

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Salem held a special meeting on Friday, November 20, 2009 in the Village office. Present were Mayor Dunigan, Trustees Childs, Rives, and Wever. Also present was Fire Chief Graham, and members of the press and public.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the fire protection contract for 2010 with the Town of Salem. The Town voted to budget \$81900.00 rather than the \$96986.00 requested. The balance would have represented a commitment on the Town's part to fund a capital reserve account for truck replacement.

The Mayor informed the Board that she and Trustee Wever had met with some members of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs to analyze Salem's current situation and hear their thoughts and opinions. A baseline "Standards of Coverage" study could be done if desired which would inform the Board in its efforts to contain costs while providing appropriate coverage. The NYS AFC members recommended the Board accept the amount offered by the Town of Salem. They wondered why a fire district had not been created. They recommended starting the negotiation process much earlier in the year.

Carol Rives made a motion, Joe Childs seconded, to accept \$81900.00 for contract year 2010, and to draft a letter to the Town expressing the Board's disappointment with their decision and urging that negotiations start early for the 2011 contract, which negotiations would include a long-term commitment from the Town to support a capital account for replacement of fire apparatus. The vote was three to zero with one abstention, and the motion was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Rebecca Brown