

**TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 08, 2010 MEETING**

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

Others Present: Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Cheryl Baldwin-Georgi Museum; Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Al Cormier-Historian; DCO-Jessica Barrett; Bob Graham-Salem Vol. Fire. Fire Dep't.; Tom Cassidy-Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't.

Public Present: Jay Bellanca; Jeff Harrison; Bob Endee; Skip Bates; Len Taft; Mat Hannibal; Dana \_\_\_\_\_ (Shushan Fire); Cynthia Weinoich; Jennifer Waite-Harsha from the Eagle newspaper

6:30-Review & signing of warrants #9 & highway abstract #9 for approval and payment

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

Review of minutes from August 11, 2010 meeting. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to accept minutes as presented. Passed unanimously. After review of warrants and highway abstract, motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to pay warrants #9 and highway abstract #9 as presented. Passed unanimously.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Salem Fire Department-** Report provided by Chief, Bob Graham. Nine calls for month of August—1 Village of Salem; 1 Town of Salem; 1 Town of Jackson; 1 Arlington; 1 Cambridge; 1 Cossayuna; 1 Fort Edward; 1 Hebron; 1 Rupert

Eight members did standby for Ft. Edward for calling hours for Thomas Elliott and attended the funeral for same firefighter; 7 members did standby for Shushan carnival; 5 members did chicken BBQ for Catholic Church @ Lake Lauderdale; 4 members attended bailout harness school in Argyle (12 hrs.) Doing background check for one new member; should be approved by Salem membership on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Total hours for year = 8,692; report will be filed.

Fire Chief's report from September 2009-August 2010 provided and will also be filed. To date, 45 members on fire fighting list.

**Shushan Fire Department-**Chief Tom Cassidy reported that there were 3 calls for month of August, 2010--two fire calls and one first responder call. An itemized expense report was provided. Total expenses w/required testing not yet done were \$85,143.86, with Town contracts bringing in \$74,450.00 for a deficit of \$10,693.86. Will still need 8 lengths of 1-3/4" (approx. 400') hose @ \$750.00; need to replace old 1949 building windows, doors and insulation for approximately \$10,000.00; and \$10,000.00 is put into a truck replacement fund every year. Shushan will need a need a new truck in approximately five years. Shushan Fire Department is requesting \$45,000.00 from the Town of Salem for fire protection for the year 2011, an increase of \$7,550.00. As Chief Cassidy pointed out, all fund raisers for 2010 were down considerably from previous years. Expense report will be filed.

**Courthouse-**Donna Farringer reported that the flags @ Courthouse were lowered in honor of fallen soldier, Phillip Charte, whose parents live in Beattie Hollow. Harvest Fest will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning @ 10 am with food and craft vendors. Dinner will follow @ 6 pm. September 9<sup>th</sup>-Lecture on 'Sustaining Open Farmland'

September 16<sup>th</sup>-Lecture w/Gail Frasier/Art Poulon

September 19<sup>th</sup>-Classical Music @ 3pm w pianist, Dan Shulman, second in the series.

September 24<sup>th</sup>-Dedication @ 4 pm for new rooms @ courthouse in honor of long-time supporter, Bob Benn, with members of his family in attendance

**Highway Department**- Sup't. Joe Boisclair informed the board that widening of Steele Road by Pataki house, which is sorely needed in order to plow in the winter months, will be starting next week. The cost of renting equipment for widening of road will be about \$1,800.00 for a week. Remaining CHIPS money will be used to pay for this.

**Georgi Museum**-Cheryl Baldwin reported that the painting being done by Alternative Sentencing is complete. Buildings look wonderful! September 11<sup>th</sup> 'Gems of the Georgi' will be held from 4-6 pm, which will coincide with Harvest Fest and the Cheese Tour. Artists will be present at the Georgi for this opening reception. Exhibit will continue September 12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-6 pm.

Very successful LARAC Sunday concert series was held during the month of August. Cheryl will be writing the LARAC Grant for 2011 series very soon. Resolution will be done later this evening for next year's grant.

Four session mixed-media workshop on Thursday evenings will begin October 7-28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30 pm, led by Dawne Polis. The workshop will teach a new understanding of traditional collage. The cost is \$35.00 tuition, plus \$15.00 for materials.

**Planning Board**-Mo Patrick reported that there were two public hearings, both for site-plan review. Only one applicant for Planning Board Clerk, Kimberly Erbe. Resolution will be done later this evening to fill this position

**Historian's Report**- 1934 Washington County Political and Geographical Wall Map has been hung in the great hall. The Salem School Board has loaned this map to the historian since school did not want to display the map in the school foyer any longer. Al attended a Local Government Records Management workshop on digitizing archival photos.

Preliminary work will begin on the vacant Glens Falls National Bank lot. Drilling test holes to investigate the possibility of using geothermal heating/cooling system in the building will begin soon. Grade survey done. Completion is slated for sometime in 2011.

**DCO Report**-Jessica Barrett reported that a cocker spaniel had been found near the Carey farm on Dunigan Road and a village dog was reunited with its owner. Investigated a dog bite on County Rte. 30 and picked up a dog on Bogtown Road that was adopted out this week. A very hyperactive yellow lab is on trial in a home. A mother and eight puppies were found in a home on School Street in Shushan. Was told the puppies were old enough and needed to be adopted out ASAP. Mother now licensed and homes have been found for all puppies. Supervisor Pitts thanked Jessica for her efforts.

**Comprehensive Plan**-Dottie Schneider reported that the County did not meet in August and should be reviewing the Ag Plan at its September meeting.

**Salem Area Youth Assn., Inc.**-No report.

**Correspondence**-Letter received from Senior Engineer/Acting Superintendent, Scott H. Tracy, re the ad to run in the newspapers for Public Informational Meeting. Meeting will be held on Wednesday,

Sep't. 22<sup>nd</sup> , @ 7:00 pm in the Town Office regarding the Tackle Box Bridge work to be done on County Rte. 61. Work would probably begin sometime in 2012 and the bridge would be closed.

\$1,424.82 received from Alliance on Georgi Trust.

Received notice from Rebecca Brown, Village Clerk, that Village taxes on the Revolutionary War Lot we purchased, are due for this year. Non-taxable status can be applied for through Wash. Co. Real Property for next year's taxes.

Wind damage to the tents at the Courthouse has been taken care of and check received.

Now have insurance coverage on the medical building across the street thru NYMIR. Agent, Dick Look, took care of this.

Verizon is objecting to their assessments both in the Village and Town. Court date cancelled and Attorney, Alan Wrigley and Assessor, Jean McLenithan are working on this to settle out of court.

**Public Comment**-Jay Bellanca expressed the opinion that the DPW Superintendent of Public Works just hired should receive a pay reduction because that person is not a certified engineer, as was a requirement in the past. Supervisor Pitts responded that the Board of Supervisors felt that this person has much experience and if an engineer is required for certain projects, one would be consulted. No health insurance would be paid on this position so there would be a big savings there.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**County Issues**-County has financed a consultant to help with an RFP for Pleasant Valley Infirmary, Home Health Care and Hospice. Costs the County approximately \$2.5 million/year for these services. If sold, County government would be cut in half.

**Parole Officers**-Should they be armed when on duty? Issue was brought up before and nothing was done due to a liability insurance issue. Scary thing is that officers now carry their own guns, licensed and registered in their own names. What about other parole officers in other rural areas? What are their procedures? Ideal situation would be that anyone who carries a gun (Sheriff's Officers, Troopers, etc.) would receive proper training and carry same weapons, approximately \$1,000.00/year per officer.

**Village Issue**-Fire Contract-Supervisor Pitts received a letter from Village of Salem Mayor, Anne Dunigan, regarding the Salem Fire Protection District's share for fire and emergency services provided by the Village of Salem Fire Department for the 2011-2-12 year to be \$99,863.00. This is a substantial increase from the \$81,900.00 paid last year. Total Operational Costs for the Village this year are \$123,900.00 and 68.493% of that figure goes to the assessed property value of the Town, or \$84,863, with a Capital Reserve Account contribution of \$15,000.00 for Equipment and Apparatus purchase, totaling \$99,863.00. Nothing decided on by the Board at this meeting. Fire Departments are faced with so many equipment mandates for members with no help coming from the State or Federal Government. Supervisor Pitts asked resident, Jay Bellanca, if he would check with Representative Scott Murphy's office inquiring where a letter might be sent regarding these unfunded federal mandates driving up fire costs. Mr. Bellanca will get back to us as soon as he has any information.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution #33**-Transfer money for unemployment costs. Resolution #33, introduced by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, would transfer \$1,900.00 from DB5110.4-General Repairs -to- DB9050.8-Unemployment. Passed unanimously.

**Resolution #34**-To add to the employee handbook. Resolution #34, introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to add to the employee handbook to allow the part-time elected position of the Town Clerk only to participate in the Town of Salem's health insurance plan. Passed unanimously

**Resolution #35**-Introduced by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to approve the extension of the BAN for the Courthouse for another year, the Courthouse to be responsible for the entire cost, plus any interest. Passed 4-0, with Councilwoman Dottie Schneider recusing herself.

**Resolution #36**-Introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to appoint David Meers to the Board of Assessment Review for a five-year term beginning October 1, 2010 and ending September 30, 2015. Passed unanimously.

**Resolution #37**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to accept the bid from Williamson Law for software systems for accounting and budget software, hardware and contract support in the amount of \$9,000.00 for Clerk to the Supervisor, Kathleen Chambers. Passed unanimously.

**Resolution #38**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, for budget increase to transfer \$9,000.00 from fund balance to the Supervisor to pay for computer software and hardware.

A599 Appropriated Fund Balance -	\$9,000.00
A960 Appropriations	\$9,000.00
A1220.2 Supervisor-	\$9,000.00

Passed unanimously.

**Resolution #39**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to recognize Battenkill Creamery as having the 'Best Milk in New York State' as awarded by the NYS Fair in 2010. Passed unanimously.

**Resolution #40**-Introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to accept the resignation of Edward Morrison as Deputy Highway Superintendent and to promote Keith Boisclair to the position of Deputy Highway Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

**Resolution #41**-Introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to accept the resignation of William Eberle as Clerk to the Planning Board and appoint Kimberly Erbe to fill this position until December 31, 2010. Passed unanimously.

**Resolution #42**-Introduced by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, indicating that the municipality of the Town of Salem would be the lead agency authorizing the application for 2011 LARAC/NYSCA Arts Initiative funding for the Georgi Museum and Park Center. Passed unanimously.

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**-First Budget Workshop @ 6 pm @ Town Office.

**Next Regular Meeting**-October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm @ Georgi Community Room in Shushan. Bring dish to pass. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drink will be provided.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilcrest. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk