

**TOWN OF SALEM  
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 13, 2014 MINUTES**

Present: Supervisor Seth Pitts; Town Council Members: Harold Gilchrest; Bruce Ferguson; Joe Wever; Dorothy Schneider; Patricia Gilchrist-Town Clerk

Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Al Cormier-Historian; Wendy Bordwell-Georgi; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.

Absent: Herb Perkins-SYO; DCO-Nancy Quell

Public Present: Meghan Phalen; Jim & April Washburn; Tina Fleming; Ashleigh Morris-The Eagle Newspaper  
6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #8 and Highway Abstract #8 of 2014 for approval and payment

7:00 pm- Monthly Meeting of Salem Town Board called to order by Supervisor Seth Pitts, followed by Pledge of Allegiance. Review of minutes from July 09, 2014 board meeting; **motion** made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to approve the minutes of July 09, 2014 monthly board meeting. Passed 4-0, with Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider abstaining as she was absent at July meeting.

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, **motion** made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to pay **Warrants #8** and **Highway Abstract #8 of 2014** as presented.

Passed unanimously 5-0

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Salem Fire Department-** Chief Graham provided report; **8 Calls for month of July as follows:**

5-Salem (2-wires downs; 2-MVA's; 1-car fire)1-Jackson (MVA); Mutual Aid: 1-Hebron (structure fire); 1-Rupert (MVA)

**Training-**Monthly air pack/multi-gas meter check; air bag & air pack training; driver training; fire prevention library

**Fund Raising Events-**July 4<sup>th</sup> Carnival; 1-day event at Saratoga Performing Art Center

**Total hours-**3,934

Report will be filed

Chief Graham reported that there will be a fund-raising event for the new firehouse at the carnival grounds on September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-10:30 pm. Food will be served, there will be a beer tent and bands playing. All are welcome to attend.

**Courthouse-**Donna Farringer reported that Al Fresco went great, the weather was wonderful and many people attended. It is the final week of Lunch, Learn n Play; there have been between 50-60 children in attendance every day. Supervisor Pitts did the lunches every day and was also the chef for Al Fresco. A big thank-you to him from the Courthouse!

Both historic markers have now been received for the Railroad Depot and the Courthouse; there will be a ceremony at both sites at a later date.

Opening reception for Jordan Becker wood-fired potter exhibit will be held on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 pm in the CCC Great Hall. The exhibit will be up until October. Be sure to stop by to see this exhibit.

The painting of Steve Burgess will be on display in the Bob Been room on the first floor of the Courthouse from August 15<sup>th</sup>-September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Shoppe Off Broadway is holding a quilt raffle for a 54" x 70" quilt made by members of the Courthouse Quilters. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The winner will be drawn on 11/15/2014.

Daniel Shulman and his violinist wife, Kaori Washiyama, will present two concerts in September--one on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> and the other on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, both at 3 pm.

The Courthouse Silent Film Festival will begin on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> with Charlie Chaplin's *'The Gold Rush'*; September 18<sup>th</sup> Buster Keaton's *'The General'* and September 25<sup>th</sup> Harold Lloyd's *'Safety Last'*. There is no charge to attend but donations are always welcome.

**Highway Dept.**-Joe Boisclair reported the ditches are done and culverts are in. Crew will be starting to put up sand soon. Grading and cutting of trees has been progressing on various town roads, as well as mowing. Hauled stone and put down calcium; worked with NYSE & G on cutting of tree on Newman Road; grading on several roads; attended a highway superintendent picnic and a safety meeting. Report will be filed.

**Georgi Museum**-Wendy Bordwell reported that there will be a 'Sunday Picnic in the Park' on September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm with the Kevin McKrell Band performing; Rotary will do the grilling and a picnic basket auction will be held with Pat McLenithan doing the auctioneering. Planning ahead for more musical events next year through LARAC grants. Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, and it was decided that Wendy should apply for grants for climate control in the Museum.

**Resolution #43**-On a motion from Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, it was decided to have Councilman Joseph Wever work through State Contract to purchase a computer thru State Bid not to exceed \$900.00 in cost for the Georgi. Roll call vote: Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilchrest-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes; passed unanimously 5-0

**Planning Board**-Mo Patrick reported that the board had one application for placement of a mobile home on property owned by James and April Washburn on County Route 153, pending approval from the Town Board and whatever permits would be required from County Code Enforcement. This would be an upgrade from what was there. Public hearing on the mining permit should be finished at the August meeting if all parties will be present and can attend.

James and April Washburn present and presented a Mobile Home Application to the Town Board for the placement of a 1980 single-wide home on property located @ 1713 County Route 153, tax map #193.-1-21 on a 175' x 227' lot, slab existing. Water and septic already in place and electric is above ground. On a motion from Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, it was decided to grant a variance for the placement of the 1980 single-wide mobile home on the above mentioned property, pending removal of the old trailer and code enforcement regulations. (This mobile home is currently owned by Scott Perkins and was the one Lenny Keys approached the board about at last month's meeting. Clerk Gilchrist called Lenny Keys and he has backed out of the deal with Scott, his money for the mobile home permit will be refunded to him and his application will be voided.) Passed unanimously 5-0 for James & April Washburn's Mobile Home Application; the \$10.00 feed was also received.

**Historian**-Al Cormier reports that the sign will be going up at the Railroad Depot. There will be a program at the Georgi tomorrow evening, August 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm with a book signing for Al's new book, **Along the Battenkill**. There are many local pictures in the book and Herb Eriksson and Butch Gilchrest provided many of the pictures. The Dr. Asa Fitch Historical Society will be selling books at the Bancroft Library on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm; at Battenkill Books in Cambridge on August 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7 pm, and at McCartee's Barn on September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-noon. The cost of the book is \$22.00

**Comprehensive Plan**-Councilman Bruce Ferguson reported that he would be looking for grant money for the new Comprehensive Plan, which the Village area would have to become a part of. Nothing will be done until after the dissolution plan is finalized.

**SYO**-No report

**DCO Report**-Report provided for 07/09-07/23/2014, with 7 instances: picking up dogs, barking dogs, etc. Total collected for month was \$86.72 (Received in time for the Town Clerk to include the fee on her monthly report to the Town for July; thus, this was included on July's monthly report to the Town.)

**Veteran's Park**-Nothing to report

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Stumpage**-Check was received from the County for \$1.96 for stumpage from McClan Farms.

**Thank-you**-Received from Donna Farringer of the HSCPA for the Town's support of the Lunch, Learn n Play program this year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Village Dissolution**-The next meeting of the Dissolution Committee will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Ben Siddon hopes the dissolution can be accomplished by December 31, 2015 so the Town can begin its year in January, 2016 with everything in place. The Village would have to bill for seven months of taxes and probably the water billing but this would be the last tax bill for the Village.

**Pending Suit**-NYMIR has received all the paperwork on the Stevens & Thompson Paper Co. suit and their insurance company suit and is reviewing the same.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**County Updates**-The County is reviewing what to do with the extra property at what was PVI.

**Town-Village Highway Management**-A request was received by Supervisor Pitts from Mayor Sonia Trulli for Highway Supervisor Joe Boisclair to begin supervising the Village DPW employees immediately. In talking with the LaBerge Group and Joe Boisclair, Supervisor Pitts reported that it would be best to let the process take its course legally and not get involved in this at this time. The board members were in total agreement with this approach and felt that the dissolution should go along as planned. No action needed at this time.

**Landfill Property Use**-Supervisor Pitts was approached by Bubby Carlton from Action Acres who would like to cut hay on landfill next summer. Councilman Joseph Wever felt that a contract, MOU or some legal document should be drawn up with dates, etc. Councilman Bruce Ferguson suggested that Supervisor Pitts could check with CT Male regarding the same. The board members felt that as long as everything was handled legally and an agreement was drawn up, this would be a good idea. Check with Town Attorney, Alan Wrigley, also.

**Budget Workshops**-The Supervisor wants to get started on this sooner rather than later and since the regular monthly meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup>, can the first workshop be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> or sooner, is possible. September 17<sup>th</sup> was good for everyone at 7 pm. After much discussion, it was decided that the second workshop would be on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm as September 24<sup>th</sup> was not good for some of the members. The two workshop dates will be published.

**Employee Health Plans for 2015**-Handouts were given to Board members for CDPHP and other providers for comparison as the current plan is no longer available through CDPHP. Three people will be 65 by the end of 2014, early 2015. Councilman Joseph Wever asked if broker, Debbie Bell could come to the budget workshop meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>; all board members agreed this would be an excellent idea as she could explain the different plans better than the handouts. Supervisor Pitts will invite her to attend the workshop.

**Town Liability Insurance**-The town's liability insurance carrier has been NYMIR for the past several years, using Northern Insuring as the agent. The cost will be approximately \$18,000.00 due the end of August-the first of September, 2014. Supervisor Pitts requested that the Board consider continuing doing business with NYMIR for the 2015 year since the Town has been happy with them and they have responded any time an issue has come up. **Resolution #44**-On a motion from Councilman Harold Gilcrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, the board approved keeping NYMIR as the liability insurance carrier for 2015, using Northern Insuring, Agent Dick Look, for the 2015 year. Roll call vote: Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilcrest-Yes; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes; Passed unanimously 5-0

**Local Government Efficiency Grants**-Supervisor Pitts said that grant(s) could be applied for up to \$100,000.00 for the creation of the lighting district and the water district that would be necessary with the Village dissolu-

tion. **Resolution #45**-On a motion from Councilman Harold Gilcrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, Supervisor Pitts was instructed to proceed with the Efficiency Grant application process. Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #46**- On a motion by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schnedier, a standard work day needs to be adopted by the Town Board for NYS Retirement purposes for the following people:

Gerald Boisclair-Highway Superintendent; Nancy Quell-Dog Control Officer; JeanMcLenithan-Assessor (There was an issue with how the Highway Superintendent counted his time so it had to be re-figured and re-posted.) The proper paperwork will be posted on the bulletin board at the Town Office for the required number of days and Clerk to Supervisor, Kathleen Chambers, will file with NYS Retirement upon posting being completed. Passed unanimously 5-0

**Meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**-There will be a Village Board of Trustee monthly meeting on this date and the Village has invited the Town Board to attend this meeting. It will be held in Proudfit Hall at 7 pm. This is **not a joint meeting**; just a Village Board meeting that the Town is being invited to.

**Re-Val**-Councilman Harold Gilcrest inquired if there would be a re-valuation done any time in 2015 by Assessor, Jean McLenithan. This would have to be included in 2015 budget. The Town is at 57% value--the same as last year. This will be better handled after the dissolution process takes place and the Village is dissolved.

**Next Regular Meeting- September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, meeting will be held at Proudfit Hall**, with DA Tony Jordan and Washington County Sheriff Jeff Murphy doing a presentation regarding the cocaine and heroin drug problem in Washington County. Review of Warrants #9 and Highway Abstract #9 at 6:30 pm, meeting to begin at 7:00 pm

**The October meeting will be held in Shushan at the Georgi Community Room** on October 08<sup>th</sup>, 2014, review of Warrants #10 and Highway Abstract #10 at 6:30, meeting to begin at 7:00 pm.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board. Passed unanimously 5-0; meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Town of Salem