

**TOWN OF SALEM  
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 09, 2014 MINUTES**

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

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

Absent: Supervisor Seth Pitts; Herb Perkins-SYO; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.

Public Present: James Allen of Allen Forestry; Greg Burch; Ed Holland & Nancy Quell; Ashleigh Morris-The Eagle newspaper; Katherine Cerrone-Greenwich Journal

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #4 and Highway Abstract #4 of 2014 for approval and payment

7:00 pm- Monthly Meeting of Salem Town Board called to order by Deputy Supervisor Harold Gilchrest, followed by Pledge of Allegiance. Review of minutes from March 13, 2014 board meeting; **motion** made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to approve the minutes of March 13, 2014, monthly board meeting minutes. (Regular board meeting scheduled for March 12, 2014, cancelled due to weather; re-scheduled for March 13, 2014.) Passed 4-0 (Supervisor Pitts absent)

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, **motion** made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to pay Warrants #4 and Highway Abstract #4 of 2014 as presented. Passed 4-0 (Supervisor Pitts absent)

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Salem Fire Department-** Chief Graham absent

**Courthouse-**Donna Farringer thanked the Board for attending the service for prior Clerk, Mary Kilpatrick. Mary's smiling face will be missed at the Courthouse and around the Village and Town of Salem. Rest in peace, Mary. The EFP grant is moving along nicely. Al Cormier's talk about Salem's silent film star, Jane Gail, was very well received. A silent film festival is being planned for September, probably over three consecutive Thursdays, as a result of Al's talk and the showing of Jane's silent films.

Courthouse Puppet Club-Grades 3-6 at the Courthouse, Monday-Friday, April 14-18, 10 am-Noon, presented by master puppeteer, Debi Craig.

Chamber Music series will begin on April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup> under the direction of Daniel Shulman for a cost of \$20.00 each or \$45.00 for the series.

Kentucky Derby Day-Will be held Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 4-7 pm at the home of Cindy Spence on Nelson Avenue in Saratoga Springs, NY at a cost of \$40.00/person. Please call the CCC early to reserve your ticket.

Grey Villet's 'The Loving Story', a beautiful photography exhibit, will be coming to the Great Hall; Opening reception on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 pm and the display will run until June 20<sup>th</sup>. Grey was a wonderful photographer for LIFE magazine. The Lovings, the first interracial couple from Virginia, were married in Washington, DC in 1958. Upon their return to Virginia, the couple were faced with prison sentences for breaking the law, forbidding interracial marriages. The Lovings fought their case all the way to the Supreme Court where a landmark decision was made in 1967 legalizing interracial marriage. The Oscar-winning documentary, The Loving Story, will also be shown at the May 9<sup>th</sup> reception.

Do Tell- A free story-telling workshop series begins on Wednesdays, beginning May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm at the CCC. The workshop will be given by Margaret French and Betty Cassidy.

Talent Showcase Auditions-will be held at the Courthouse on April 12<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-12 noon. The Talent Showcase will take place on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm at the Fort Salem Theatre.

**Highway Dept.**-Joe Boisclair reported that his new pick-up arrived today, April 9<sup>th</sup>. More money will be received from CHIPS than originally thought--an additional \$19-20,000.00. He would like to re-do Camden Valley Road. Worked on pot holes and graded Hickory Hill Road on Monday. Dieter Drake reported to Joe that the bike race went well and the roads were as good as could be expected due to the severity and length of the winter. Scraped roads and plowed and sanded icy spots; worked on rakes for the grader. Rabies clinic was held at the Town Barn on Saturday, 03/22. Cut and chipped brush on Beattie Hollow; Steele Road. Helped Village with washout on Riley Hill Road (put in new tube & 3 loads of gravel); cold patched on Black Creek; graded pot holes on Gillis Hill; cleaned up downed tree on Butcher Lane; started sweeping on many of the town roads. Report will be filed.

**Planning Board**-Maurice Patrick reported there was one application for a garage on Black Creek Road; Board working on prior problem in Shushan on County Route 61. Another public hearing is scheduled for this.

**Georgi Museum**-Deputy Supervisor Harold Gilchrest reported that the museum was not yet open but would probably be opening sometime in May. Bids were put in the paper for lawn mowing and for the clerk position and will be brought up later in the meeting.

**Historian**-Al Cormier reported that new signage had been received from NYS Paths thru History and one would be placed by the Rexleigh Covered Bridge. Al spoke to the DAR in Cambridge about the Revolutionary War Cemetery. The Dr. Asa Fitch house on Route 29 has been placed on the historic register. Al will put preservation bulletins in the library, as the Village has a Historic Preservation Commission of which Al is the head. There will be a re-enactment of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Civil War Regiment sometime in 2015. A cast iron sign has been received for the D & H from Pomeroy Center.

**Comprehensive Plan**-Chairman Bruce Ferguson reported that he hopes to meet with the Ag Committee soon.

**Veteran's Park**-Dorothy Schneider reported that the park was on hold for the time being.

**SYO**-Nothing to report; Herb Perkins absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-None

**CORRESPONDENCE**-None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Army Corp of Engineers**-Meeting held in the Town Office with Scott Tracey from Washington County; Joe Driscoll from Soil and Water; DEC; 2-Army Corp engineers; Supervisor Seth Pitts; Councilman Harold Gilchrest; Councilman Bruce Ferguson; Tom Clark; Tauno Wirkki; Tina Fleming; Village Clerk Rebecca Brown  
The feasibility study, which would cost approximately \$10,000.00, would be paid for by ACOE. Depending on the results of that study, the work could take 8-10 years to complete and probably would receive no funding from the Corps. The devastating work to repair the flooding in Schoharie was turned down by the Corp. The Village and the Town of Salem would have to foot the bill for whatever work was recommended if the ACOE decided not to fund the project and could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars or more. If funding were available, it would be a 60/40 split between the ACOE and the municipalities.

**Mobil Home Law**-There is currently nothing in the new revisions from the prior regulations and there seems to be some question as to whether certain sections should be included. The Board felt that they could not act on the regulations at this meeting and by a motion from Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, it was decided that a joint meeting with the Planning Board to hold a workshop on the new regulations would be best. Deputy Supervisor Harold Gilchrest requested that Planning Board Chair, Maurice Patrick, inform the board of the decision to hold a workshop meeting with the Planning Board after their regular monthly meeting on April 24, 2014, at 7:45 pm for review of the new Mobil Home regulations. Clerk Gilchrist suggested that Town Attorney, Alan Wrigley, should be invited. Passed 4-0 to hold the joint meeting with the Planning Board on April 24, 2014, at 7:45 pm.

**Dog Control Officer**-Nancy Quell reported that she and her husband, Ed Holland, were DCO for some 14 of the 17 Towns in Washington County and were already approved by NYS Ag & Markets and that she had had all of her rabies shots. Nancy's was the only resume submitted for the job. Clerk Pat Gilchrist reported to the Board that this was becoming an issue as she was receiving calls from Public Health, the Sheriff's Office and SPCA regarding the hiring of a new DCO. With no hire, Nancy could only respond to a Salem case with express permission from Supervisor Pitts. **Resolution #23**-On a motion from Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, it was decided to appoint Nancy Quell as DCO from April 09-December 31, 2014, at a pro-rated rate as the yearly salary is \$3,162.00. Passed 4-0 (Supervisor Pitts absent).

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Town-wide Clean-up Day**-Supervisor Pitts sent an e-mail to all board members and would like to schedule town-wide clean-up with an electronic recycling collection for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. It looks like Earth, Waste & Metal will be the best choice for the electronic recycling but Supervisor Pitts will contact them when he returns from vacation. Other choices were more expensive or did not provide containers.

**Timber Management Contract**-Jim Allen of Allen Forestry made a presentation on the 10.73 acres that the Town owns on Rexleigh Road across from the Town Barns. The Town would like to clear cut this to use for a gravel pit. He said \$4-\$6,000.00 should be realized from the stumpage. Allen Forestry is paid 10% of the proceeds, or the stumpage fee; no up-front money is paid to him. He will draw up all contracts and create bid specs and the Town would advertise for loggers to complete the cutting. Most of the trees are popple and pine.

**Resolution #24**-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to hire and sign a contract with James Allen of Allen Forestry as our Forestry Consultant. Passed 4-0 (Supervisor Pitts absent).

**Georgi Lawn Mowing Bids**-Three bids were received from the following individuals/businesses:

Travis Keys Property Management-\$230.00/complete mowing and trimming (Travis did the work last year), with an increase of \$5-\$10.00 per mowing for the 2015 season since we asked for a two-year bid. Insurance Certificate provided.

Countryside Property Management-\$100.00/mowing and \$250.00 for spring clean-up and \$350.00 for fall clean-up, with no mention of trimming in the bid and no certificate of insurance. We did not advertise for spring and fall clean-up.

DeMarco's Landscaping-Windy Hill Road; Greenwich, NY, submitted a bid of \$110.00/mowing & trimming on a weekly basis.

The Board discussed the bids submitted and did not consider Countryside Property Management because of the way the bid was submitted and there was no certificate of insurance or mention of one. Board members wondered if DeMarco's realized the scope of the work involved with such a low bid and whether the bid had to be accepted because it was low bid. Clerk Gilchrist mentioned to the Board that they already knew the scope of the work from Travis Keys as he had done the mowing last season and was a Salem resident. Councilman Joe Wever reminded the board that they had to have a legal reason to reject the low bid as presented.

**Resolution #25**-Motion made by Deputy Supervisor Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to hire DeMarco Landscaping at a cost of \$110.00/mowing & trimming. Passed 4-0 (Supervisor Seth Pitts absent). Deputy Supervisor Gilchrist said he would notify Mr. DeMarco.

**Village Dissolution Process**-Petitions were presented to the Village of Salem at their regular board meeting last Wednesday, April 02, 2014, to dissolve the Village. The Village Clerk has ten (10) days to certify the petitions. They will then have up to ninety (90) days to schedule a vote on the dissolution. If the vote passes, the Village has 180 days to come up with a plan for dissolution. Councilman Joseph Wever felt

strongly that the Town needed to be involved in the plan for dissolution if it comes to that as the Town will be absorbing what the Village now controls; i.e. the water district, lighting district, the library, etc. These will all

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be issues in the process. There was also discussion and confusion if there would be or needed to be a second vote by Village residents. More information will be forthcoming after the Petition is or is not certified by the Village Clerk.

**Salem Sign**-At junction of Route 29 and Black Creek Road is in terrible condition and the flower bed was ruined when the new bridge was put in. Jeffords Signs has quoted a price of approximately \$679.00 to do a new sign for that area. It was decided to hold up on notifying Jeffords as the contractor said they would repair/replace anything that needed to be done because their equipment was stored on that lot. NYS probably would not cover anything?? The contractor will have to be contacted regarding this issue.

**Executive Session**-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to go into Executive Session to discuss/review applications on the Georgi Clerk position and the new gardener position. Passed 4-0 in absence of Supervisor Pitts.

Three people applied for the position of Georgi Clerk: Wendy Bordwell; Krista Gregg and Deniz Alaniz. All were interviewed by the Georgi Committee and the recommendation of the Georgi Board was to hire Wendy Bordwell as the new Georgi Clerk to work approximately five hours/week at a rate of \$15.00/hour. The scope of the work for the Clerk has changed and fundraising will now be handled by the Georgi Board, with approval from the Salem Town Board.

**Resolution #26**-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to hire Wendy Bordwell as the new Georgi Clerk for approximately five hours/week at a rate of \$15.00/hour.

Roll call vote: Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes; Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Deputy Supervisor Harold Gilchrest-Yes (Supervisor Seth Pitts absent); Passed 4-0

**Resolution #27**-Only two applications received for the new Gardener position--one from Sandy Adams and one from Cailin Davendonis. It was the recommendation of the Georgi Board to hire Sandy Adams for this position. Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to hire Sandy Adams for the Gardener position at a rate of \$15.00/hour. Roll call vote: Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes; Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Deputy Supervisor Harold Gilchrest-Yes (Supervisor Seth Pitts absent); passed 4-0.

**Motion made by** Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to come out of Executive Session. Passed 4-0 (Supervisor Pitts absent)

**Motion to Adjourn**-Since no one from the public was present coming out of Executive Session, motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Passed 4-0 (Supervisor Seth Pitts absent)

**Next Regular Meeting**-The next regular meeting of the Salem Town Board will be held on May 14, 2014, with review of Warrants #5 and Abstract #5 at 6:30 p.m., meeting to begin @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Town of Salem

