

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Salem was held jointly with the Salem Town Council on Wednesday, February 22, 2012. Present were Mayor Anne Dunigan and Trustees Paul Kobyluch, Mark Eastman, and Marcus Blanck; Supervisor Seth Pitts and Council members Dottie Schneider, Butch Gilcrest, Joe Wever, and Bruce Ferguson; Town and Village Historian Al Cormier, Fire Chief Bob Graham, Fire Company President Steve Saunders, Fire Company Treasurer Howard Fifield, and members of the fire department and public. Also present was Dave Garwood from the law firm of Scicchitano & Pinsky, PLLC.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear about the procedure for creating an independent fire company of the SVFD, Inc. An act of the NYS legislature would have to extend the Town of Salem Fire Protection District to encompass the Village of Salem, and the Village would have to abolish the Village of Salem Fire Department. The independent fire company would then negotiate and contract with the Town, the agreed upon amount would be placed on the Town and County tax bill for both Town and Village residents, and moneys collected by the Town would be routed to the company, which would manage its own affairs. .

Scicchitano & Pinsky have been through the process many times before. The cost would be \$13000.00, which the company has agreed to cover. There may be grant funds available as well. If the process gets rolling quickly, while the legislature is in session, everything could be in place by the end of the year.

The Town was unanimously for pursuing the proposal.

Mayor Dunigan had questions about how tax roll exemptions would be handled and whether the process is reversible, but overall the Board members present seemed positively disposed and should act at their regular March meeting.

Rebecca Brown, Clerk