

## **TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 15, 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; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Historian-Al Cormier; Bob Graham-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't.  
Absent: Town Highway Sup't. Joe Boisclair; DCO Jessica Barrett  
Public Present: Ashleigh Farrell of Eagle Newspaper

6:30-Review & signing of warrants #7 & highway abstract #7 for approval and payment  
7:00-Meeting called to order by Supervisor Pitts, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Review of minutes from June 09, 2010 meeting. Motion made by Councilman, Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to accept minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.

After review of warrants and highway abstract, motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to pay warrants #7 and highway abstract #7 as presented. Passed unanimously.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Fire Department-** Report given by Chief, Bob Graham indicating 10 fire calls for the month of June, 2010; installed 5" hose on attack 441; held driver training obstacle course in school parking lot; set up month of June for July 4<sup>th</sup> carnival. Total training hours for the year: 6804. Annual hose testing will be done July 17, 2010. If hose doesn't pass, it gets thrown away. All 4" hose is now out of service and has been replaced with 5" hose. Report will be filed with minutes.

**Courthouse-** Donna Farringer reported that 108 children have enrolled in Lunch, Learn n Play, which is held Monday-Friday after swimming @ Lake Lauderdale. Lunch is served @ approximately 11:30-12:00 with activities in the afternoons until 5:30 p.m. Courthouse sponsored a float in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. The Mettawee River Theatre Group will have a display of its large puppets in the great hall for the month of July; be sure to stop in and see what the Group has done. Dottie Schneider has been very busy keeping up the community garden in the back of the Courthouse grounds; much bounty has been harvested from her work! Not all Al Fresco dinner tickets have been sold yet but going very fast; brunch tickets going well, too. All pottery classes being held @ courthouse are full.

On Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, @ 8 p.m. there will be a showing of the very popular hit movie, 'The Sound of Music', on the side lawn, sponsored by the PTA and the Youth Association. Come dressed in costume and sing along with your favorite tunes!

**Highway Department**- Supervisor Pitts informed the board that paving of Perry Hill Road would begin on Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, from the other side of Smiths past Rascher's. Deputy Ed Morrison has resigned as Deputy Superintendent, effective September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. He will stay on in the highway department just not as deputy.

Camden Valley Creek Work-Joe Driscoll from Soil & Water gave permission for work to be done, permit issued and work has been completed.

Dirt Roads-How many dirt roads in Town of Salem? Will any be paved in future? Probably not due to cost. We will be receiving \$ 120,000.00 in September, once the project is completed and all necessary forms have been filed.

**Georgi Museum**-Cheryl Baldwin reported that volunteers are all lined up for Sundays during the season that the museum is be open--from 2-4 p.m., beginning on June 20, 2010. There will be a concert every Sunday in August from 4-6 p.m. made possible, in part, with funds received from the LARAC grant. First concert-August 1-Zuela; August 8-Dirty Old Strings; August 15-OBQ; August 22-Lila Brown & Friends; August 29-Richie & Lynne Bittner. All concerts begin @ 4pm w/tickets available at door for \$5.00 each; \$10.00 per family. There has been a Young Writer's Workshop that began on June 30, 2010, continuing for five weeks, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Exercise class meets two times per week; Mettawee Theatre Company will perform two different weeks and a 'Shakespeare in the Park' program will be held.

**Repair to the Bank**-Spot where Cynthia Browning indicated needed fixing will begin when Superintendent Boisclair gets back from vacation. Joe Driscoll from Soil & Water has already inspected the spot; he will be contacted and a permit will be issued for whatever work needs to be done.

The alarm inside the Museum keeps going off; very sensitive. Cheryl is contacted first on two phones; Councilman Harold Gilchrest second on two phones and then the Town Office.

**Planning Board**-Mo Patrick reported that there is currently one sub-division on Quarry Road for review and one site plan application for house on Black Creek Road. Bill Eberle has submitted his letter of resignation as Planning Board Clerk. Since this is a paid position, a motion was made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to post the position by putting an ad in the Eagle newspaper. Passed unanimously.

**Historian's Report**-Al Cormier came late due to another meeting beforehand. Report was provided and e-mailed to all board members prior to meeting. Some items of interest: Al's civil war letter article has been published in the Washington County Historical Society's Annual Journal for 2010. Also, a lengthy article by Bill Krattinger features Salem's distinctive architecture. The front and back cover of the magazine are of the McClellan-Gariepy funeral home. On July 12, Al spoke to the Lunch, Learn n Play group, dressed up as General John Williams, to explain what 18<sup>th</sup> century life in Salem

was like. St. Paul's Episcopal Church celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 27, 2010. An update of the historical homes in the Village of Salem will be undertaken by Bill

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Krattinger, of the State Historic Preservation Office. This hasn't been done since 1975. Full report provided by Al will be attached to the minutes.

**DCO Report**-Jessica Barrett absent. Supervisor Pitts reported that there were two different incidences/attacks by a pig from the game farm.

**Comprehensive Plan**-Dottie Schneider reported that the Ag Plan is still being reviewed at the County level. She hopes that the public meeting can be held in August. August meeting will be held at the Salem Town Office, August 9, 2010, from 7-9 p.m.

**Salem Area Youth Assn., Inc.**-No report. Youth Assn. meeting postponed until Aug.

**Correspondence**-\$8,400.00 in sales tax monies received from County. Supervisor Pitts has received a report from the County Treasurer showing revenue and expenses for the first six-months of 2010 and will be available for anyone who wishes to review the same.

**Public Comment**-None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Property Purchase**-Property at corner of Route 22 and Archibald Street and adjacent to the Revolutionary War Cemetery has been purchased from the County for \$739.00; check has already been sent. Quit-Claim deed should arrive from the County late July, early August on the new property. There is no title work done by the County on any tax sale parcels before they are conveyed. Also, there is currently no deed into either the Village or the Town for the Revolutionary War cemetery property that already exists. Clerk, Pat Gilchrist, spoke with Town Att'y. Alan Wrigley, and he suggested that Real Property be contacted to see what they could find out. Clerk Gilchrist had already talked to Bill McCarty and they had no notes about deed transfers in their card file. He will have Bob Besanceney investigate the title to see what he can find out. An 'Action to Quiet Title' could be done by the very fact that cemetery law states when a cemetery is abandoned, its upkeep becomes the responsibility of the Town. A Supreme Court Judge would sign the action and at least there would be a legal document stating that the Town owned the property. This might be an option depending on what Real Property finds out. Survey of both parcels could be an option for sometime in the future; would probably be quite expensive.

Superintendent Joe Boisclair and his highway crew will clean up the lot in fall of 2010.

**Black Creek Road Speed Limit**-Request made thru County DPW that the speed limit from the intersection of McKinney Road onto Black Creek and from Black Creek Road

to Route 29 be reduced from 55 to 40 mph. Clerk Gilchrist has filed the requested TE9A form with Superintendent Willy Grimmke @ Washington County DPW. DPW also requested an excerpt from the minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting indicating the Flagg's con-

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cerns and showing the resolution, with voting outcome, which was passed at that meeting. Done and mailed by Clerk Pat Gilchrist. That letter and the TE9A will be mailed to the Department of Transportation; Regional Traffic Engineer @ 128 State Street; Schenectady, NY. 12305

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Lockbox Contents**-Deed to property on Rexleigh Road from County of Washington -to- Town of Salem; deed from Kenneth R. Tracy-to- Town of Salem; County of Washington -to-Town of Salem (Courthouse Property); County of Washington -to- Town of Salem (Medical Center property); Wayne A. Szucs & Valerie J. Szucs -to- Town of Salem (Rexleigh Road property w/policy of title insurance); and Marine Midland Bank, as Executor of the Estate of Jesse Glen Georgi -to- the Georgi Museum & Park Center and the Town of Salem (Georgi Property); copy of recorded deed from Gerald A. Ennis -to- Town of Salem (from July 17, 1950). The above was all that was in the lock box.

**Software Requirements**-The Clerk to the Supervisor, Kathleen Chambers, will need a whole new system to keep the town up-to-date. At present, she is still using her personal computer to do all the town work and the state is really frowning upon this system. She currently uses QuickBooks to keep track of Town finances. This will be the major project for next year. The Highway Department also needs updating to be able to keep track of equipment.

**Fire Contract Update**-As discussed previously, the Village year runs from June 1, 2010-May 31, 2011. \$81,900.00 was given last year and the Village would want at least that much with a percentage of increase for expenses. The Village has also set up a Capital Reserve Fund for equipment purchase, and the Town could contribute to that fund if they so choose. Get in writing exactly what the increase in expenses will be for next year.

**County Updates**-The Town of White Creek has passed a resolution on wood-burning furnaces for summer months. The resolution indicates that it is o.k. to burn wood **only**, no plastic, garbage, cardboard, etc. Is this something Salem should think about?

**Resolution #27**-Introduced by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, second by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to transfer the sum of \$1,000.00 from DB5110.4 General Repairs -to- DB9050.8 Unemployment to cover the balance due on unemployment bill. Resolution #27 passed unanimously (5-0).

**Resolution #28**-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to transfer \$2,500.00 from A1990.4 Contingency to replenish the following amounts: A1620.4 TC computer-\$ 1200.00, A3510.4 Dog Warden- \$200.00, A3510.4

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Board of Assessment Review- \$ 300.00 and A1620.4 Property Purchase \$ 800.00.  
Resolution #28 passed unanimously (5-0).

**Financial Updates**-Monthly (June 2010) reports of Supervisor to the Town were provided for signature by the Board for the Georgi Museum (receipts & disbursements); Town of Salem Highway (receipts and disbursements); Town of Salem-General (receipts & disbursements); and receipt of interest on the Courthouse account in the amount of \$4.98. Review and signed by Town Council.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist  
Town Clerk