

TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2012 MEETING

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

Absent: Jessica Barrett-DCO; Herb Perkins-SYA; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Department

Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Al Cormier-Historian; Gail Bearup-Georgi

Public Present: Jay Bellanca; Cynthia Weinrich; Mike Miller; Ashleigh Morris-Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #11 and Highway Abstract #11 of 2012 for approval and payment

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

Review of minutes from October 10, 2012 regular board meeting. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to accept minutes of October 10, 2012 meeting. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Review of minutes from November 07, 2012, meeting for public hearing on proposed 2013 budget. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to accept minutes of November 07, 2012 meeting. Passed unanimously 5-0

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to pay Warrants #11 and Highway Abstract #11 of 2012 as presented. Passed unanimously 5-0

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Salem Fire Department-Chief Bob Graham absent but report provided. Five calls for month of October: 1-Village of Salem (fire alarm activation); 1-Town of Salem (EMS Assist); 1-Town of Jackson (priority one Echo call). Mutual Aid Calls: 2-Hebron(1-MVA; 1-structure fire)

Training: 2-members attended recruitment school; training done on air packs, chimney, hand tools, saws and driver training completed

Apparatus Maintenance: Attack 441 had pump fixed and pump test passed; all trucks passed NYSI

Total Hours = 7,811

Report will be filed.

Courthouse-Director, Donna Farringer, reported that the Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012, with a potluck dinner beginning @ 6 pm, meeting@ 7 pm. New Board members voted on and budget was reviewed for the coming year. New informative brochure was handed out on the Courthouse. Shoppe off Broadway's Holiday Bazaar was held on November 10th and was well attended.

The loan check was deposited and work was completed on November 05, 2012; checks are being received from NYSE & G. Painting will be done in the spring. Repair work has been completed on the corner that was damaged due to the car accident.

"Fear This" was very successful again this year; approximately \$1,200.00 was realized during the month of October.

Annual appeals were sent out on December 1st for membership renewals/donations.

The Arts and Crafts Holiday Sale will be held on December 1st from 10 am-2 pm. Check out the great offerings for the holidays!

Be sure to check out the many classes being offered at the CCC for November and December.

Stop in and say 'hi' to the new Program Coordinator, Ruthanne Hunter. She is at the Courthouse from Tuesday-Friday from 9 am-2 pm.

Councilman Bruce Ferguson asked if anyone had checked the fuel for the generator at the Courthouse, and Supervisor Pitts said that he would check on this.

Highway- Joe Boisclair reported that everything is pretty quiet. Sander on ton truck has been fixed and plow frames have been put on the trucks. Cleaning ditches and culverts; doing some grading and mowing. Attended first aid training in Cambridge; graded pot holes on Braymer Lane and Blind Buck Road; did some ditching work on Scotts Lake Road and cut down trees on Hickory, Steele and Smith Roads.

Report provided will be filed.

Georgi Museum-Gail Bearup reported that there will be a lecture given on Tuesday, November 27th, from 7-8 pm and that the Festival of Trees would be held the weekends of December 1st and 8th from 10 am-4 pm, with final bids being accepted on Saturday, December 8th from 10 am-Noon.

Plattsburgh State University wishes to display four pieces of artwork at the college. They will be on loan to the University, who will pick up the pieces in a college van and secure at least \$350,000.00 in liability insurance. An internship is being developed with the students for March and May.

Peter Baldwin is done with mowing and trimming for the season. The security system went off twice in the museum and Time Warner has reviewed everything. Hopefully, the problem is solved now.

Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to accept the format for the Loan Policy presented by Gail Bearup on the artwork to be loaned to Plattsburgh State University, with pictures of the paintings attached. Passed unanimously 5-0.

A meeting was held with the advisory board and it was suggested that the price of the grounds for rental could be lowered from \$950.00 down to \$750.00 for those outside of the Salem/Shushan zip codes. The price for Salem/Shushan residents is \$500.00. Discussion followed and it was decided to include this on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Propane tank should be filled now to make sure there will be heat through December 12th. It was decided earlier not to fill the tank, not realizing it was so low. The Community Room has been rented until December 10th. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilcrest, to have the propane tank at the Community Room filled and that everything would be shut down after December 12th.

Passed unanimously 5-0.

Councilman Bruce Ferguson suggested that the Board think about re-doing the art appraisal at a future date.

Planning Board-Mo Patrick reported that there is one application for a barn addition and an application for putting up a fence has been given out. Still waiting for letters of resignation from a couple of members and then the positions will be advertised.

Youth Ass'n.-Herb Perkins absent.

Comprehensive Plan-No report.

DCO Report-Jessica Barrett absent.

Historian-Historian, Al Cormier, reported that a book entitled No Turning Point, written by Ted Corbett, has a lot of local history included. Work on the stone wall is progressing nicely but more stone was needed to finish. An agreement was made with the Coon and Cat Club to procure stone from the old Excelsior Quarry. Scott Thetford will do the iron work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Miller of Beattie Hollow Road is concerned about all the track hoe digging, removal of stumps, etc. that his neighbor is doing and wonders if he is in violation of any Town, County or State codes. No permits have been issued thus far as the neighbor is not in violation of any of the Town's site plan rules. Supervisor Pitts reported that Scott MacNeil, the enforcement officer for the Planning Board, has been to see the gentleman twice and says he isn't doing anything to be in violation. If he removes the trailer that is currently on the lot, he will have to come to the Town and fill out a mobile home application and then comply with all County Code Enforcement rules and regulations regarding septic, well, water flow, etc. Supervisor Pitts advised Miller not to 'throw stones' as people could say the same about him. Planning Board Chairman, Moe Patrick, agreed

with Supervisor Pitts, stating that no site plan rules/regulations had been broken at this point and that no illegal violations were cited on either visit.

Communications:

Received a letter from the Village of Cambridge notifying us that they are investigating an incident of bullying reported during the summer swim program @ Lake Lauderdale. They may be coming up with a policy or modifying the one they have.

Report received from Alliance Investment on Georgi if anyone wishes to review the same.

OLD BUSINESS:

Preliminary Budget-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to move for discussion on the preliminary budget to final. Motion passed 5-0. After much discussion and questions, **Resolution #65**, was introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to go from the preliminary budget to the final budget. Roll call vote: Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilwoman Dottie Schneider-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilchrest-Yes; Councilman Joe Wever-Yes; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes. Passed unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Employee Handbook-Discussion held to amend the employee handbook for bereavement time for immediate family. Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to amend the handbook to include bereavement time for step relatives or significant others at the discretion of Highway Superintendent, Joe Boisclair, for personal time off. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to allow employees to use pre-tax dollars to purchase healthcare insurance. Passed unanimously 5-0.

County Updates-County Board passed an Asset Purchase Agreement on PVI and Public Health/Hospice on Friday, November 16th, 2012.

Public Works-RFP on transfer stations with Earth Waste & Metal in Rutland for \$1.2 million. They will take current employees. More on this in coming months; sale should be finalized by end of March, 2013.

County Budget-3.08% increase in county budget for this coming year-2013.

Resolution #66-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to move \$2,500.00 from Unappropriated Fund Balance to Georgi as follows:

GM599 Fund Balance	\$ 2,500.00	
GM960 Appropriations		\$ 2,500.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #67-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, for a budget increase to show funds from the BAN as follows:

A510 Estimated Revenues	\$ 40,000.00	
A2770a Courthouse		
A960 Appropriations		\$ 40,000.00
A1620.4b Courthouse		

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #68-Introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to reflect insurance proceeds for damage at the Courthouse as follows:

A510 Estimated Revenues	\$ 2,241.70	
A2770a Courthouse		
A960 Appropriations		\$ 2,241.70
A1620.4b Courthouse		

Passed unanimously 5-0

Resolution #69-Introduced by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, for a transfer due to a shortage of money for insurance (paid in November-not on spreadsheets), as follows:

A1990.4 Contingency	\$ 1,396.66	
A910.1 Insurance		\$ 1,396.66

Passed unanimously 5-0

Motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to move into executive session to discuss matters of employment. Passed unanimously 5-0

Motion to move out of executive session by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider. Passed unanimously 5-0

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Next regular monthly meeting of the Town of Salem Town Board will be December 12, 2012, @ 6:30 pm for review and signing of Warrants and Abstract; meeting to begin @ 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk