

TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 09, 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; Mo Patrick-Planning Board; Historian-Al Cormier; Herb Perkins-Salem Youth Commission; Bob Graham-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't.; DCO-Jessica Barrett; Assessor-Jean McLenithan; Aide to Assessor-Amy McLenithan

Absent: Town Highway Sup't. Joe Boisclair(@ school in Ithaca)

Public Present: Cynthia Browning from Batten Kill Watershed Alliance; Judy & Ken Flagg; Supervisor Alan Brown from Jackson; Bill McCarty from Wash. Co. Real Property; Ashleigh Farrell of Eagle Newspaper

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

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

Review of minutes from May 12, 2010 meeting. Motion made by Councilwoman, Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to accept minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.

After review of warrants and abstract, motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to pay warrants #6 and highway abstract #6 as presented. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Department- Report given by Chief, Bob Graham indicating 9 fire calls for the month of May, 2010; one graduate of FF1 Class with 91 hours of training; hydrant training w/Hebron Fire Dep't.; pump training for younger members of dep't.; some driver training and SCBA w/mayday and accountability training. 600' of five inch hose ordered to replace old 4" hose. Chicken Bar-B-Que sold out on Memorial Day. Total training for the month: 706 hrs.; 6090 hrs. for the year. Report will be filed with minutes.

Courthouse-Donna Farringer reported that Memorandum of Understanding had been reviewed with Councilman Bruce Ferguson present. In checking with the Courthouse Board, their legal counsel, insurance company, and Roger Wickes, Wash. Co. Attorney, all were in agreement that the Town of Salem could not turn the Courthouse over to the association for \$1.00 as previously discussed. Association of Town attorneys had also talked with Supervisor Pitts and told him that the Courthouse would have to be offered for sale at fair market value. That being the case, turning over from the Town to the Courthouse Board will not be happening soon. However, the Memorandum of Understanding still has issues that need to be addressed as the Village was a signer when the original was drawn up and they do not mow or do any of the upkeep as the original

MOU indicates. There is currently a 23-year lease agreement between the Town and the HSCPA commencing January 1, 2007 and running until December 31, 2023.

June 4th, the day for planting the community garden at the Courthouse with children from Salem Central School, went very well. Sen. Betty Little and Rep. Tony Jordan were present, and well as Supervisor Pitts and Councilman Joe Wever. Talent trials were held on June 05, 2010 @ Fort Salem Theatre and \$1,600.00 was raised. Tickets went on sale on Monday, June 7th, for the eighth annual Al Fresco Dinner and Brunch to be held on Saturday, July 24th and Sunday, July 25th. Dinner tickets are available at a cost of \$50.00 each. The Chefs' Brunch will cost \$25.00 per ticket. Fresh local produce and arts and crafts items will be on sale on Sunday. So far, approximately 240 of the 400 dinner tickets have been sold and 97 brunch tickets sold.

Lunch, Learn 'n Play will begin on Monday, July 5th, with 90 children signed up so far. This will be an afternoon program after swimming @ Lake Lauderdale. Lunch will be served, with Supervisor Pitts doing the cooking!

Highway Department- Supervisor Pitts reported that a mine safety inspection was conducted and Salem passed. Still waiting for notification on CHIPS monies.

Georgi Museum- Cheryl Baldwin reported that the summer season has begun and the museum is open two hours every Sunday from 2-4 pm beginning June 20, 2010. A five-week young writer's studio program will begin on June 30, 2010, from 8 am-12 pm.

Cynthia Browning, from the Batten Kill Watershed Alliance, spoke about repairing the eroded pedestrian access point on the banks of the Battenkill. Trout Unlimited and Battenkill Conservancy could also help. More large stones are needed that will hopefully prevent washout during high water. Maybe the Town could provide some help and a truck when the work is commenced? Foot traffic could be diverted to another area of the grounds for river access which is ledge. Shushan Fire Department could continue to fill their tanks as most traffic would be diverted from where they presently fill. People from DEC will be in area later checking out work on 313 and @ Jay Skellie's so they will check out this project. Councilman Joe Wever still prefers something in writing from DEC saying that they are in agreement with the work to be done and that permits are **not** necessary to do this work. He pointed out that in the past the Village was fined for doing work that they were told wouldn't require a permit; he doesn't want to see the Town get in a similar situation. Since it is such a small project, probably Joe Driscoll of Soil and Water Conservation will be overseeing. Councilman Butch Gilchrest will be the contact person.

Planning Board- Mo Patrick reported that there are currently two site plans for review and one sub-division. The Planning Board has a draft revision of the mobile home regulations and all board members have a copy to review. Town attorney, Alan Wrigley, will also need to review.

Historian's Report-Al made a sign for the Cleveland Cemetery as his contact person is no longer making signs. Al reported that a tour bus of about forty people from the Princetown Hour Glass Seniors visited the historical exhibit at the Courthouse Community Center on May 26th. There was a talk about the Courthouse, followed by a stroll down East Broadway looking at historical homes, including a visit to McCartee's Barn. Lunch was served @ Gardenworks then back to Black Creek Valley Creamery for dessert. A good time was had by all. Full report will be attached to minutes.

DCO Report-Jessica Barrett reported that on May 3rd she picked up a one-year old beagle with an injured leg on Black Creek Road. The dog had Lyme disease and needs neutering. On May 7th a dog bite incident occurred on Rte. 153 with a seven-month old child. The dog will be put down. On May 15th, two dogs were reported running loose on Archibald Street; dogs were caught and put back in their pen. May 21st a woman in a car on County Route 64 was bit by a rabid raccoon. On May 26th a dog bit his owner but everything is now O.K. Pit bull running loose on Route 64; couldn't catch the dog and assume it is now back with the owner. She has a two-year old lab mix that will need to be spayed. Lyme bill will cost \$98.00 and spaying of two-year old will be \$90.00. No more money currently left in the budget. Could fundraisers be done thru Jess's not-for-profit?

Comprehensive Plan-Dottie Schneider reports that the public meeting on the Ag portion of the Comprehensive Plan was held on Monday, June 07, 2010, at the Courthouse. The Draft Plan will be sent to the County for comments and approval. Probably a public hearing sometime in August. No meeting in July. August meeting back to regular schedule of second Monday of the month--August 9, 2010 from 7-9 pm.

Salem Area Youth Assn., Inc.-Herb Perkins reported that Willie Linendoll, Jr. sold spaces at the Courthouse for the town wide tag sale--\$10.00 with a table, \$5.00 without. 'Make a Splash' will be conducted from July 8-August 12, 2010 @ the library thru Susan Getty. Pro tennis player, Roland LeBlanc, will be offering free tennis lessons to 8-12 year olds in two different sessions beginning in July. Registration forms will be available @ school.

Lunch, Learn n Play Program--Jr. High students can sign up to help and high school students can become counselors. Registration for 'Foot on the Grass' will be held @ Proudfit Hall on May 21st, 2010 for soccer camp to be held from July 19-23, 2010 for 7-12 year old age groups.

Harvest Fest, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, and to be held in September of 2010, with Youth Association members taking part. Talking about a scavenger hunt, corn maze and dancing.

Summer Swim/Lunch, Learn n Play will be starting on July 5th from 11:30am-5:30 pm, after swimming lessons @ Lake Lauderdale. Lunch will be provided. Nutrition people will be coming in to speak with many other programs for the kids throughout the summer. Any monies left over in town program will be going to Lunch, Learn n Play.

The Shoppe Off Broadway is still contributing, also, but there is currently a shortfall of about \$7,000.00. Herb is looking at grants. Supervisor Pitts will be meeting with Superintendent, Karrie Piemme, at Salem Central School re cost of the bus runs. Mike Grey from the County will be able to get about \$500.00 for the program.

Public Comment-Judy & Ken Flagg were present and spoke as concerned residents living on Black Creek Road. Judy pointed out that now with Battenkill Creamery open there is much more traffic than there used to be and the speed limit needs to be lowered. There was a petition presented to the Board in January of 2008 and a letter and the petition was sent by the County to the State, but the request for the speed limit reduction was denied NYS Department of Transportation. Judy handed out copies of that letter to those present. Judy said she could probably get more signatures on a new petition. Supervisor Brown commented that a strong recommendation would be needed from the County Highway Superintendent to the State. Councilman Harold Gilchrest introduced Resolution #23 in support of a speed limit reduction at the intersection of McKinney Road where it meets Black Creek Road and from Black Creek Road to State Route 29, with a second by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider. Passed unanimously. Supervisor Pitts will contact Willie Grimkie to see what needs to be done in the way of paperwork. The Flagg's thanked the Board for their efforts.

OLD BUSINESS:

Village Gas Project-Finally completed!

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 in 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 what exactly is the increase in expenses for next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reevaluation Update-Bill McCarty, director of Washington County Office of Real Property, gave hand-outs to everyone and spoke about the pros and cons of doing a re-val. He said reassessments were needed when the assessment roll is inequitable or non-uniform. He explained how uniformity of assessments is determined and answered questions when asked. Bill explained that a re-val would not generate more revenue, affect the veteran's exemptions, state aid to schools or county tax apportionment. Reevaluations do redistribute the tax burden and provide better equity among the taxable parcels. Cost would be a factor and could run between \$45-\$60.00/parcel. Salem has approximately 1740 taxable parcels and the cost could run \$60,000.00 and upward; this could, however, be paid over a three-year period. Assessor Jean McLenithan asked Bill several questions, as well as various board members and Supervisor Brown. The board

thanked Mr. McCarty for taking the time to come to the meeting and for his input and will be discussing this topic in the future.

Health Insurance-Looking at other companies besides Capital for employee coverage.

Tax Property Sale-The lot adjoining the Revolutionary War Cemetery on the corner of Route 22 and Archibald Street is up for County taxes. Supervisor Pitts has been in contact with County Treasurer, Phyllis Cooper, indicating our interest in purchasing the property. The County will take what is due in back taxes. No bids were forthcoming at the sale so the County took the parcel off the delinquent roll. Supervisor Pitts asked for a resolution allowing the purchase of this lot. Councilman Bruce Ferguson introduced Resolution #24 to bid on or to purchase this piece of property for no more than \$800.00, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever. Passed unanimously.

Dog Monies-Resolution #25 introduced by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to transfer \$200.00 from A1620.4 Supplies to Dog Contractual A3510.4 to cover the costs of the Lyme disease treatment and the spaying of the female dog. Passed unanimously.

Board of Assessment Review-Resolution #26 introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson to transfer \$300.00 from A1620.4 Supplies to A1355.4 Assessor Contractual to pay Board of Assessment Review members-Chair, Tauno Wirkki, and members Neil Adams and Robert Hunter (\$100.00 each). Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist
Town Clerk