

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Salem was held on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 in the Village office. Present were Mayor Anne Dunigan and Trustees Joe Childs, Carol Rives, Joe Wever, and Paul Kobyluch. Also present were Public Works Superintendent Eric Rogers, Water Operator Steve Brown, Village Historian Al Cormier, Fire Chief Bob Graham, and members of the press and public.

The meeting was called to order, and vouchers from the General Fund Nos. 399 through 433 in the amount of \$26721.98, from the Library Fund Nos. 138 to 162 in the amount of \$5554.87, and from the Water Fund Nos. 118 through 124 in the amount of \$2119.02 were audited and ordered paid--motion by Paul Kobyluch, second by Carol Rives. The vote was three to zero in favor, with one abstention.

Joe Wever made a motion, Joe Childs seconded, to approve the minutes of the May 27 and July 1 meetings as presented. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

PUBLIC WORKS JULY REPORT: DPW Performed regular mowing and maintenance. Called NYSEG to replace four street lights. Updated the list for tree work to be done this fall, but a half-rotted tree on Academy will be taken down as soon as it can be scheduled. The 2004 Crown Vic received an oil change, left side lower ball joint, alignment, and front brakes. Cleaned out the first culvert on Brook Lane. Repaired the sidewalk in front of John Lundgren's. Painted 27 parking spaces, including two handicap spaces, in the Village parking lot. WATER There were two new hookups giving us a total of 277. We performed the usual maintenance and administrative duties. The monthly water sample test results were fine. SVFD held hydrant training for four outside departments, and all went well. We replaced the touch-screen monitor for the control panel with a standard flat screen monitor, for a savings of \$1200.00, without compromising the integrity of the system. Per Joe Childs, the router connecting the control and office computers is working again, and external access has been restored.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT FOR JULY: There were 13 calls: none in the Village, five in the Town of Salem, one water rescue in Jackson, four mutual aid with Hebron, two mutual aid with Shushan, and one mutual aid with Rupert. Four members attended the chiefs and officers meeting in Fort Edward. One member completed Fire Fighter 2 training. One member completed a safety and survival class. Stood by for Shushan FD during their carnival. Annual hose testing was completed. Approximately 1800 feet of hose was failed out of +/-14000. The new 5-inch hose is here and installed on ETA 44-2. Performed a walk-through tour of Woody Hill Farm. Regarding the hydrant training, Hebron and Rupert want to come again. It was suggested they come in October during regular fall flushing. Total training hours for the month were 1504. Need permission to take trucks to the Rupert parade on August 8 and for Washington County Fair coverage on August 28.

LIBRARY REPORT: Circulation in June was 2770. Peg relates they are having a busy summer.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT FOR JULY: Al submitted a letter requesting the board vote to accept or reject the application of Carol Myrick to have her property included in the Village Historic District. Paul Kobyluch made a motion, Carol Rives seconded, to accept the application and to set a public hearing for Wednesday, September 2, so the public may be heard on this issue. On August 6 the tower bell was removed from the Fort Salem Theater so that work could be done on the tower. Some of the signs at the entrance to the Village are being refurbished by a

volunteer. The event for the lunch 'n' learn crowd, dressing up as General Williams and touring the Revolutionary War Cemetery, went well. Attended a seminar covering the proper handling of e-mail communications as they are legal documents. The Board should adopt a policy covering proper retention.

OLD BUSINESS: Superintendent Kremer would like to finalize/verify the transfer of the Warren Street dead end from the Village to Salem Central.

NEW BUSINESS: Paul Kobyluch made a motion, Carol Rives seconded, to approve the transfer of \$3400.00 from A3410.4 to A3410.2. The vote was 3/0 with one abstention.

Joe Childs made a motion, Paul Kobyluch seconded, to approve use of fire trucks at the Rupert parade on August 8 and at the Wash. Co. Fairgrounds on August 28. The vote was 3/0 with one abstention.

Joe Childs made a motion, Paul Kobyluch seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 7 of 2009 appropriating surplus as follows: \$16600.00 to A3410.2, \$6200.00 to A3410.4, and \$21029.84 to A3497.4. The vote was 4/0 with one abstention.

The Mayor noted she had spoken with Bruce Ferguson who indicated the two rail cars he'd been requested to secure against trespass have been moved out of the Village.

PUBLIC REMARKS

Albert Woodell and Richard Hickland spoke concerning the Village's billing of Water Operation & Maintenance charges to residents who are not hooked up to the system. The Village's position has been, and the regulations state, that the O & M fee will be charged to those who have a meter, regardless of whether or not they are connected to the system. Mr. Woodell feels that this is not legal, that the meters were capitalized and are paid for out of the debt service charged to everyone, and that he shouldn't be charged O & M unless he's hooked up. Mr. Hickland believes that this charge has been unfairly imposed and hopes the Board will re-evaluate the regulations on this issue. The Mayor indicated that in anticipation of the bugs getting worked out of the meter reading system, allowing for reliable readings, the Board is considering removing the O & M charge from the tax bill and billing it separately, based on usage. The issue raised by Messrs. Woodell and Hickland would also be considered.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Rebecca Brown, Clerk