

## **TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 13, 2013 MEETING**

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

Absent: - Town Councilman-Joe Wever

Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Gail Bearup-Georgi Museum; Al Cormier-Historian; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Herb Perkins-SYO; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.; Jessica Corey-DCO Applicant

Public Present: Jay Bellanca; Mike Miller; Ashleigh Morris & husband-Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #3 and Highway Abstract #3 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 February 13, 2013 regular board meeting. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to approve minutes of February 13, 2013 regular board meeting. Passed 4-0

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to pay Warrants #3 and Highway Abstract #3 of 2013 as presented. Passed 4-0

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Salem Fire Department**-Chief Bob Graham provided report for February 2013, indicating 12 calls for the month. 3-Village of Salem (1-grass/brush; 1-chimney fire; 1-burnt food); 4-Town of Salem (3-EMS lift assists; 1-MVA); Mutual Aid Calls: Cambridge (1-Structure Fire); Hebron (2-MVA's); Shushan (1-MVA); Rupert, VT (1-MVA)

Training: Cold water rescue training; monthly air pack check; air bag training; truck & equipment training

Meetings: Held February monthly meeting; attended village & town monthly meetings

Chief Graham reported that any hose older than 1987 will have to be replaced per new mandates.

Approximately 1200-1300 feet of usable hose will have to be replaced. Also, all turn-out gear ten years and older will need to be replaced, regardless what job the fireman is doing. Forty new helmets will have to be purchased @ a cost of \$275 each.

Fire Protection District formation is currently on hold until the Comptroller's Office gives the go-ahead to the Village of Salem. April/May deadlines on hold until further notice.

Total Hours = 1,047; Report will be filed.

**Courthouse**-Director, Donna Farringer, reported that Mark Kilpatrick was recovering from heart surgery, and was now in re-hab. Get well soon, Mary. We miss you! Director Farringer also reported that the Courthouse is considering options for taking over the Battenkill Kitchen; committee being formed for this purpose. Courthouse was approached by the BKI to consider the idea.

History Lectures continue with a talk by Dick McGuire on the 'Miracle of Food Production' on March 14<sup>th</sup> and on March 21<sup>st</sup>, Paul McCarty will present a talk about Solomon Northup, who became a slave for 12 years.

There is also an exhibit in the Great Hall of pieces from Dick McGuire's Farm Museum.

There will be an elementary talent show for students in grades 3-6 at the Courthouse on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, @ 7:00 pm. There will be a dessert auction after the show. All proceeds will benefit Lunch, Learn n Play.

Chamber Music Series will begin again this year on April 21<sup>st</sup> @ 3:00 pm under the direction of Daniel Shulman, with concerts on May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>. The Shoppe Off Broadway is seeking donations for the spring season; clothing and household items are welcome. Call the Shoppe @ 854-9090 to arrange for donation drop-offs; hours are Wednesday from 1-6; Thursday – Saturday 10 am-1 pm.

**Georgi Museum**- Director Gail Bearup reported that the newsletter went to the printer and will be mailed out on Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Has currently booked three weddings and should have one more coming in. The

Salem Area Woman's Club will be having their May luncheon at the Georgi on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Gail asked that any repair work to the wall be done after a wedding scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. 'Shushan Notables' exhibit is going forward and a large donation has been received. Councilman Gilchrest will secure quotes for repair of the museum roof and wall of the community room and have them by the April meeting.

Only one bid was received for lawn mowing this season from Travis Keys Property Maintenance, Inc. for \$225.00/complete mowing and weed whacking. He needs 48 hours' notice to work around special events, weddings, etc. A copy of insurance coverage limits was enclosed and a certificate of insurance will be provided upon acceptance of the bid. Councilman Gilchrest will talk to Mr. Keys and bring back recommendations at the April meeting. Clean-up day will be on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 am-12 noon.

**Highway**-Superintendent Boisclair reported that the new truck has arrived and was used in the storm on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Shaw's did some repair work on the box and everything is good now. Joe was also able to secure a \$9,000.00 damaged plow from Shaw's for \$1.00 and the crew did all the repairs. Everything else going well.

**Historian**-Al Cormier reported that a new book focusing on slavery in Washington County with specific reference to Salem would be coming out soon. The book, titled "A Mysterious Black Migration" will sell for \$15.00. The wall project at the cemetery is winding down and hopefully the gate will be up by the end of the month.

**Planning Board**-Mo Patrick reported that there was an application from Salem Farm Supply for sign replacement; the Board exempted the project as it was for the same size and in the same place as the prior signs. The Planning Board would like the Board to approve Mark Eastman as a member to fill out the unexpired term of James Briglin. On a motion from Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, Mark Eastman was approved by a vote of 4-0 by the Town of Salem Town Board to the Salem Planning Board to fill out the unexpired term of James Briglin. Town Clerk Pat Gilchrist will give Mr. Eastman his Oath of Office before the next Planning Board meeting.

**Comprehensive Plan**-Chairman Dottie Schneider reports that a committee of at least five farmers is needed to fulfill the requirements. Some names were mentioned; calls will need to be made to see if any are willing to serve.

**Youth Association** -Herb Perkins reported that Lori Linendoll had provided a ski club report and the program was once again a success. Brenda Levy filled in when John Hubbard injured his hip in a skiing accident. Mike Gray attended the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and committed \$500.00 from the Youth Bureau to the Lunch, Learn n Play program for this year. He also reported that the height/weight data provided by LLP last summer was very helpful and would be used this summer as a model for other programs. Mike would also be able to provide free background checks and first aid/CPR training and will set up Ruthanne Hunter with a babysitting course for the Courthouse. Working on the possibility of helping local students connect with summer jobs and transportation to and from them. SYO should find the students who are interested and then Mike would connect them to an employer. Successful February break programs were held at the CCC. Thanks to all who volunteered to do the programs. Third annual table tennis tournament will be held on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Courthouse Youth Barn. Still looking into dates for the bonfire/band at the Georgi and the family picnic to be held there. Sarah Wohleb working with the cub scouts for the town-wide clean-up on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. There will also be an Electronic Recycling day in conjunction with the clean-up, held at the Town Barn on Rexleigh Road. Mr. Perkins's report will be filed.

**DCO**-Jessica Corey reported that she had 23 calls and made 8 home visits; investigating a dog bite w/Wash. Co. Public Health. She has seized a pit bull and is investigating a case where there shouldn't have been animals and the dogs are not licensed. Needs two horse mats and one run needs a cover. Will get a tarp from either A & J or the Salem Hardware store. Report provided will be filed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Shan Hitchcock**-Spoke to the board re Agenda 21, a program of 'Sustainable Development'. These UN initiatives will be forced on everyone whether we like it or not. There will be a meeting in Cambridge on March 28<sup>th</sup> regarding these programs. There are many numbers of internet accessible resources that provide insight, documentation, and video information on almost every aspect of 'Sustainable Development'. You might find it hard to believe much of what you will learn about the origins of these concepts, their intentions and how they use local government structures, funding and representatives to realize their goals. She is urging the Town of Salem to stay out of Agenda 21. Hand-out were given out for further information. Check out the websites listed.

**Mike Miller**-Spoke about the horrible condition of the Route 22 corridor from Salem to Granville. Supervisor Pitts responded that he travels the road every day and the condition is horrible; he will be bringing this up at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on Friday.

**Jay Bellanca**-spoke about winter maintenance on town roads and provided a hand-out to the Board. Delaware County has several posted signs stating 'no winter maintenance from \_\_\_PM to \_\_\_AM', so this is being done on roads in NYS. Asked that the Salem Town Highway Dep't. consider doing something of this nature to save tax dollars.

**Communications:**

Letter from Salem Fire Department inviting any members of the Board to their annual Fireman's Banquet to be held on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, @ the Middle Falls Fire Department. 6:00 pm cocktails and dinner @ 7:00 pm. Dinner choices are ham, prime rib or chicken; please RSVP to Chief Graham as soon as possible.

**Scott Tracy**-E-mailed Supervisor Pitts that Buffum's Bridge work is out to bid; contractor's scheduled start date if around May 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. The bridge will be closed and currently, traffic will be re-routed , using Hickory Hill Road. Salem Mitigation Project-Proceeding with 'good faith efforts' regarding the MWBE requirement of the grant. County's material bids will be opened on March 14 and will include heavy stone, medium stone, etc.; best pricing will be used. Box Culvert bids still to come (will probably be combined w/County Bridge bidding materials). May 1<sup>st</sup> is still the earliest start date for stream work.

**NYS Department of Transportation**-The Route 29 bridge over Black Creek should begin the first week in April. The new bridge will be built in two phases—Phase 1 will be constructing the West-bound lane and Phase 2 will the constructing the East-bound lane. Route 29 will remain open to alternating one-way traffic once work commences; there will be a temporary traffic signaling device installed, with completion anticipated the end of October or beginning of November. The NYSDOT Engineer in charge of the project is Chaughn Watkins.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Cemetery Caretaker**-Lee Walrath will advise on the cemetery mowing for this year; his son will do the work and is covered by insurance. Lee having knee replacement surgery soon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**NYS Retirement Standard Work Day**-Resolution needed to create standard work day for Joe Boisclair, Frank Blanck, Jean McLenithan and Kathy Chambers--on hold for now.

**Office Renovations**-New electrical wiring will be installed in the ceiling, w/new ceiling tiles to be put in. New electrical plugs will be installed; Willie Linendoll doing work for building owners.

**Georgi Decisions**-Held a very successful meeting with the Georgi Advisory Board. Director Gail Bearup and the student from Plattsburgh State will be working via computer/e-mail for the month of March; will be coming in May and searching the tapestries. WelDun will be called to do maintenance on water treatment and Jeff Suite will be contacted for April opening (to turn on water, etc.).

**COUNTY UPDATES:**

**TRANSFER STATIONS**-Earth, Waste and Metals from Rutland, VT, will be doing a five-year lease to purchase with Washington County. Stickers will be honored for a certain period of time after take over, probably to occur in late May-early June.

**PVI**-Asset purchase agreement has been signed.

**Public Health/Hospice**-Should be private by next month; have hired many of same nurses, aides, etc.

**Town Clerk Training/Annual Meeting**-The annual meeting of the NYSTCA will be held April 28-May 1, 2013, in Buffalo, NY. Supervisor Pitts explained to the Board that there was money in the budget to cover the expenses if Clerk Gilchrist wants to attend. This is the annual training for the Town Clerks.

**Resolution #15**-Transfer money from Deferred Revenue for work done on the Cemetery Wall as follows:

A691 Deferred Revenue	\$ 8,430.00	
A522 Expenditures		\$ 8,430.00
A8810.4 Cemetery		

Passed 4-0.

Supervisor Pitts spoke to the Board about transferring money from Personnel to Contractual for the Planning Board Compliance Officer position, who is no longer be on the payroll. The Board's position was that the position should not be changed at this time and the position should be left of the Payroll as had been done. No Resolution was passed to transfer the money from Personnel to Contractual.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board made by Councilman Harold Gilcrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider. Passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 8:15 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular monthly meeting of the Town of Salem Town Board will be held on April 10, 2013, @ 6:30 pm for review and signing of Warrants #4 and Abstract #4; meeting to begin @ 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk