

**TOWN OF SALEM**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN OF SALEM TOWN BOARD**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2015 MINUTES**

Present: Supervisor Seth Pitts; Town Council Members: Bruce Ferguson; Joseph Wever; Harold Gilchrest; Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider; Patricia Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Others Present: Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Al Cormier-Historian; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Wendy Bordwell-Georgi; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.

Absent: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't. (Doing snow removal); DCO-Nancy Quell

Public Present: Bob Akland; Judy Flagg; Ashleigh Morris-The Eagle

6:30 pm-Review & signing of **Warrants #2** and **Highway Abstract #2 of 2015** 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 January 14, 2015, regular monthly board meeting; **motion** made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to approve the minutes of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, regular monthly board meeting. Passed 4-0 (Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider absent at January meeting). **Motion** made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to approve the **Organizational Meeting Minutes** of January 14, 2015. Passed 4-0 (Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider absent at January meeting). After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, **motion** made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to pay **Warrants #2 and Highway Abstract #2 of 2015** as presented. Passed unanimously 5-0. After review and signing of **Supervisor's Reports**, **motion** made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to approve the monthly **Supervisor's Reports** as presented. Passed unanimously 5-0.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Salem Fire Department-** Chief Graham reported a total of 5 calls for the month of January, 2015. 2-Salem (1-good intent call; 1-MVA); 1-Jackson (MVA); Mutual Aid: 1-Rupert (MVA); 1-Shushan (standby)

Training: Monthly air pack; monthly multi gas meter check; CPR & AED; 15 members completed hazmat technician class

Plans moving forward for the new firehouse; waiting for plans to be approved.

Total hrs. - 202

Report will be filed.

**Courthouse-**Donna Farringer thanked the town for cleaning and sanding the parking lots at the Courthouse. Approximately 150 people attended the Tree Toss and Chili Bake.

New exhibit featuring artist Donna Wynbrandt will be opening with a reception on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 pm. "Beat the Winter Blues" dinners will once again be held on Saturday evenings beginning at 6 pm. Sue Keyes will host on February 28<sup>th</sup>, joined by Dottie Schneider and Vickie Maxwell, for a prime rib dinner. March 7<sup>th</sup> will feature the Battenkill Bistro team, "A Special Night in Tuscany", featuring Italian fare. March 14<sup>th</sup>-Dave & Judy Klingbiel will offer a beef dinner in their home.

**February 17, 18, 19-Winter Break Fun** at the Courthouse from 10-12 each day. Hiking, sledding and cooking in the Battenkill Kitchen will be featured.

**Civil War Talks-**Begin on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, with Ken Aldous, featuring 'Yankees in the Basement: The Life and Legacy of the Civil War in the North'; March 12<sup>th</sup>-Cliff Oliver will speak on the life of Solomon Northup; March 19<sup>th</sup> - will feature Tom Smith: 'Ulysses S. Grant: His Life, His Work, His Death; March 26<sup>th</sup>-Chris Heidorf: 'The 123<sup>rd</sup> Regiment'. No admission charge; donations are accepted and appreciated.

Donna reported that the old heating system has been acting up almost every day and that John Braymer has been going in to check on the boiler. The water block in the boiler has been leaking and being repaired with liquid sealant, which is no longer solving the problem. Bob Akland reported that the block needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$2,200.00, plus shipping, for a total of around \$2,500.00. He would like to

Town to pay what they can towards the cost and John Braymer of Braymer Fuels would donate his labor. New piping would also be needed. **Resolution #21**-Motion made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to take \$1,500.00 from the Courthouse line item account (generator maintenance) to help pay for the repairs to the boiler. Passed unanimously 5-0.

**Highway Dept.**-Joe Boisclair and crew doing snow removal; not present at meeting. He and the crew have been doing a lot of plowing and sanding; helping the Village with snow removal. His report will be filed.

**Georgi Museum**-Wendy Bordwell reported that Heather Bellanca had done a wonderful job with advertising brochures. She has five weddings booked so far. Civil War events are being planned in August, one being a Fife and Drum Corps exhibition. Chris Heidorf would like to pursue a grant through NYS to have horses on the grounds of the Georgi for an event. The Board felt that would be too much of a liability insurance issue and said no horses. She is working with Herb Perkins in the hoped of hosting an environmental program during the summer.

**Judy Flagg**, from the Georgi Committee, spoke on behalf of the Committee and presented the Board with a list of proposed Capital Projects for 2015. The most important item will be replacing the roof on the main building of the museum at a cost of approximately \$6,000.00-\$8,000.00. #2-Pack & store the art in a climate-controlled storage facility at a cost of around \$4,500.00, plus \$85/mo. to store so that work can be done on the building. #3-The building needs a complete cleaning and mold and mildew remediation needs to be done; clean Oriental rugs and prepare for storage at an approximate cost of \$2,700.00. #4-Security system upgrade; \$2,383.00. #5-Upgrade/paint bathrooms-\$1,000.00; #6-Repair rotted side wall/add gutters (Community Room)-\$750.00; 7-Drill well, enabling year-round use of Community Room-\$5,000.00; #8-Build secure storage closet & wall unit in Community Room kitchen-\$750.00 Total of all projects=approximately \$23,083.00 The Town Board suggested moving forward with removing the artwork in the spring so that the capital projects could be put out to bid shortly thereafter.

**Planning Board**-Mo Patrick reported that there was nothing on the agenda that he was aware of. One map was stamped and filed and the board is waiting for another map to stamp.

**Historian**-Al Cormier reported that Jean and Glenn McLenithan has purchased the Pushee house on East Broadway to re-do and sell.

Prometheus Films-Is doing a Civil War Documentary, featuring the Cruikshank letters on the History Channel 2. The Wild River Press will also be featuring the Cruikshank letters.

**Civil War Events**-Banners are in; medallion ordered through Dory Development; book coming along nicely; mugs are in and web page is up and running. Chris Heidorf is handling the encampment. The speakers for the four series of talks in March at the Courthouse are all set up and ready to go.

The bill is being presented for payment by Sara Kelly for her web page work in the amount of \$560.00. Pay out of Economic Development or Al's money. Supervisor Pitts will check with Clerk to Supervisor Kathleen Chambers to check balances in both accounts.

**DCO Report**-Nothing provided

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Brochure received from Earth, Waste & Metal offering a Customer Appreciation Program, using a discount savings sticker that will be honored at all transfer stations in New York and Vermont. A greater discount will be given for senior citizens, armed service veterans or active military.

Received a \$50.00 donation in Marcia Gardner's memory for her animals.

The Town is still at 57% of full value.

John Brennan, from NYS Agriculture and Markets, has inquired where the Town is at with their Agriculture Plan.

Sales tax projections have been received from the County.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Village Dissolution**-Two Village meetings have been cancelled so no date has yet been set for the public hearing. There is a Village meeting scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup>; Councilman Bruce Ferguson will attend as Supervisor Pitts will be at the Association of Towns meeting in NYC. Supervisor Pitts and Councilman Ferguson met with the LaBerge Group the first week in February.

**Teamsters Union**-There was a meeting at Alan Wrigley’s office with Tom Quackenbush, union representative, Supervisor Pitts, Attorney Wrigley and Scott Perkins, the highway employee’s representative for negotiations. Councilman Harold Gilchrest asked why the meeting was in the morning and not after working hours so there would be no loss of time. Supervisor Pitts explained that company time be allotted for union business.

**E-Waste Day**- set for April 25, 2015 as E-Waste/Town Wide Clean-up Day. The only thing going on at school that day is the Salem Area Woman’s Club Health Day.

**Resolution #22**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to reimburse Bill Zinn for his Medicare Supplement health insurance as CDPHP does not offer health insurance to Vermont residents. Cost is \$174.93/month. Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #23**-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to apply for CRG Grant funding to pay for costs relating to the dissolution process, i.e. attorney fees, creation of a new lighting district, creation of a water district, etc., in the approximate amount of \$55,000.00. When the final Dissolution Plan passes and sits for 45 days, the grant application would be done during that 45-day period. Passes unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #24**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider to approve the new Debit and Credit Card policy sent to everyone prior to the meeting. Passed unanimously 5-0.

**FYI from Supervisor Pitts**-It has been discussed at the County level to use herbicides on county roadsides rather than mowing like NYS does.

**Executive Session**-Motion made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to go into executive session for employment and unemployment issues. Passed unanimously 5-0. Discussion ensued; no decisions made in executive session. Motion made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to come out of executive session. Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #25**-Motion made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to move money into unemployment as follows:

DA5142.1 Personnel	\$ 2,911.10
DA9050.8 Unemployment	\$ 2,911.10

Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #26**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to pay highway employee, Keith Boisclair three days’ vacation pay due to separation of employment with the Town of Salem in the amount of \$389.04 (24 hrs. x \$16.21). Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #27**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to amend Resolution #34 from June 11, 2014, limiting The Georgi Clerk’s hours to forty (40) hours/month. Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #28**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to amend the Compensation page of the 2015 Budget, changing the Georgi Clerk position from an hourly position to a salaried position of \$9,000.00. Passed unanimously 5-0 (The remaining amount to be paid for 2015 is \$8,122.50.)

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board. Passed unanimously 5-0; regular monthly meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting**-The next regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board will take place on March 11, 2015; review of Warrants and Abstract to begin at 6:30 p.m., meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk