

TOWN OF SALEM
TOWN BOARD MINUTES-NOVEMBER 13, 2013
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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

Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Supt.; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Al Cormier-Historian; Gail Bearup-Georgi; Jessica Corey-DCO

Public Present: Dorothy Worthington-Hebron Town Clerk; Virginia Curran-Hebron Justice Court; Ashley Morris-Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #12 and Highway Abstract #11 of 2013 for approval and payment

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

Review of minutes from October 09, 2013 regular board meeting, taken by Clerk to the Supervisor, Kathleen Chambers (Town Clerk, Patricia Gilchrist-excused): **Motion** made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to approve the minutes of October 09, 2013 regular board meeting.

Passed unanimously 5-0

Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to note the change of meeting date for the Public Hearing on the 2014 Preliminary Budget and the Salem/Shushan Fire Contracts from November 7, 2013 (as stated in October 09, 2013 minutes and agreed upon at that meeting) to October 23, 2013. The last date to hold the public hearing was November 7, 2013 and not the first date to hold the hearing. Supervisor Pitts contacted all board members and it was agreed that the Public Hearing would be held on October 23, 2013. Association of Towns advised the Supervisor that since no notice had yet been published regarding the Public Hearing, that the date could be changed by contacting all board members to agree on a date and time. Passed unanimously 5-0

Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to accept minutes from October 7, 2013 tentative budget presentation/budget workshop meeting and the October 23, 2013 Public Hearing on the 2014 Salem and Shushan Fire Department Contracts and 2014 Preliminary Budget. Passed unanimously 5-0 on October 7, 2013 minutes and 4-0 on October 23, 2013 Public Hearing (Councilman Harold Gilchrest abstained from voting as he was not present at the October 23, 2013 meeting).

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, **motion** made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to pay Warrants #12 and Highway Abstract #11 of 2013 as presented. Passed unanimously 5-0

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Salem Fire Department- Chief Bob Graham absent. Notice received from Steven Saunders of the Salem Fire Department informing the Board that the department would be sponsoring a bike ride (not a race) on Sunday, June 15, 2014. The ride will be known as **The Salem Tour de Flame Fighters** and will begin and end at the carnival grounds on Archibald Street. There will be three separate rides, with first one beginning at 9:30 am; all rides should be finished by 4:00 pm. Discussion followed that with the fire department now independent, that the Board needs to give approval for such an event. Supervisor Pitts indicated that the letter did not ask for approval from the Board and would be tabled until the December meeting until someone figures out if approval is needed or if formal notification is all that is needed.

Georgi Museum-Director, Gail Bearup, thanked Donna Farringer for her help with the membership appeal, which is currently at \$900.00. Of the \$10,000.00 fund-raising goal for this year, Gail reports that she is \$1,450.00 away from that goal. The Festival of Trees will be held in the museum on December 7th and 14th, with many trees, both live and artificial, to bid on. Gail would like to have a silent auction for the old road signs that Joe Boisclair donated to the Georgi. **Motion** made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to include the signs in the silent auction. Passed unanimously 5-0. They will be

decorated and placed for bidding. Bidding on everything will cease at noon on the 14th. The Museum will be closed down after the Festival of Trees. The paths have all been cleaned by the Salem Highway Department; a big thank-you to Joe Boisclair and his crew. Councilman Harold Gilcrest reported that the laptop is not working properly; Gail has cleaned up and backed up information, but a new one is needed. This will be tabled until Spring.

Courthouse- Donna Farringer congratulated everyone on the election results. Repair on the chimney is now complete; done by Justin Rushinski. Architect had worked to insure that the new chimney is as close as possible to the original, which was constructed in 1869. A big thank-you to Supervisor Seth Pitts and Highway Superintendent Joe Boisclair and his crew for the new sidewalk and crosswalk that has been installed at the Courthouse. This will be so much safer for the Lunch, Learn n Play kids. The Haunted Courthouse was once again a huge success, with record attendance. Plans are already underway for next year. HSCPA Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19th, with a potluck dinner in the Great Hall at 6:00 pm, followed by the annual meeting at 7:00 pm. Debbie Craig will be available on Saturday, November 23rd, at 1:00 pm to entertain with stories and her famous puppets. The Annual Holiday Arts and Craft fair will be held on Saturday, December 7th, from 10 am-2 pm in the Great Hall. There will be a food concession and well as many hand-crafted and unique gifts to purchase for holiday giving. Stop by the kitchen during the arts and craft sale to decorate your own gingerbread man! The house tour scheduled for December 14th has been cancelled due to the lack of necessary homes.

Highway Dept.-Joe Boisclair, Superintendent, reported that all the trucks are ready to go, with plow frames on some of the trucks; all sand has been received. Getting trucks ready for inspection; doing some mowing and working on crosswalk at the Courthouse. Installed signs on McKeighan Lane and Hart Hill in Shushan. Joe reported that he will need a new pick-up truck at some point in the future. He handed out different quotes on what he has been looking at. Supervisor Pitts told Boisclair he needs to find out whose state contract the Town would be purchasing through but that the Town could do nothing until after the first of the year. Boisclair responded that he realized that but would do his due diligence with the paperwork and research the state contract process. Report provided will be filed.

Historian-Al Cormier reported that he had attended the Washington County Historical Society Convention in Granville. Al has taken pictures of all of the flood mitigation work that is being done in the Village and the Town and put them in the archives. A thank-you to Joe Boisclair and the town highway crew for the work they did setting the historic William's Block sign that Al refurbished.

DCO Report-Jessica Corey reported that she has two seized dogs and had investigated two dog bites. An arrest was made and an appearance ticket was issued. Dog bite occurred in the Village when the person tried to separate two dogs that were fighting. Dog found running at large on Route 22 near Quarry Road that apparently has a broken hip. Has e-mailed the Pumpkin Fund to see if any funds are available to help the dog; she will need an amputation or a plate inserted in her hip to keep the leg. Estimated cost for this is \$1,500.00-\$2,000.00. Channel 10 and Steve Caparizo's Pet Connection may want to do a story on her. Report will be filed.

Planning Board-Maurice Patrick, Chairperson, absent. Clerk Pat Gilchrist reported that the meeting for November has been cancelled as nothing has been received for the month. The December meeting will be held on December 12, 2013 due to the Christmas holiday. Applications must be in by November 29, 2013.

Comprehensive Plan-Councilwoman Dottie Schneider says to be ready to discuss at the December meeting since all board members have a copy of the current plan.

Veteran's Park-Dottie Schneider reported that there will be a model made of the Veteran's Park by some of the students at the Courthouse. Looking into the issues involved with re-setting of the trees.

SYO-Herb Perkins absent. Minutes from November 12, 2013 S.A.Y.A. meeting provided. Report will be filed.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Dottie Worthington, Hebron Town Clerk, was present to speak in behalf of their new DCO, Lois Jasek. She said Lois has the perfect set-up at her house with two indoor (and empty) animal kennels; two outdoor (and empty) runs and a heated tack room for winter use. Lois’s dad was a veterinarian and she herself was a Veterinarian’s Assistant. She owns dogs and has a background in horse breeding and training. The Town of Hebron has hired Lois as their DCO. She was the only one who submitted a letter of interest with her qualifications to the Town of Salem and will supply a complete resume upon request. Lois was sole assessor for the Town of Salem for a while a few years back and is familiar with streets and roads in the Town. Current DCO, Jessica Corey, submitted her resignation, citing health reasons, but has been on board until we could find a replacement. Jess will work with Lois to get her certified, etc. **Resolution #54-Motion** made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to hire Lois Anne Jasek as Salem’s new DCO pending Agriculture and Markets approval. Elizabeth Holmes from Ag and Markets will be contacting Jasek soon for the inspection. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

Justice Position-Kevin Baylor, recently elected to the position of Town Justice, spoke briefly and informed the Board that the Village would appoint him as their Justice from January 1 until the Village election in March, 2014. He would run for that position then. He introduced Virginia Curran, current Town of Hebron Justice Clerk. Kevin would like Virginia to be appointed as his clerk for both the Town and Village positions. She has had vast experience in the court system, having worked in the probate court system on Long Island. Her husband is the current Town Justice in Hebron. Virginia spoke briefly and said she would be happy to do the job. Kevin can pick who he wants for the position but the Board has to approve. The Board thanked Virginia for attending and will address this issue at the December meeting. Kevin will be attending Justice School from 12/06-12/11/13.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter received via e-mail and certified mail from Cecilia Thomas, Loans and Grants, Empire State Development on finalizing the Hurricane Irene Flood Mitigation Project. A public hearing, required by the UDC Act, will be held by the Corporation on November 13, from 10:00 am-11:00 am at the Washington County Municipal Center; Room B230; Fort Edward, NY 12828 to consider the general project plan. A copy of the plan with required amounts was attached to the letter. Supervisor Pitts was the only member of the public to attend the meeting after all the uproar by residents about the White Creek mitigation plan.

Insurance Money-Received \$3,038.15 in insurance proceeds for Courthouse.

NEW BUSINESS:

Washington County – 2.6% increase in the County budget for 2014; Supervisor Pitts will vote no on the passage of the 2014 budget.

Sales tax money up by \$6 million.

Economic Development-Hope to bring Barton & Loguidice on board; payable through grant money. Supervisor Pitts spoke to Tom McMorris about being on the committee and John Gibb’s name was also mentioned. Need a committee made up of Town and Village residents.

Alton Knapp-will be at next month’s meeting to finalize plans for flood plain management. Had a conflict with this month’s meeting but he brought in hand-outs for the board. Clerk Gilchrist gave the packets to all board members in preparation of the December meeting.

Resolution #55-Motion introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, for a transfer as follows:

A1910.1 Insurance	\$ 3,038.15	
A1420.4 Attorney		\$ 3038.15
Insurance increase due to new equipment purchases – Passed 5-0		

Resolution #56-Motion introduced by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, for a resolution to establish Supervisor Seth M. Pitts standard work day at six (6) hours per New York State and Local Retirement System. Passed 4-0, with Supervisor Pitts abstaining.

Year-End Meeting-Will be held on Monday, December 30th, @ 6:00 p.m., at the Town of Salem Town Office

Organizational Meeting-Supervisor Pitts asked the board if they wanted to have the meeting the first week in January or have the Organizational Meeting before the regular board meeting on January 8th, 2014. It was decided to hold the Organizational Meeting before the regular monthly board meeting on January 8th, 2014, @ 7:00 p.m.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting-The next regular meeting of the Salem Town Board will be held on December 11, 2013, with review of Warrants #13 and Highway Abstract #12 at 6:30 p.m., meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board. Passed unanimously 5-0

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem