

**TOWN OF SALEM BUDGET MEETING & TOWN BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 13, 2010
GEORGI COMMUNITY ROOM – SHUSHAN, NY 12873**

Present: Supervisor, Seth Pitts; Town Council Members Harold Gilchrest, Joe Wever, Bruce Ferguson, Dottie Schneider; Town Clerk Patricia Gilchrist
Others Present: Cheryl Baldwin-Georgi Museum; Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Al Cormier-Historian; Bob Graham-Salem Vol. Fire. Fire Dep't.; Tom Cassidy-Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't.
Absent: Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Jessica Barrett-DCO
Public Present: Jeff Harrison; Marcia Reiss; Tony Smigelski; Lisa Otey; Anita Witten; Joan & John Lowe; Gail & Tom Bearup; Jennifer Waite-Harsha from the 'Eagle'

6:25pm-Supervisor Pitts called budget meeting to order while council reviewed Warrants #10 and Highway Abstract #10. Answers to questions posed at prior budget workshop meeting were answered by Clerk to Supervisor, Kathleen Chambers, and Supervisor Pitts e-mailed the answers to all board members, the town clerk and the town attorney. Motion to accept the tentative budget of September 27th, 2010, as amended was made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever. Roll call vote taken: Supervisor Pitts-Yes; Councilman Gilchrest-Yes; Councilman Wever-Yes; Councilman Ferguson-Yes; Councilwoman Schneider-Yes. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to accept both sets of minutes from September 27th and October 5th budget workshop meetings. Passed unanimously. Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to close this budget workshop meeting and proceed to the regular monthly meeting of the Town Board. Passed unanimously.

7:00 pm-Regular monthly meeting called to order by Supervisor Pitts, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Review of minutes from September 08, 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 highway abstract, motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to pay warrants #10 and highway abstract #10 as presented. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Salem Fire Department- Report provided by Chief, Bob Graham-seventeen calls for month of September--2 alarm activations & 1-house investigation in Village of Salem; 4-Town of Salem(1-corn chopper fire; 1-vehicle fire; 1-mv accident; 1-priority one echo call); 2-Mutual Aid calls to Cossayuna(1-water rescue and 1-first responder overdose call); 3-mutual aid calls to Hebron(2-mva's; 1-structure fire); 4-mutual aid calls to Rupert(2-mva's; 1-standby;1-forest fire); 1-mutual aid call to structure fire in Shushan. Nine members attended bon fire school; 9 members attended moving water awareness school; 8 members did standby at Salem Art Works for Harvest Fest; 8 members did standby for Cossayuna for their 60th anniversary; 16 members did military escort for Soldier Charte; One attended woman's conference in Montour Falls. Held drill @ A & J Agway using fire hydrant and tankers--flow was about 104,000 gallons in about 50 min. from fire hydrant. Other departments attended drill.

Chief Graham reported that the tank on one of the trucks is leaking in three places and isn't sure how long the truck can remain in service--probably not another year. The Town's cost for a new truck would be approximately \$25,000.00 per year to start, depending on the cost of the new truck and the down-payment. Price range for a new truck is about \$400,000-\$450,000.00. Chief Graham said repairs had been considered but there were so many to be done that it would not be cost efficient to refurbish the whole truck. The fire contracts with both the Village of Salem and the Shushan Fire Department are the crux of the 2011 budget process. Fax protection tax rates will increase depending on what fire protection district you live in. Supervisor Pitts wants input from the residents and hopes people will respond through Face Book or the Town website.

Shushan Fire Department-Chief Tom Cassidy reported that there were 6 calls for month of September, 2010--2 structure fires in Camden Valley and a CO call. Did training w/Salem & Cambridge Fire Departments to the total of 200 hours.

Courthouse-President Dottie Schneider reported that the 'Haunted Courthouse' would begin this weekend and continues for the next two weekends through Halloween night.

Highway Department- Sup't. Joe Boisclair reported that the widening of Steele Road by the Pataki house, which is sorely needed in order to plow in the winter months, is now completed and the road is much better. He and the highway crew replaced the floor on sander themselves and saved the Town a lot of money in repairs. \$122,622.39 in CHIPS money received. Will be cleaning out the lot in front of the Revolutionary War Cemetery on corner of Main and Archibald with the highway crew as soon as the leaves fall.

Georgi Museum-Cheryl Baldwin reported that 'Gems of the Georgi' art sale held in September was received very well; over 200 people attended. The show was very expensive to run. Mixed media workshop, led by Dawne Polis, is going very well. Will be winterizing buildings in late November, early December. Exercise class will be moving then, also. Roof on museum need repair, the slate walkway needs replacing as it gets very slippery and some trees need to be removed. Money will be requested from the principal of the Trust.

Planning Board-Mo Patrick reported that Kimberly Erbe has taken over as the new Clerk. One site plan for a garage and one sub-division to review at the next regular meeting.

Historian's Report- Al Cormier reported that he has now completed a library of local history books for anyone who is interested in reading about our local history. Al is also looking for anyone who know or might have information on "Socco" Wurm, Bessie's son. There is a biographer, doing baseball research, interested in talking to anyone from the area who knew Socco.

DCO Report-Report provided by Jessica. She indicated that the Schoolhouse Road incident involving a female w/pups in Shushan has been resolved. One dog impoundment fee turned in to the Town Clerk and that issue was resolved. Report will be filed.

Comprehensive Plan-County still has not reviewed the Ag plan so there is no report.

Salem Area Youth Assn., Inc.-Dottie Schneider reported that a meeting was held on October 12, 2010 and plans were being finalized for the 501 (c) (3) status.

Correspondence

BAN renewed for the Courthouse for another year in the amount of \$20,008.53.

Supervisor Pitts received a letter from Molly Turlish, niece of Mary Hamlin, Margaret Buffum and Anne Brown, regarding the "Buffum" Bridge (or the Tackle Box Bridge). She is not happy with the new construction design and thinks the same is not in keeping with the area and worries about increased traffic and too much speed. Bridge will be too wide and too big.

Supervisor Pitts informed the board he had received notice the town's NYS Retirement contributions for 2012 would increase by approximately 49%. Asked the board to consider setting aside some money in 2011 so the hit wouldn't be so bad in 2012.

Public Comment-Marcia Reiss spoke about the environmental impact of increased traffic on Buffum's Bridge and she is concerned about the size. She feels the bridge will be too large for the intersection and much too wide--2'-4' wide shoulders on each side of two lanes; there would be a 120' span when re-built. Horizontal bars on the bridge for the railing will make it much easier to jump off and she is worried about increased traffic speed.

Gail & Tom Bearup live on Roberson Road and Gail says the aerial map is incorrect and that the design should be kept to the 'flavor' of the area. All present seem to be concerned about design, size, increased traffic and speed. Tony Smigowski owns camp and says access to the river would be gone re public access and the bridge would be moved closer to his property. People are already crossing his property to access the river. There is also a definite safety issue as traffic moves way too fast.

Residents addressing the Board are in the hopes that Supervisor Pitts will relay their concerns to the county engineers working on the plans. Since the bridge is being paid for by the Federal Gov't., final plans rest with county, state and federal officials. Supervisor Pitts has already shared any letters received and comments made with county engineering officials.

OLD BUSINESS:

Outside Wood Furnaces-Will there be a ban by DEC? Furnaces/stoves may be outlawed depending on age of the unit.

NEW BUSINESS:

Art Damage-There were three pieces of art damaged that were moved into the kitchen of the community room during the recent primary election. From what Supervisor Pitts can gather from talking to the County Board of Elections, no fault can be placed so the burden to reimburse the artists will probably rest with the town. There is an agreement that the town must sign with the Board of Elections for the use of town facilities for primary and general elections that basically holds the county 'harmless'. Town attorney Wrigley advised the Town to wait and see what County Attorney, Roger Wickes, has to say. The town does not pay the election inspectors, the county does.

Town Generator-The town owns the generator currently being housed in the barn the courthouse maintains. The costs are approximately \$1,000-\$1,500.00/year to maintain. The courthouse board would like the generator, worth about \$4,000.00, moved out of the barn. Supervisor Pitts stated that it would be too costly to move the same and there are currently no funds to renovate the barn. It was decided to leave the generator in the barn for now, with the town assuming maintenance of the same.

Dog Licensing-Town Attorney, Alan Wrigley, has drawn up a sample local law for dog control, which has to be in place by January 1, 2011, as NYS is turning licensing of all dogs over to the individual towns on that date. Town Clerk, Patricia Gilchrist, will re-view the paperwork and stay in contact with other Town Clerks to see what they are doing. The local law includes new fees re the licensing of dogs and would be increased from the current fee of \$3.50 for spayed/neutered dogs to \$10.00 and from the current \$11.50 fee for unspayed/unneutered dogs to \$20.00. Some towns are going higher; some lower, but this seems to be the norm that other clerks are going with. Tags will be purchased as any tags left over from NYS Dep't. of Ag & Mkts. on January 1st, 2011, will be obsolete. Public hearing on the local law will be held in December so that it will be in place for selling licenses in January.

Capital Equipment Fund-Supervisor Pitts would like the board to establish a capital reserve fund to be known as the "Highway Equipment Reserve Fund" for the purchase of equipment for the town highway department. Expenditures can be made from the fund only for the purpose for which the reserve fund was established. No expenditures can be made from the fund without the approval of the town board and/or any other actions or proceedings that are required by law, including a permissive referendum if one is required. Pass a resolution to establish the fund at the next regular board meeting. Attorney Wrigley has drawn up a sample resolution for review.

Landfill Closure-The landfill must be monitored as required by the Closure Agreement but maybe testing could be done every other year instead of every year.

Resolution #43-Introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, for a budget increase to reflect monies received from LARAC for Georgi programs:

A510 Estimated Revenues	\$1,037.00
A2770 Georgi	
A960 Appropriations	\$1,037.00
A7450.4 Equipment/Contractual	

Resolution #44-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest to add \$500.00 to Line Item 38, Contractual Expense (Courthouse) A1620.4b, to increase total from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00, for maintenance of the generator owned by the Town and currently stored in the barn at the courthouse. Passed unanimously.

Resolution #45-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to add \$500.00 to Line Item 41, Contractual Expense A1670.4 (under Line Item 40, Central Printing and Mailing) to increase total from \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00. Passed unanimously.

Resolution #46-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to accept the Preliminary Budget with the changes addressed in Resolutions #44 and #45. Supervisor Pitts-Yes; Councilman Gilchrest-Yes; Councilman Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Wever-Yes; Councilwoman Schneider. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to hold the public hearing on the 2011 preliminary budget on November 3rd @ 7:30 pm in the Town Office. Passed unanimously. Clerk Pat Gilchrist will put the legal notice in the 'Eagle' newspaper for two weeks.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever.
Meeting adjourned @ 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist