

TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 10, 2010 MEETING

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

Others Present: Bob Graham-Fire Chief; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Joe Boisclair-Highway Dep't.; Cheryl Baldwin-Georgi Museum; Mo Patrick-Planning Board; Al Cormier-Historian; Herb Perkins-Youth Commission; Jessica Barrett-Animal Control Officer

6:30 - Review & signing of warrants & abstracts for approval and payment

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

Minutes of February 10, 2010 were approved by motion from Councilman Joe Wever ; seconded by Dottie Schneider to accept minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest; seconded by Joe Wever to review and pay Highway Abstracts; Warrants to be paid as presented – Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Department Report presented by Chief Robert Graham; report attached to minutes.

Courthouse-Donna Farringer reported that Justin Rushinski has fixed a small leak in the back of courthouse. Received \$1,250.00 in matching funds from Stewart's and \$5,000.00 from the Shop off Broadway. History month continuing in the great hall with a self-guided tour and historical displays including artifacts from both the Town and Village. The first two lectures were very well attended with the last lecture scheduled for March 18th with Marcia Reiss from Shushan. March 26-27-28, the play 'Steel Magnolias' will be presented.

On Friday, April 9th, a slate stone auction will be held, with painting on slates done by many local artists as well as students from Salem Central School. Approximately sixty slates have been handed out. Auctioneer Ron Seifert will be on hand to conduct the auction so this should be a fun evening. Talent trials will be held on April 10 and 11 and on Sunday, April 18, the Chamber Music Series thru LARAC will begin. The quarterly newsletter w/brochure has been mailed out.

Highway Department-Joe Boisclair reported that an employee had quit before the last snow storm and an ad had been placed in local papers indicating the need for help. Supervisor Pitts helped out by plowing with the smaller truck and plow and was initiated quickly in the art of snowplowing! Truck accident w/Bob Brilyea on Bogtown/Scotts Lake Road during recent snowstorm, with plow truck tipping over. Minimal damage sustained and driver was unhurt. Currently working on holes on Quarry Road, helping

Village DPW with projects there. Joe and Supervisor Pitts attended Legislative Day in Albany recently to lobby for CHIPS monies. Unless notified otherwise, CHIPS monies will remain the same as last year. Will Linendoll installed box on side of building at a cost of \$200.00 so fire department will be able to obtain fuel from Town.

Georgi Museum-Cheryl Baldwin reported that buildings will be opened on April 10 and water will be turned on. An adult painting class is beginning on April 20 for six weeks. Clean-up day will be May 1st with possibility that Herb Perkins and some of the youth commission students will be helping out. Painting of buildings thru Alternative Sentencing will hopefully begin sometime in May or June. The Georgi is on the list. She is trying to get the paint donated or at least purchased at a discount. (Mowing bids will be opened at the end of the meeting.)

Planning Board-Mo Patrick reported that there has been an application received for a solar panel on Fleming Lane and a sign request for a day care on County Route 64 next to the pizza sign. Both should be heard at the upcoming March meeting.

Animal Control Officer-Jessica Barrett reported that she had picked up one dog, found the owner and everything was O.K. Had some problems on Shushan road with reports of dogs running loose. Working on that problem w/Town Clerk, Pat Gilchrist. Hebron Town Board has agreed to pay for half the cost of Jessica's rabies shots. Resolution #14 made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest that Salem pick up the other half of the cost of rabies shots for the dog control officer. Passed unanimously.

Historian Report-Al Cormier reported that Lucy Mondo, a niece of William & Julia McKee, past Salem residents, recently donated a beautiful oil portrait of Julia to the Courthouse; it is hanging in the Archives Room. Other information in historian's report attached to minutes. Supervisor Pitts thanked Al for coming in the Town Office to help clear out and archive paperwork. This has been a big help. Some discussion of the microfilm reader and the possibility of donating to the library if they want the same. The current trend in from microfilming to digitalizing records. Will check with librarian, Peg Culver re the machine.

Comprehensive Plan-Dottie Schneider reports that the next meeting will be held March 11, 2010 @ 7 pm; public hearing will be scheduled for March 29, 2010 on the grant.

Salem Area Youth Assn., Inc.-Herb Perkins reported that a meeting was held last night and that he has been sending out many e-mails. The ski-snowboard club had a great season and the kids loved the program. Additional insurance to run the program was provided from the Town of Salem. An action plan is being developed with the kids; many are interested in helping animals so there is already a plan in the works to assist

Jessica Barrett, DCO for the town. Town wide clean-up is planned for April 24th and the kids will help with that as well as with clean-up at the Georgi in Shushan, if needed.

Page 3

March 10, 2010 Minutes

Youth have already been working at SAW. There will be a table tennis tournament at the courthouse on March 13th, with grades K-5; 6-8 and 9-adult levels competing. Trophies will be given out for first and second place winners in each age group. The youth organized the tournament themselves.

Mike Grey, Supervisor Pitts, Mayor Dunigan, Paul Kobyluch, Stephanie Randles and Herb had meeting regarding the summer swim program. No guarantee w/Hebron Camp. Need an assessment of how many children will be attending @ Lake Lauderdale for swim program, as Megan Wilkins will be meeting with the Health Department to determine how many could be at the beach at one time. There will also be hiking and arts and crafts in addition to the swim program. Lunch n Learn would be extended to go all day. 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Kids would leave Lake Lauderdale for Salem if involved in Lunch n Learn program, which would run from 11:30-5:00 p.m. This program would involve children in the Salem Central School district, but Hebron residents would have to get their children to Salem to be bused to the swim program. There will be no cost to the taxpayer other than what is currently budgeted.

Correspondence

Supervisor Pitts stated he had received a letter from the Washington County Advisory Council on Historic Preservation indicating the council has selected the Historic Salem Courthouse Preservation Association as an award recipient with respect to their major preservation efforts and the many efforts of the courthouse to encourage historic preservation in Washington County. The award will be given on Friday, May 21st, at 10 am in the Supervisors' Chambers in Fort Edward and will be presented to the association by Supervisor Pitts. There will be an awards reception following the ceremony.

Received notice from Alliance Investments that \$2,300.00 had been deposited into the Georgi account.

Public Comment

Jay Bellanca reported that he is working with Google on a pilot program for much-needed high speed internet for the Town of Salem.

OLD BUSINESS:

Computer Software for Town Clerk-Up and running and Clerk, Pat Gilchrist reported that it was much quicker for dog licensing, monthly reports, keeping track of dump sticker sales, deaths and marriages. Full-day of training was conducted by the BAS software system in the office and new things are being learned every day.

Town wide Cleanup Day-Will be held on Saturday, April 24th. Supervisor Pitts will coordinate with Willie Grimke from the county. Cleanup crews to meet at highway barn on Rexleigh Road @ 9 am. Help from boy scouts and youth association expected.

NEW BUSINESS

Highway-Truck Repairs-Resolution #15 introduced by Council member Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to pay bill for repairs on highway department truck per the new procurement policy. Carried unanimously.

Investment Policy-Supervisor Pitts e-mailed to all council members prior to meeting. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest to table for this month so paperwork could be reviewed and action taken at April meeting. Passed unanimously.

Phone System Contract-also e-mailed to all council members prior to meeting. Must enter into a two-year contract; Cornerstone was cheaper than Verizon by a little more than \$20.00 per month. Supervisor Pitts had contacted Time Warner with no response forthcoming. Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson to accept the bid of Cornerstone for the contract term of two years @ \$66.87 for phone and \$69.90 for DSL service. Passed unanimously. Proposal will be attached to minutes.

Resolution #4-Clerk Pat Gilchrist advised that Real Property called and needed part of Resolution #4 from the organizational meeting of January 4, 2010 revised to include the exact dates of appointment of Neil Adams to the Board of Assessment Review. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson to state: The term of Mr. Adams expired on September 30, 2009, as he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Charles Gilchrist from April 11, 2006-September 30, 2009. Neil Adams was appointed to serve his own five-year term beginning October 01, 2009 thru September 30, 2014. Motion carried unanimously and Clerk Gilchrist will send revised copy of Organizational Meeting minutes to Real Property.

Year to Date Finances-Supervisor Pitts reported that the general account is currently \$82,000.00 under budget per reports submitted by Clerk to Supervisor Kathleen Chambers. Good news!!

Dog Law Policy-Currently being reviewed by Town Attorney, Alan Wrigley. Changes will be made if necessary. Jessica Barrett will work with Attorney Wrigley on the changes.

Unemployment Insurance-Resolution #16 to move \$3,000.00 from Personnel (DA5142.1) to Unemployment (DA9050.8) was made by Councilman Joe Wever; seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider. Carried 4-1 with Councilman Harold Gilchrest voting against.

Opening Georgi Mowing Bids-Four bids received from Peter Baldwin, Barrett's Ark (Chris Barrett), Ron Harrington and Ralph Woods. Councilman Harold Gilchrest did comparison sheets broken down the between four bidders. Clerk Gilchrist will attach copies to the minutes. Discussion re all the breakdown costs and motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever to accept the bid of Peter Baldwin for the current mowing season of 2010. His cost of full mowing and trimming is \$88.00 per mowing, with spring clean-up cost between \$18.50-\$28.00 per hour depending on using his lawn vacuum bagger; fall clean-up cost the same as Spring, depending on what does and doesn't need mowing at the time. Familiar with what needs to be done as he did the grounds in 2009. Cheryl Baldwin will contact Peter to let him know he will be doing the work. Clerk Gilchrist will send letters to other bidders thanking them for submitting bids.

Next Meeting-Will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, @ 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office. (Abstracts and Warrants to be reviewed before the meeting @ 6:30 pm.)

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist
Town Clerk