

TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 11, 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; Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Vicky Campbell-Salem Rescue Squad; Tom Cassidy-Shushan Fire Dep't.; DCO-Jessica Barrett

Absent: Historian-Al Cormier; Bob Graham-Salem Vol. Fire. Fire Dep't.

Public Present: Jay Bellanca; Ellen Levine

6:30-Review & signing of warrants #8 & highway abstract #8 for approval and payment

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

Review of minutes from July 15, 2010 meeting. Motion made by Councilman, Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to accept minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.

After review of warrants and highway abstract, motion made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever, to pay warrants #8 and highway abstract #8 as presented. Passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Salem Rescue Squad-Vicky Campbell reported that calls were up a bit compared to the same time last year. Total calls were 237 with total miles of 11,629; 74 calls each in Village & Town of Salem; 47 in Town of Hebron; 10 in Vermont and Greenwich; 9 in Jackson; 2 in Cambridge; 1 in Greenwich. Expect new ambulance sometime end of October/beginning of November; this replaces the 1994 van.

Salem Fire Department- Report provided by Chief, Bob Graham. Read by Supervisor Pitts in absence of Chief Graham. Four calls for month of July--2 in Village of Salem; 1 in Town of Salem; 1 in Town of Jackson. Annual hose testing completed on July 17th, and 3 members completed emergency vehicle operation class. Arson background check completed on one member and report came back ok.

Training hours for month of July = 1,181 and training hours for year = 7,985. Report will be filed.

Shushan Fire Department-Chief Tom Cassidy reported that there were 46 calls for month of April, 2010, 21 of which were First Response calls. There are currently only six first responders in the department. Hose testing was done on 15-20,000 feet to hose, with 600 +/- hours of training done. Received federal grant for turn-out gear, mobile radios, portable tanks, etc. Approximately 300 hours work involved on grant proposal paperwork. Trucks have been serviced and pump tested, costing between \$2,000-\$3,000.00. Purchased twelve sets of escape rope, meeting NYS OSHA requirements at the cost of between \$300-\$500.00/set; this is an unfunded mandate required by all departments. Fund raisers down this year compared to other years. 1992 truck needs replacing--will try for grant next year. Currently narrow banding on radio system--4 to 6 are not currently compliant. Banding was changed by federal government.

Chief Cassidy reported that he is concerned with the steel deck bridge over the Battenkill on County Route 61 coming down the hill into Shushan and also the Tackle Box bridge. Both are in bad need of repair underneath. Obtain a master list from the County on their work schedule, if available.

Courthouse-Donna Farringer reported that 108-110 children have been involved in Lunch, Learn n Play, which is in its last week. Supervisor Pitts has been serving lunch for the program. Very successful. Al Fresco weekend brought in approximately \$28,000.00. Steps in the front of courthouse are finally finished. The two new rooms are nearly complete--the art room is done and the mezzanine is close to being completed. Upcoming events: 09/09/-Sustainability w/movies; 09/16-Jerry Frasier/Art Toulon; 09/24-Dedication of two new rooms; 10/19 & 10/24-Piano recitals 'Sound of Music' movie was well attended and all had a great time.

Highway Department- Sup't. Joe Boisclair informed the board that paving of Perry Hill Road and repairs to Steele Road were completed. Approximately \$3,000.00 left from CHIPS money. Will be widening Steele Road by Pataki house, which is sorely needed in order to plow in the winter months. Approximately \$5,000.00 was saved on form work as this did not have to be bid out and the cost of renting equipment for widening of road will be about \$1,800.00 for a week. County Highway voted to take four consecutive days off w/o pay. County to be charged back? Town would be on overtime.

Georgi Museum-Cheryl Baldwin reported that the buildings are currently being painted by the Alternative Sentencing crew, with donations of paint and supplies being offered from Lowes and Salem Hardware. Three more Sunday concerts left in LARAC series. 'Gems of the Georgi', the third art show and sale, will be held on September 11th from 4-6 pm, with mixed media works done by 14 local artists. \$20.00 donation respectfully requested. Show and sale will continue on Sundays, Sep't. 12th and 19th and Saturday, Sep't. 18th from 1-4 pm. The show and sale will be taking place in the meeting room on the grounds of the Museum. A sign is needed out at the road indicating Georgi Museum is at end of Adams lane. County has sign department that uses reflective paint. Supervisor Pitts will check with County Highway Department.

Repair to the Bank-Waiting for Cynthia Browning and her crew to become available to do the work. On the list for the end of August.

Planning Board-Mo Patrick reported that there will be a public hearing on a sub-division on Quarry Road/Bowers Lane. Bill Eberle has submitted his letter of resignation as Planning Board Clerk. As indicated at the last board meeting 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. The position was posted in the paper and so far, only one applicant has responded.

Historian's Report- Report was provided and e-mailed to all board members prior to meeting in absence of Historian, Al Cormier. Some items of interest: Al met with Bryany Graham, an English art student in residence for the summer @ SAW, who is researching porch structures and interviewing the owners, many in the Village. A 1938 Town of Salem map showing one-room school houses in the district will soon be hung in the great hall of the Courthouse Community Center. The Salem School Board is loaning the map to the historian as they did not want to display the map in the foyer of the school anymore. Al and Town Clerk, Pat Gilchrist, attended a free Local Gov't. Records Management Workshop in Lake George on July 29th. The workshop was mainly on records retention and disposition and electronic record keeping. Report will be filed.

DCO Report-Jessica Barrett reported that a golden retriever has been re-united with its owner. Investigated dog bite on Park Place and by pizza shop on Route 22 and Co. Rte. 64. Picked up a dog by Kyle Hunter's that she still has and is trying to find owner or adopt out if owner is not found. Small dog approximately 8 years old. Did program for the Lunch, Learn N Play group, which the children enjoyed. Adoptions aren't happening right now for either dogs or cats.

Jessica is changing the 854-3706 number and there is a recording indicating the same when somebody calls. She will be out of town from August 13-21 but has someone to cover for her.

Comprehensive Plan-Dottie Schneider reported that the Ag Plan is should be acted upon at the County level very soon. She hopes that the public hearing will be held in September, with date forthcoming.

Salem Area Youth Assn., Inc.-No report.

Correspondence-Letter received from Bill McCarty, director of Real Property Tax Services, indicating that the term of Board of Assessment Review member, Robert Hunter, would be up on September 30, 2010. Term runs from 10/01/2010-09/30/2015. Town Board can either re-appoint Mr. Hunter or post a notice in the paper for a new individual. It was the unanimous decision of the Board to advertise for the BAR position in 'The Eagle' to see if anyone else was interested. The position pays \$100.00/year. Mr. Hunter advised Supervisor Pitts that he would be glad to stay on if no one responded to the ad, but he thought it was time for someone else to serve.

Northern Insuring-Supervisor Pitts will be meeting with a representative on Thursday, August 12th, in the Town Office.

Public Comment-Jay Bellanca expressed the opinion that the BAR position should be advertised in the paper and that the same people should not be automatically re-appointed every year. He also requested that the Warrants and Highway Abstract should be made public, with copies of the bills for each, requesting that these might be scanned and put on the town website. This would take many hours of work but Mr. Bellanca was told that he could review the Warrants and Highway Abstracts that were on file in the Town Office. Since Clerk to the Supervisor, Kathleen Chambers, pays these bills, she has the originals with the bills in her files. They could be brought to the Town Office for review any time with a little notice so she had time to get them here.

Ellen Levine inquired about the sign on corner of Riley Hill Road and Blind Buck Road and if one would be available soon. Joe Boisclair responded and said the sign had come in and would be in place on Thursday, August 12th. Curve signs made need repainting soon; Joe will check on this also.

OLD BUSINESS:

Property Purchase-Deed to property at corner of Route 22 and Archibald Street adjacent to the Revolutionary War Cemetery is being recorded and should be returned soon. Some question as to who maintains abandoned cemeteries and if the cemetery was ever incorporated or not. Historian Al Cormier has re-read the cemetery law and it specifically 'excludes' privately owned cemeteries. Some question as to the Cleveland Cemetery--does Polly Wilson own the cemetery and would she deed the same to the town if she does? If that cemetery (or any other cemetery in the Town) was ever incorporated, then abandoned, it becomes the problem of the Town to maintain the same.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #29-Letter rec'd. from Deborah Prehoda, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors, regarding the September 30th, 2010 deadline for submitting a certified resolution directing the payment of Sales Tax allocation monies. Resolution #29, introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Council-

man Joe Wever, stating that the Town of Salem would like to directly receive the sales tax allocation money for 2011 and thereafter (2012) rather than have the Town’s portion of the sales tax allocation money applied against the town’s portion of the County tax for 2011 and thereafter (2012). Roll call vote taken: Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Joe Wever-Yes; Councilwoman Dottie Schneider-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilchrest-Yes; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes. Passed 5-0.

Clerk, Pat Gilchrist, had presented the resolution to board members prior to meeting to review. An original will be sent to Clerk Prehoda and County Treasurer, Phyllis Cooper, as the letter requested. Supervisor Pitts handed out a worksheet to all board members, done with the help of Treasurer, Phyllis Cooper, explaining how the amount of sales tax is arrived at.

Resolution #30-Increase budget to reflect monies received from LARAC. Resolution #30, introduced by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, to reflect the increase as follows: A510 Estimated Revenues

A2770 Georgi	\$ 3,662.00
A 960 Appropriations	
A7450.2/4	\$3,662.00

Passed unanimously.

Resolution #31-Transfer money for unemployment. Resolution #31, introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, would transfer money from DB5110.4-General Repairs -to- DB9050.8-Unemployment. Passed unanimously after discussion of how much money this was going to cost the town and the fact there is no choice in payment of the same.

Resolution #32-Discontinuance of selling Hunting and Fishing Licenses and issuing Deer Management Permits (DMP’s). Resolution #32, introduced by Councilman Joe Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, states that Town of Salem Town Clerk, Patricia Gilchrist, discontinue the practice of selling hunting, fishing and deer management permits through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, since this is no longer required by law. Due to the difficulty of obtaining any information from NYSDEC because there is a new Clerk and because licenses and deer management permits can be obtained from Jackson Traders in the Village of Salem, it was felt that now was the time to get out of the licensing business. Roll call vote taken: Councilman Joe Wever-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilchrest-No; Councilwoman Dottie Schneider-Yes; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes. Passed 4-0. A copy of the resolution will be sent to NYSDEC, ATTN: Donna Dyer and any machinery connected with the issuance of licenses will be picked up by DEC.

County Updates-Candidates are currently being interviewed for County Highway Superintendent, replacing Wille Grimke. So far, ten candidates have been interviewed. Supervisor Seth Pitts sat in on most of those interviews. More interview to follow.

Doug Cosey has resigned as Administrator of Pleasant Valley Infirmary. Supervisor Pitts currently on a county committee studying the privatization of the Infirmary and the cost to the County of being in the nursing home business. Many more meetings will be held on this issue.

Motion to Adjourn-Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilwoman Dottie Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joe Wever. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk

