

**TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD  
MINUTES FROM JUNE 12, 2013 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

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

Others Present: Al Cormier-Historian; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Herb Perkins-SYO; Jessica Corey-DCO; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Department

Absent: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Gail Bearup-Georgi Museum

Public Present: Jay Bellanca; Eric Wilkins-Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #6 and Highway Abstract #6 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 May 8, 2013 regular board meeting and public hearing on the fire contract. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to approve minutes of May 08, 2013 regular board meeting and public hearing. Passed unanimously 5-0

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to pay Warrants #6 and Highway Abstract #6 of 2013 as presented. Passed unanimously 5-0

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Salem Fire Department**-Chief Bob Graham provided report for May 2013, indicating 13 calls for the month: 2-Village of Salem (1-MVA; 1-Explosion with injury); 6-Town of Salem (2-good intent; 4-grass & brush); 1-Town of Jackson (Alarm activation); 4-Mutual Aid Calls: Cambridge (1-stand-by); Hebron (1-MVA); Cossayuna (1-grass & brush); Shushan (1-grass & brush)

Training: Vehicle extrication (air bags, hydraulic tools, rescue jacks); car fires

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

Total Hours = 3,364; Report will be filed.

**Highway Dep't.**-Joe Boisclair, Superintendent, was absent because he was at highway school in Ithaca, NY. Graded Hickory Hill, Binninger, Hart Hill, Steele, Priest, Butcher & Kaufman Roads, Bogtown (lower end); had MSHA class all day for all workers; mowed Cemetery, Black Creek, Smith, Upper Bogtown, Chambers and Beattie Hollow Roads. Cleaned ditches on Binninger & Juniper Swamp Roads; cut, chipped and filled in shoulders on Cemetery Road; ditched on Dunigan Road. Report will be filed.

**Planning Board**-Chairman Mo Patrick reported that there were two applications—one for a pole barn to store farm equipment and one for a shed addition to a camp on Priest Road. Nothing had been filed for the camp originally. County Code Enforcement was told by the homeowner on Route 22 where the garage is inside the barn that this was going to be used to house horses so it was an agricultural structure. County will get back to Mo.

**Georgi Museum**-Councilman Harold Gilchrest reported in the absence of Gail Bearup. New deck was put on and the bill for labor received; supplies billed through A & J Enterprises (Agway). Kent Foster took down the wall and steps and put in fill. Weed whacking needs to be done again where the grant crew worked last year. Travis Keys has submitted an estimate of \$1,500.00 for approximately 32 hours of clean-up. Councilman Gilchrest asked if maybe when Superintendent Boisclair and/or the crew were out mowing, maybe they could make a couple of passes along the edge to get most of the growth.

Gail wants to revise the rates for the use of the Community Room and has asked the committee to address this issue. They need to be more uniform and not two or three different charges depending on the use of the kitchen and how long rented for. The committee will look into this.

The 'Shushan Notables' exhibit opened on June 1<sup>st</sup> with a reception and was very well attended. People continue to visit the exhibit when the Museum is open on Fridays. Gail is looking and working to get volunteers in the hopes of being able to open on either a Saturday or Sunday.

Insurance issue-Supervisor Pitts reported that he had talked to Dick Look, our agent, and the Town doesn't need liability insurance for anything that won't have alcohol, whether in the Community Room or on the grounds. Contractors doing any kind of work need liability insurance. Otherwise, a 'Hold Harmless Agreement' will work. Supervisor Pitts is asking Gail to modify the copy of the agreement he had.

**Courthouse**-Herb Perkins reported in the absence of Donna Farringer. Al Fresco tickets went on sale June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the dinner and the breakfast for the weekend of July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$50.00 each for the dinner and \$25.00 each for the brunch. Old Courthouse Talent show took place on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Fort Salem Theatre and was very well attended as was the June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Salem High School Film Club Festival and Fashion Show at the CCC. Approximately \$3,600.00 was raised for the Lunch, Learn n Play program.

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, was the last of the Chamber Music Series with Daniel Shulman. Opening reception entitled '40 years of Quilting Joy' will be held on June 27<sup>th</sup> with the featured works of Mejken Seller. This will be a wine and cheese reception and the exhibit will run until August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Summer edition of the Chronicle and Catalog was mailed the end of May or go to the website @ [www.salemcourthouse.org](http://www.salemcourthouse.org) to see upcoming classes and workshops to be offered.

**SYO**-Herb Perkins reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes went to Merck Forest on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and all had a successful adventure! The Table Tennis Tournament went well and Herb is still talking to Gail Bearup about hosting a picnic/family event at the Georgi Museum, probably to be scheduled sometime in September. The organization is also looking to hold a 'recreation night' on Fridays in the barn at the Courthouse. Badminton, volley ball, kick ball, table tennis, etc. would be offered. Currently looking for adults to host these events.

**Historian**-Al Cormier reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade from Salem Central School had toured the cemetery with him. Mr. Cormier also wanted to point out that the town welcoming signs at the north and south ends of the village were in bad need of replacement. The Salem Rotary Club had set the signs and has been maintaining them for over 40 years. The three options are: Town of take over the signs totally; town can work with the Rotary; or do nothing. Al has talked to a professional sign maker, Jeff Jeffords, in Greenwich, and had a drawing of what the signs could look like. The cost would be \$686.95 each for materials for the new signs, and Mr. Jeffords would set the signs for \$30.00/hour at approximately two hours. The posts would be vinyl encased with a ball on top above the posts. Supervisor Pitts and the Board felt that the money could be found even though it was not in this years' budget to replace the signs at the north and south ends of the Village. The Town will also take over the maintenance of these two signs and the Rotary will continue to maintain the signs at the east/west points. Mr. Cormier also indicated that he would put the word out for donations for replacement of the signs at the north/south ends. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to spend the money to replace the signs at the north/south entrances to the Village and to use Jeff Jeffords of Greenwich to do the design work and setting of the signs. Passed unanimously 5-0

**Dog Control Officer**-Jess Corey reported that she has received many complaints about a dog running at large all over the Village and as far away as Hebron. No one can catch the dog; homeowners have tried, as well as Jessica, with food and by other means and the dog just runs away. The last complaint was from a homeowner on South Main Street complaining that the dog was attacking her dog. Jessica checked with Judge Blanck to see if the dog might be able to be tranquilized or what recourse she had. Judge Blanck reported that the dog could not be tranquilized but if it was attacking other dogs or humans, the dog could be shot to prevent further damage. So far nothing has been done because the dog keeps running. Does not appear to be starving or lacking water. She will keep us informed regarding any incidents of the travelling dog.

On a prior case: the veterinarian bill was paid by the town; reimbursement has been made. Report provided and will be filed.

**Comprehensive Plan**-Dottie Schneider will supply copies of the current Comprehensive Plan to all board members for review. She needs help to proceed as this is such a massive undertaking. Will re-visit this issue after the board has reviewed the current plan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Thank you note sent to Superintendent Joe Boisclair for the paving work done on Scott Lake Road. "It makes the ride and the sound of passing vehicles so much better/quieter." Sent from Ed and Judy Hughes.

Letter received from Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Latham requesting use of Salem town roads for a cycling event to be held on Sunday, August 25, 2013. Riders will be starting and ending at Cambridge Central School and travelling through the towns of Cambridge, White Creek, Jackson, Salem, Hebron, Greenwich, and Easton. Police and emergency medical personnel will be informed of the event. Cyclists will be following the rules of the road, stopping at all stop signs and riding on the right hand side of the road. Clean-up will be done by their volunteers. Clerk Gilchrist wrote a letter stating that the town needed a Certificate of Insurance, listing the town as the certificate holder for at least \$300,000.00 of liability. There will be no resolution needed at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Veteran's Park**-Top soil has been delivered to spread, and then re-seeding can take place. Straw will be put down and hopefully, the grass will grow much better this time.

**Mowing Contract w/County**-Letter received from Washington County Sup't. of Public Works, Richard Wilson, regarding mowing of Route 153 for 2013 season, contract enclosed. **Resolution #25**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to enter into a contract with the County of Washington for the period June 1-November 1, 2013--\$245.00 per centerline miles for 5.49 centerline miles 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.

**Resolution #26**-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to amend the budget to increase the Compliance Officer's salary to \$2,000.00 from a prior change of \$1,500.00:

Transfer of money to Compliance Officer account to reflect a change in salary as follows:

B3120.4 Compliance Officer	\$ 400.00	
B8120.4 Planning Board	\$ 100.00	
B3120.1 Compliance Officer		\$ 500.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution #27**-Introduced by Councilman Harold Gilcrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, in support of the restoration of funding to Head Start Programming in the fiscal year 2014 federal budget for the purpose of maintaining the Head Start program in Washington County. Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #28**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilcrest, to take money from Deferred Revenue to pay for gates for the Revolutionary War Cemetery as follows:

A691 Deferred Revenue	\$ 1,750.00	
A2770 Cemetery		
A522 Expenditures		\$ 1,750.00
A8810.4		

Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #29**-Introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilcrest, to pay The Salem Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. the balance due for the remaining seven (7) months' of fire protection per the new contract between the Salem Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and the Town of Salem in the amount of \$57,750.00, plus interest earned in the amount of \$100.54 for a total of \$57,850.54.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilcrest-Yes; Councilwoman Dottie Schneider-Yes; Supervisor Seth M. Pitts-Yes; Councilman Joe Wever-Abstained; Passed 4-0

**AE Knapp & Associates**-Flood Plain Managers; approximately \$300.00/year for their service. Granville and Greenwich use this company for flood plain management; mapping, etc. Supervisor Pitts will research just exactly what services they perform and come back with a proposal.

**Other Concerns**-Councilwoman Dottie Schneider would like to at least be on a committee for the Veteran's Memorial Park to finish designing the same.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board made by Councilman Harold Gilcrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever. Passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 8:05 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular monthly meeting of the Town of Salem Town Board will be held on July 10 2013, @ 6:30 pm for review and signing of Warrants #7 and Abstract #7, meeting to begin @ 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk