

**TOWN OF SALEM  
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2014 MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Al Cormier-Historian; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Vicki Campbell-Salem Rescue Squad

Absent: Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Lois Jasek-DCO(resigned); Herb Perkins-SYO

Public Present: John Boyce-Village Board; Steven Saunders-Salem Fire Department; Ashleigh Farrell-Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #2 and Highway Abstract #2 of 2014 for approval and payment

7:00 pm-Regular Monthly Meeting of Salem Town Board called to order by Supervisor Pitts, followed by Pledge of Allegiance. Review of minutes from January 08, 2014 regular board meeting and the Organizational Meeting Minutes; **motion** made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to approve the minutes of December 08, 2014, Organizational Meeting and the regular board meeting minutes. Passed unanimously 5-0

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, **motion** made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to pay Warrants #2 and Highway Abstract #2 of 2014 as presented. Passed unanimously 5-0

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Salem Rescue Squad**-Captain Vicki Campbell reported that a total of 485 calls were made for the year 2013; the number was 437 in 2012. Total miles = 23,551

Calls: Town of Salem-170; Village of Salem-128; Town of Hebron-123; Town of Jackson-21; Town of Greenwich-11; Village of Greenwich-3; Village of Cambridge-2; Argyle-2; Vermont-25

Destinations: GFH-154; SVMC-78; RMA-50; Saratoga-29; Albany Med-3; St. Mary's-2; St. Peter's-1; Albany VA-1; Mercy Helicopter-1

Stand-by-26; fire stand-by-14; cancelled-11; class 17-6; RRM-6; Life Net-5; Parade-2; lift assist-2; EHC-2; transported by other-2

10 Minute Response-82%

Report will be filed

**Salem Fire Department**- Chief Bob Graham reported ten calls for the month of January, 2014: Salem-4(1-Power lines down; 1-EMS assist; 1-water emergency; 1-detail w/Sheriff's Dep't.); Jackson-2 (1-car fire; 1-structure fire); Mutual aid calls-4: 1-Hebron-(structure fire); 1-Cambridge-(stand-by); 1-Greenwich-(structure); 1-Hartford-(structure)

Training: Truck inspections; monthly air pack check; gear inspection; multi gas meter calibration; first aid, CPR and AED re-certification

Total Hours-571

Report will be filed.

**Courthouse**-Donna Farringer absent. Dorothy Schneider reported that there are many programs being offered at the Courthouse during the winter break from school .

**Highway Dept.**-Joe Boisclair, Superintendent, reported that he was running low on salt and was using sand. Doing plowing, sanding icy spots, and working on trucks.

**Planning Board**-Maurice Patrick said there was currently nothing to report. Public hearing scheduled on a parcel for building at February meeting.

**SYO**-Herb Perking absent; nothing to report.

**Georgi Museum**-Councilman Harold Gilchrest reported that the Georgi Committee met three weeks ago and that Gail Bearup had sent in her resignation letter for the Georgi Museum. Supervisor Pitts has the same. Maybe we need more of a Park Manager/Grounds Keeper position?? What about a gardener for the flower beds? Travis Keys is interested in doing the mowing again this year but a bid notice has to be put in the paper for the same. Could a two-year bid agreement be done? Supervisor Pitts will check on this. Get notice ready for the newspaper. Community Room has three gas heaters—one is bad and is approximately 12-14 years old. It could be replaced for about \$1,000.00 or less with a gas stove between the two windows. A Yodel stove would cost approximately \$2,329.00 but a dealer in Manchester, VT would charge half that and it would be thermostatically controlled. Check with local dealers like A & J, Salem Hardware, and Pablo LaPorte to see what they could come up with. Draw up spec sheets for what we are looking for. Leave one of the heaters in the kitchen.

The sign at the corner of Main and Adams Street would cost approximately \$500.00-\$800.00. **Resolution # 16-** Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to purchase a sign for the corner of Main Street (County Route 61) and Adams Lane at a cost not to exceed \$400.00. Passed unanimously 5-0. Three weddings have been booked with deposits received; the Washington County Band has been booked and the Mettowee Players have been booked for performances at the Georgi grounds. Someone needs to check on the roof to see if repairs need to be done.

**Historian**-Al Cormier reported that the 2007 records have been archived. Work is continuing with the Lakes to Locks program and working with Drew Alberti. Kiosks for the Great Northern Turnpike and covered bridges will be placed on Route 22 beyond Keys Road at the turn-off to the newly paved rest area. Two tourism booklets are being planned. New York Historic Review publishes local history articles electronically and Al submitted an article that was accepted. The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of Dr. Clark and his congregation of Irish Presbyterian origin, along with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Turner's Patent, will be celebrated this summer.

**DCO Report**-Received a resignation from Lois Jasek, the current DCO, effective immediately. The question was asked of Supervisor Pitts why Ms. Jasek resigned after such a short period of time and he responded that the recent dog situation at a home in Shushan with the 11 dogs was the main reason. An ad will be placed in The Eagle for the DCO position on a motion from Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to have Clerk Pat Gilchrist place the ad in the newspaper. Passed 5-0.

**Comprehensive Plan**-Chairman Bruce Ferguson reported that he would like to be the 5<sup>th</sup> member of the Agriculture Committee if the Board had no objections. There were none so Councilman Ferguson will join Meg Southerland, Paul Tomlinson, Neil Adams and Zack Waite on the committee.

**Veteran's Park**-Dorothy Schneider reported that the project is on hold until money becomes available.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Department**-Steve reported that the Salem Fire Department only needs to give the Town notice 30 days in advance of the fundraiser dates, who in on the committee and an outline of the event and that the Fire Department does not need the Board's approval for every planned event. Steve did, however, request that the Town sign the required Certificate of Amendment regarding the Department's 1970 Certificate of Incorporation, since it has since become a 501(c)(3) corporation. **Resolution #17-** On a motion from Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, the Board voted to sign the required Certificate of Amendment to the Salem Volunteer Fire Department's Certificate of Incorporation. Roll call vote: Councilman Harold Gilchrest-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Supervisor-Seth M. Pitts-Yes; Passed 4-0, with Councilman Joseph

Wever abstaining from voting. Steve also reported that three routes have been mapped out for the June 15<sup>th</sup> bike ride.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Copies of resignations from Gail Bearup, Georgi Museum, and DCO Lois Jasek provided to board members.

Congressman Bill Owen’s office acknowledges the request from of help from Supervisor Pitts regarding the flooding issues in the Village and Town of Salem.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Washington County** – Pleasant Valley Infirmary has been turned over to the new owner.

**Economic Development-** Meeting was held on January 8, 2014; grant is being put together under Greenway Communities Grant Program and is an in kind matching grant. Councilman Harold Gilcrest asked how much money the ‘in-kind’ was going to cost and that depends on the size of the grant. Supervisor Pitts responded that services could include time spent on letter writing, meetings, shared services between the Town and the Village, etc. The grant will investigate infrastructure, sewer systems, railroad bed bike trails and the re-development of Main Street.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Pitts informed that a resident had fallen in the Courthouse parking lot and sustained a compound fracture of the wrist and a hip injury.

**Resolution #18-**Introduced by motion from Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, for a budget increase to represent the monies received for the issue with the dogs at a Shushan home as follows:

A510 Estimated Revenues	\$ 3,621.00	
A2544 Dog Licenses		
A960 Appropriations		\$ 3,621.00
A3510.4 Control of Dogs		

Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #19-**Said Study Resolution introduced by motion from Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, for the Army Corps of Engineers to do a Feasibility Study for the Battenkill Creek Watershed (located in the State of New York and the State of Vermont). Said Resolution will allow the District to begin a federally funded reconnaissance study (100% federally funded) that could potentially lead to cost-shared feasibility study (50% Federal-50% non-Federal). Additional authorization would be required for construction, following the feasibility study. Much discussion followed with questions back and forth from board members and the supervisor, but the Resolution to move forward with the study passed 5-0.

**Virginia Curran, Court Clerk-**Virginia needs to close some open Court cases, including DMV cases (there are no Statute of Limitations for traffic tickets). Would the Town consider approving 40 hours of work for \$400.00, so

**Resolution #20-**Introduced by motion from Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, for a Budget Amendment for an increase to Justice Clerk’s salary due to open Court cases in the amount of \$400.00. Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #21-**Introduced by motion from Council Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, for a transfer as follows:

A1110.4 Justice (Contractual)	\$ 400.00	
A1110.1a Personal Services (Clerk)		\$ 400.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting**-The next regular meeting of the Salem Town Board will be held on March 12, 2013, with review of Warrants #3 and Highway Abstract #3 at 6:30 p.m., meeting to begin @ 7:00 p.m.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Passed unanimously 5-0

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Town of Salem