same.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-Tauno Wirkki, a member of the flood committee, was asking about flood mitigation and the \$62,000.00 estimate for the same. Supervisor Pitts told him that the \$62,000.00 was taken off the table. Mr. Wirkki asked if it would be possible to hire another hydrologist that would listen to local residents more familiar with the flooding problems and solutions to the same. Washington County has been the lead agency from the beginning on the \$165,000.00 grant received between the Village and the Town for White Creek stream remediation. The FEMA funds received for work that was done on Town roads has to go back into the Town Highway account to be used for Town road repair. Nothing has been done in the stream as it was too high due to all the rain. One landowner has refused entrance on his property to re-route the water. Village resident Tina Fleming spoke up and said that she probably won't be able to sell her house due to flooding issues and she keeps paying taxes on an assessed value that she couldn't even sell for, never mind fair market value. She feels she's in the hole before she starts. Supervisor Pitts reported that a meeting had been held on the banks of White Creek a few weeks ago and work will begin when DEC advises it can. Herb Perkins asked if anyone was or had been watching water levels on the creek and Supervisor Pitts responded that not anyone specific had been appointed to do the same. If conditions were favorable for flooding, could someone be appointed to be up all night tracking creek levels? Someone would probably have to volunteer to do this as the Town couldn't force anyone to stay up all night to do this. The problem is with flash flooding and usually there is not enough warning. When it comes, it comes with a vengeance. Possibility of requesting a weather station that would be hooked into the County somehow? This might be a possibility.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

\$159,547.65 received in CHIPS money. Treasurer's Office reports \$9,082.80 received for sales tax money. Letter received from Melanie Fronhofer, Fronhofer Tool Triathlon Lead Coordinator, advising that on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, Books and Books in Kids Hands, would be sponsoring the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fronhofer Tool Triathlon fundraiser at Lake Lauderdale. During the biking portion of the race, bikers will be using Eagleville Road, Shunpike, Dobbin Hill, Sutherland Road and County Route 61 and 64. The New York State Department of Transportation requires that they get a written acknowledgement from the Town of Salem for the use of any Town of Salem roads used that day. There will be no road closures and the bikers will be using the shoulder of the road. They will have their own people acting as marshals to police traffic. An insurance certificate was received with the request. On motion from Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, a letter will be sent to Melanie Fronhofer from Clerk Pat Gilchrist acknowledging use of Salem Town roads for this event and that the motion passed 4-0 (Councilman Gilchrest absent). Carmella Mantello of Barton & Logudice will give a presentation on Economic Development in Salem at the August board meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Knapp Associates**-Supervisor Pitts still trying to get in touch with someone to come and speak on flood plain management. or total of \$1,345.05. Payment in full will be made following the completion of the second cutting and approved by the County Superintendent of Public Works. First cutting will be no earlier than June 15, 2013 and completion will be no later than July 14, 2013. Passed unanimously 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**County Updates**-911 Call Center will be updated. PVI is in the hands of the Department of Health.

Hospice-problem with paperwork submitted; Home Health has been taken over and is going well under the new management. More services have been offered to county residents (services increased by 35%).

**Town Assessor Position**-This is a six-year appointed position that will be up on September 30, 2013. An ad will be placed in the Eagle for at least two weeks and a posting will be done on the NYS Assessor’s web page. Jean McLenithan, current assessor, will need to re-apply if interested. Letter of intent with resume should be received or postmarked by August 1, 2013. Interviews will be conducted by the board after the August board meeting (08/14/13) with appointment to be made in September, hopefully at the regular board meeting. Term begins October 1, 2013.

**Town Justice**-Justice Frank Blanck informed Supervisor Pitts that he will be retiring on December 31, 2013. His term for the Town will be over then anyway but he had two more years on his Village Justice term.

**Resolution #30**-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, that the Town Board of the Town of Salem, County of Washington, designate Patricia A. Gilchrist in her capacity as Town Clerk, to receive Notices of Claims served upon the Secretary of State by mail @ 214 Main Street; PO Box 575; Salem, NY 12865, and e-mail @ [patriciatownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:patriciatownclerk@gmail.com). The Town Board hereby directs the Town Clerk to file the required certificate with the Secretary of State informing him or her of the town’s designation and applicable time limitation for filing a Notice of Claim with the Town on or before July 14, 2013. Roll call vote: Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes. Passed 4-0 (Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent).

**Resolution #31**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, for an increase to the fund balance as follows:

GM 599 Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 3,500.00	
GM 960 Appropriations		\$ 3,500.00
GM7450.4-Georgi		

Increasing Appropriated Fund Balance to offset the money used to fix the deck at the Georgi \$2,342.38 and the remaining for miscellaneous expenses. Passed 4-0 (Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent).

**Resolution #32**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, for a budget increase as follows:

A510 Estimated Revenues	\$ 370.00	
A2705 Cemetery		
A960 Appropriations		\$ 370.00
A8810.4 Cemetery		

Budget increase to reflect money spent for Veteran’s Park-Booth’s Blend Compost (Increase should have been done last month). Passed 4-0 (Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent).

**Resolution #33**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, for a budget increase as follows:

A510 Estimated Revenues	\$ 608.44	
A2705 Cemetery		
A960 Appropriations		\$ 608.44
A8810.4 Cemetery		

Budget increase to reflect money for Veteran’s Park to pay A & J Enterprises. Passed 4-0 (Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent).

**Resolution #34**-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, for a budget transfer as follows:

A1990.4-Contingency	\$ 2,500.00	
A6989.4 Economic Development		\$ 2,500.00

\$1,647.00 to pay Jeffords Signs for new signs at North and South end of Village; \$240.00 for flowers at West Broadway sign going out of Village; remainder to be left in Economic Development  
Passed 4-0 (Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent).

**Executive Session**-Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider to enter executive session at 8:02 pm to discuss employment issue(s). Passed 4-0 (Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent). Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to come out of executive session at 8:28 PM. Passed 4-0 (Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent).

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever. Passed 4-0 (Councilman Harold Gilchrest was absent). Meeting was adjourned @ 8:35 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular monthly meeting of the Town of Salem Town Board will be held on August 12, 2013, @ 6:30 pm for review and signing of Warrants #8 and Abstract #8, meeting to begin promptly @ 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk