

**TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2010 MEETING**

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

Others Present: Cheryl Baldwin-Georgi Museum; Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board

Absent: Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Jessica Barrett-DCO; Al Cormier-Historian; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.; Chief Cassidy-Shushan Fire Dep't.

Public Present: Danny Clary; Jennifer Waite-Harsha from the Eagle newspaper

6:30-Review & signing of warrants #11 & highway abstract #11 for approval and payment

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

Review of minutes from October 13, 2010 meeting. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, 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 Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to pay warrants #11 and highway abstract #11 as presented. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Salem Fire Department- Report provided by Chief, Bob Graham. Eleven calls for month of October-4 Village of Salem; 1 MVA Town of Salem; 3 Mutual Aids to Town of Hebron (2-MVA's; 1 structure fire); 1 standby in station for Rupert; 2-Shushan (1 MVA & 1 standby in station). Sixteen members did fire prevention @ Salem Central School; three members did fire prevention for Cub Scouts and six members did Halloween detail. There was one service call in the Town of Salem. Total hours for October = 1,623. Report will be filed

Courthouse- Donna Farringer provided report to Supervisor Pitts. President Dottie Schneider reported that there would be a holiday bazaar on November 13, 2010. The Halloween Haunted House was very successful.

Highway Department- Sup't. Joe Boisclair reported that he and his crew were preparing the trucks for the winter months. Discussion with County and Town re shared plowing on county roads. One of the roads the town may plow would be County Route 153 going to Rupert; this is in the experimental stages.

Georgi Museum- Cheryl Baldwin reported that the Community Room was being rented for an annual party on November 27th. After that, the buildings will be winterized.

Planning Board- Mo Patrick reported that the meetings for November and December will be moved up one week due to the Thanksgiving and Xmas holidays. Sub-division for Barbara Ascher has been with drawn so nothing currently on the agenda. Public hearing already advertised and neighbors notified so meeting will be held in case anyone shows up for the public hearing.

Historian's Report- No report in absence of historian, Al Cormier.

DCO Report-Jessica Barrett provided report.

Comprehensive Plan-Dottie Schneider reported that there had been no county Ag meeting as of yet so now comprehensive plan report.

Salem Area Youth Assn., Inc.-Herb Perkins reported that the Youth Association met on November 9th, 2010. The youth association members worked on the Haunted Courthouse and had a very successful dance. Kids hope to be able to hold Ski Club again this year and will be putting their request before the School Board. The Association will once again pay for the bus. They have representation from all students that are in the Salem school district--those that attend Long Trail, are home schooled, etc. New adults are also getting involved. Once again the Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund is up and running and will be available to people with a Salem or Shushan zip code and who may or may not qualify for the HEAP program. Phone number for HEAP is 746-2236. Feel free to contact Debbie Earthrowl if you are in need of assistance @ 854-3203. Herb handed out flyers about the fuel fund at the meeting and one will be posted in the Town Clerk's Office. There are also HEAP applications in the Town Clerk's Office for anyone interested.

Correspondence-Several letters received re the closing of the County transfer stations. Last Thursday there was a public presentation of the county budget by County Budget Officer, Brian Campbell, @ Proudfit Hall. At that time, one of the solutions to lowering the County tax levy was to close all five recycling centers. There were about 100 people in attendance at the Proudfit meeting and many at the public hearing on the county budget in Fort Edward, all voicing their opinions on the closing of the transfer stations. At present, one employee from Code Enforcement will be going, all five transfer stations will be staying open (but the cost of the stickers will probably be increasing the first of the year) and Cornell Co-Operative Extension will stay at the current \$250,000.00 it needs to operate.

Public Comment- Danny Clary presented a plan to the board for keeping youth in the Village and Town safe and off the streets by having a bike program for the community. He is looking for sponsors for the purchase of the bikes, helmets, pads, etc. The bikes/equipment would be rented for a fee to both youth and adults and the fee returned when the bike and/or other equipment was returned. He would also like to teach bike repair and bike safety, with the help of volunteers, with the possibility that bike safety could be taught through school. He wants to hold a bike race at the end of the year for those who are really dedicated to riding and safety, possibly offering the prize of a ticket to a real bike racing track. He was very enthusiastic and has been talking to local businesses and kids in the area, as well as doing flyers. Mr. Perkins invited Danny to speak at the next youth association meeting on December 14th @ the courthouse to present his program. Danny hopes to have the program up and running in the spring of 2011.

OLD BUSINESS:

Damaged Art-It was decided that the Town will pay the artists for their art that was damaged at the Georgi Community Room during the Primary. That way the artists won't have to wait for their money and the County can then reimburse the Town. Vouchers were approved for the same.

Local Law for Dogs for 2011-There will be a public hearing on Local Law #1 for 2010 regarding Dog Control Law for the Town of Salem on December 8th at the Town Board Meeting beginning @ 7 p.m. Regular meeting will follow the public hearing. Fees will be going up as it will be the responsibility of all municipalities after January 1, 2011, to license dogs, send delinquent notices, send renewal notices,

etc. The fee for the licensing of a spayed/neutered dog will be \$10.00 and an unsprayed/unneutered dog will be \$20.00. Impoundment fees will also be going up if your dog is picked up by our DCO, Jessica Barrett. A copy of the Local Law is available at the Town Clerk’s Office. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to hold the public hearing on the dog law before the regular meeting on December 8th, 2010. Passed unanimously. Legal notice will be put in the ‘Eagle’. Local Law must be filed with the Secretary of State by January 1, 2011.

Resolution No. 49-Introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to send a letter with a copy of the resolution to our local state and federal representatives regarding the unfunded mandates required of our local fire departments and that said resolution is considered for the ballot of resolutions at the February 2011 Association of Towns Annual Meeting. Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilchrest-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Joe Wever-Yes; Councilwoman Dottie Schneider-Yes Passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 50-Introduced by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to establish a capital reserve fund to be known as the “Highway Equipment Reserve Fund”, the purpose of which is to accumulate monies to finance the cost of a specific type of equipment. The type of equipment to be financed from said Reserve Fund is equipment to be used by the Salem Highway Department. Expenditures from said Reserve Fund shall be made only for the purpose for which Reserve Fund was established and will require the approval of the Town Board and such additional actions or proceedings as may be required by Section 6-c of the General Municipal Law or any other law, including a permissive referendum if one is required by subdivision 4 of Section 6-c. Roll call vote: Supervisor Pitts-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilchrest-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Joe Wever-Yes; Councilwoman Dottie Schneider-Yes Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #51-Introduced by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, for budget increase to reflect money from LARAC as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| A510 Estimated Revenues | \$1,437.00 | |
| Georgi A2770 | | \$1,437.00 |
| A960 Appropriations | | |
| Georgi A7450.2/4 | | |

Passed unanimously.

Resolution #52-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, for budget increase to reflect CHIPS money received:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| DB510 Estimated Revenues | \$ 37,622.39 | |
| State Aid DB3501 | | |
| DB960 Appropriations | | \$ 37,622.39 |
| Improvements DB5112.2 | | |

Passed unanimously.

2011 Budget-Fire contracts with the Village of Salem and Shushan Fire Dep’t. were the main topics regarding the 2011 budget. Councilman Harold Gilchrest feels that the Town gives more money to the Village than they actually spend on fire protection. According to the web site Open Book NY.com, the information posted on their website indicates that \$66,000.00 was the money spent in 2009 for fire department expenses. He felt that just because the Village and Shushan asked for the amounts they did

“doesn’t mean we have to give it to them”. The amount keeps going up every year to the Village with no explanation or paperwork to back up what the true expenses are to run the fire department. Even though inserts were put in the Free Press to the Town of Salem residents, including Shushan residents, notifying residents of the public hearing on November 3rd, only about ten people came to the hearing. \$15,000.00 of the \$99,000.00 budgeted for Salem Fire Protection will be for a capital reserve fund that the Village has set up for the purchase of a new truck. When a new truck is actually purchased, the Town’s portion of the payment will be \$25,000.00/year, in addition to the regular running expenses of the department. Mr. Gilchrest said he felt both amounts were too much and would vote “no” on the 2011 budget. The final budget also contained increases for state retirement in the amount of \$10,000.00, as the amount for 2012 is going up dramatically and Supervisor Pitts did not want to get hit all at once with the amount. That means contractual DA5142.4 and DB9010.8 will both be reduced by \$5,000.00 each. The amount for dog control will increase by \$400.00 to \$3,400.00 and cemeteries will reduce by \$1,500.00 to the current \$3,000.00. Town Clerk A1410.1A will decrease by \$400.00 to the current \$3,000.00 and Garage A5132.4 will decrease by \$3,000.00 to the current \$17,000.00. **Resolution #53** introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to adopt the 2011 budget as presented with the above increases and decreases. Roll call vote: Councilman Harold Gilchrest-No; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Joe Wever-Yes; Councilwoman Dottie Schneider-Yes; Supervisor Pitts-Yes Passed 4-1.

Town Council Election Seat-Supervisor Pitts reported that currently there is a tie between incumbent board member, Bruce Ferguson, and Jeffrey Harrison after all absentees were counted. There are still three military ballots out which have to be postmarked by November 1st, 2010, and received at the Board of Elections by November 24th, 2010 in order to be counted. If any are received or none are received and there is still a tie after November 24th, the Town Board has to appoint someone at the organizational meeting in January--as was done last year when Councilman Ferguson was appointed. Commissioners of Elections Leslie Allen and Jeffrey Curtis will notify Supervisor Pitts on or after November 24th!

Organizational Meeting-Set for Wednesday, January 5th, 2011,* @ Town Office before regular Town Board meeting. Note change to first Wednesday of the month, as Supervisor Pitts will be in the hospital.

Next Meeting-Wednesday, December 8th, 2010, with public hearing on Local Law #1 of 2010 at 7:00 p.m. preceding regular monthly meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk

(*Note: Organizational Meeting will be changed to **Thursday, January 6th, 2011**; same place and time.)

