

**TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
MAY 14, 2014 MINUTES**

Present: Supervisor Seth Pitts; Town Council Members: Harold Gilchrest; 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; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.

Absent: Herb Perkins-SYO

Public Present: Kim Erbe; Emily Hanks; Sue Clary; Linda Lewis; Ashleigh Morris-The Eagle Newspaper

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #5 and Highway Abstract #5 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 April 09, 2014 board meeting; **motion** made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to approve the minutes of April 09, 2014 monthly board meeting with the changes as presented to Resolutions #23 and #27. Passed 4-0 (Supervisor Pitts was absent at the April 09, 2014 meeting.)

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, **motion** made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to pay Warrants #5 and Highway Abstract #5 of 2014 as presented. Passed 5-0 (Supervisor Pitts absent)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Salem Fire Department- Chief Graham provided reports for February and March of 2014 as he had been absent at those meetings. Report for April: 11 calls; Salem-7 (2-EMS assist; 1-propane leak; 1-good intent; 1-control burn; 1-grass & brush; 1-property damage MVA; Mutual Aid Calls-4 (1-Cambridge-structure fire; 1-Middle Falls-structure fire; 1-Rupert-MVA; 1-Shushan-grass/brush)

Training: Monthly maintenance on equipment; did driver training and relay pumping

Meetings: Monthly fire department meeting; town meeting

Total training hours-1,811

All reports will be filed.

Courthouse-Donna Farringer reported that the William G. Pomeroy Foundation has donated money for the purchase of two site markers--one for the Courthouse and one for the railroad depot to commemorate the 1852 rail yard. Both markers will be installed in the coming months, with a press conference to take place at each location.

Chamber Music series will continue on May 18th and June 8th under the direction of Daniel Shulman for a cost of \$20.00 each or \$45.00 for the series.

Grey Villet's 'The Loving Story', a beautiful photography exhibit, will run until June 20th. Grey was a wonderful photographer for LIFE magazine.

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

The Talent Showcase will take place on Saturday, June 7th, at 7:30 pm at the Fort Salem Theatre.

The garden is being readied for planting by Dottie Schneider and her crew; planting will be done on June 6th with children from Salem School participating.

Al Fresco tickets go on sale on June 2nd @ 9:00 AM; purchase yours early! No brunch on Sunday morning this year. Tickets are \$60.00 each and the date is July 26th @ 5:00 pm.

Highway Dept.-Joe Boisclair reported that paving has been completed on Beattie Hollow and Black Creek Roads and that half of Riley Hill is completed. Culvert replacement work will begin soon on Camden Valley Road. Grading done on Quarry, Dunigan and lower Bogtown Roads; swept Chambers, Beattie and Blind Buck. Put gravel & stone on Hickory Hill; graded Binninger, Hickory Hill & Roberson Roads and graded potholes on Juniper & Steele Roads; graded Kilburn & Dillon Hill; swept Scott Lake Road; cut trees at Eagleville & Blindbucki Roads; cut shoulders on Camden Valley Road; graded Butcher Road, Adams Lane & Foster Road; graded Woodcock Lane; cut shoulders on Beattie Hollow & Black Creek and started Cemetery Road; cut & chipped on Black Creek Road; worked on Riley Hill Road for Village for two or three days; blacktopped Beattie Hollow & Chambers Roads; serviced generator and switched screens; did CPR training for four men. Report will be filed.

Planning Board-Maurice Patrick reported there were three applications received: 2-Site Plan (1-Mining Permit; 1- House on Blind Buck Road); 1-Subdivision. Mobil Home law was reviewed with the Planning Board after last month's Planning Board meeting.

DCO Report-Supervisor Pitts informed the Board that DCO Nancy Quell had picked up one animal to take to Borador's, which she did at the Supervisor's request. This was done before we officially hired Nancy.

Georgi Museum-Harold Gilchrest reported that the museum was open and that Wendy Bordwell was hired as the Georgi Clerk and Sandy Adams for the new gardener position. De Marco Landscaping is doing the mowing and it has been mowed once. The Washington County Band, Mettawee Players and Hubbard Hall's Shakespeare in the Park have all been scheduled, as well as three weddings. The Museum itself will be open by appointment.

Historian-Al Cormier reported that the Preservation League of NYS had contacted him about doing a study on the shirt shop, currently owned by Richard Hickland. Al told them they would have to deal with Mr. Hickland directly. The chimney on the Depot railroad building has been removed below roof level due to its deteriorating condition. It may be put back up at a later date if money becomes available. Chambers Feil Mill has been sold to Salem Community Fellowship, a Baptist organization that is currently holding services and programs at the Central House. The Civil War Committee met and Al is hoping that a number of souvenir items will be made available for sale in local stores. The History Lecture series offered at the Courthouse will be on the Civil War, dealing with life on the home front during the war. The 123rd Civil War Regiment will hold a reenactment sometime in 2015. It is also the 250th Anniversary of the Turner Patent and the 1st Presbyterian Church, which will occur this year. Judy Flagg has ordered 50 mugs to commemorate this event, which will also be on sale in various places throughout the community at a cost of \$20.00. In September of 2014, a silent film series entitled "The General" with Buster Keaton will be shown at the CCC. A professor and student from Franklin Pearce College met with Al and Supervisor Pitts re articles written by Peter Sauer in Orion Magazine several years ago. Al also attended a lecture in Cambridge, "A Guide to Civil War Monuments in New York City". Al has ordered the sign for the railroad depot and Donna Farringer has ordered the sign for the Courthouse. Both should be coming soon.

Comprehensive Plan-Chairman Bruce Ferguson reported that he had ordered 10 copies of the Ag Plan from Staples to have available for the Ag Committee when revising the Comprehensive Plan.

Veteran's Park-Dottie Schneider reported that a large tree limb had broken off and come down in the park. It appears the tree is rotten inside. Supervisor Pitts said a professional would probably have to be hired to take the rest of the tree down, as well as others around it, if it was found one or all needed to come down.

SYO- Herb Perkins absent but there was a meeting the week of May 5th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Emily Hanks-addressed Supervisor Pitts regarding the danger of the rest of the tree falling and as a safety feature wondered if the park should be cordoned off. Supervisor Pitts reiterated that a professional would probably have to be hired to take the rest of the tree down and possibly others next to it. He has looked over the park and reported that he believed there to be no imminent danger of the rest of the tree falling at this time so the park would not be cordoned off.

Kim Erbe-Addressed the board explaining that the Bancroft Library Board had opened up eligibility for Trustees to serve on the Board to town residents. According to NY Education Law, Section 260, approval of the Town Board is necessary for a town resident to serve on the Board of Trustees of Bancroft Library. The Board recommends Stephen Davis for this position. On a motion from Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, the motion was put forth to appoint Stephen Davis as the town resident to serve as a Trustee on the Bancroft Library Board. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Al Cormier-asked who should be cleaning out the gutters on East Broadway--the Village or the Town? Supervisor Pitts responded that it should be the County but that the Town had done it in the past.

Sue Clary-Reported to the board that a group of concerned residents (both Town and Village) has been meeting at Sue's home regarding the future of Main Street. They are concerned about the historical aspect of Salem, the sewer problems and flooding. They took on the challenge of '48-48-48' to see what could be accomplished in 48 hours, 48 days and 48 months. 'Change for Change' has been organized and is up and running, trying to raise money to plant flowers in flower boxes and place Adirondack chairs around the Village. Mason Jars have been placed in all the businesses and ten Adirondack chairs have already been ordered as a result of the money collected in these jars. A memorial placque will be placed on each chair in remembrance of a local resident. (The cost of a chair is \$150.00). Another walking tour of the Village will take place on May 23rd, from 4-8 pm, and the committee is looking for someone to do another 'Taste of Salem', as the Central House is no longer available. The first event was very well attended and very successful.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Title 8 hearing will be held on June 6, 2014.

Received a fax from Dieter Drake of Anthem Sports regarding any debris that might be found along town roads or any phone calls received from the bike race. The team will clean up any areas of concern.

A letter was also received from Dieter thanking the Town for their continued support of the Tour of the Battenkill. There were more than 2,000 participants this year from 40 states and 8 countries, with only 2 medical transports the entire weekend. Tentative date for 2015 is April 18th 19th.

Washington County Treasurer-2014 Real Property Tax Return Summary Worksheets received from the Washington County Treasurer's Office showing number and amount of 2014 Unpaid taxes returned by the Towns. 15.87% was Salem's percentage returned uncollected. Letter also received from Al Nolette, County Treasurer, re sales tax money--\$8,577.78 was Salem's share.

Tonia Eaton-Letter received from Village resident, Tonia Eaton, regarding all the work that had been done in the Veteran's Park. She is having water issues on land behind her house that she believes is due to tree removal, re-seeding, grading and planting of new trees. Surface water is collecting and could compromise her septic and run-off and she requests that the situation be remedied.

NYS Office of Parks & Recreation-Received a letter from Parks & Recreation/Historic Preservation reporting that the Finch house on Route 29 has been placed on the Historic Register.

Fronhofer Tool Triathlon-E-mail received from Melanie Fronhofer regarding the annual Fronhofer Tool Triathlon to be held on August 2, 2014, at Lake Lauderdale. This year there will only be the Olympic Distance Race. She is asking the Town Board for support and permission to use any town roads in the Town of Salem that will be included in the run and has included a map. All EMS, Sheriff's, NYS Troopers have already been notified of this event and everything is in place. A Certificate of Insurance will be provided as in the past. This race raises money to support two local not-for-profit children's literacy organizations. On a motion from

Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, permission for use of any town roads in the Town of Salem is hereby granted for the 8th Annual Fronhofer Tool Triathlon and the Town Board hereby gives their support and wishes them much success with their race. Passed unanimously 5-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Town-Wide Clean-up Day-Not very much in the way of recycling and no help with road clean-up again.

Mobil Home Law/Regulations-Councilman Harold Gilchrest thanked Planning Board Clerk, Kimberly Erbe, for all of her help and hard work at the joint meeting that was held April 24th between the Town Board and the Planning Board regarding the current regulations. Councilman Joseph Wever responded to the Board saying that he thought any revisions to the current regulations should be put on hold until after the Village dissolution vote was held. There was no sense in putting a lot of work into revisions now and then have to re-do them again to include the Village should the vote go through. Motion made by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to hold off on any further revisions to Mobil Home Law/Regulations until the issue of Village dissolution was resolved. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Timber Contract-Clerk Pat Gilchrist re-did the Contract according to changes requested by Town attorney, Alan Wrigley, and sent them to Mr. Allen. Sent ad to Eagle newspaper for a three-week posting re timber bids on the timber sale.

NEW BUSINESS

2004 Pick-up Truck-Body is rotting and would need replacing. Discussion was held by the board and it was decided to put the truck out for bid to see what it would bring and then decide at that time depending on bids received. **Resolution #31**-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilchrest, to put the 2004 pick-up truck out for bid to see what price it might bring. An ad will be place in the Eagle newspaper advertising the same for at least two weeks. Roll call vote: Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilman Harold Gilchrist-Yes; Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Supervisor Seth M. Pitts-Yes Passed unanimously 5-0.

Summer Swim Program-Will again be held at Lake Lauderdale in conjunction with Lunch, Learn, n Play. Swim in the morning, then kids will be bused back to Salem at 11:30 am for lunch and afternoon program at the CCC. \$25.00 for one child for bus; \$30.00 for 2 or more children.

Army Corps of Engineers-Coming from the Albany Office on 05/15/14 to meet at 1:00 pm to look at the work that was already done on White Creek. Still waiting to hear on grant study from NY City Office.

Resolution #32-To Establish a Standard Work Day-Introduced by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, that the Town of Salem hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the days worked to the NYS and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system records of the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body: **Elected Officials:** Town Clerk Patricia Gilchrist-Standard Work Day 6 hrs./day from 01/01/14-12/31/2017; Highway Superintendent Joseph Boisclair-Standard Work Day 8 hrs./day from 01/01/12-12/31/2105; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Standard Work Day 6 hrs./day from 01/01/14-12/31/2015

Appointed Officials: Clerk to Supervisor Kathleen Chambers-Standard Work Day 8 hrs./day from 01/01/14-12/31/14; Assessor Jean McLenithan-Standard Work Day 8 hrs./day from 10/01/14-09/30/2020.

Said Reporting Resolution will be posted for one month by the Town Clerk. Passed unanimously 5-0

Village Dissolution Process-Village held a meeting on Wednesday, May 7th, to set the date for voting on the Village dissolution. The date was set as August 5th, 2014, for **Village residents only.**

Copier-Have received information from Rick Gallup at Xerox on a 36-month lease with a fixed purchase option on both a color and a black/white machine. Electronic Office Products of Saratoga will install a new Toshiba now, paying the cost of a one-year service contract (\$300.00), final purchase price due January, 2015. Discussion followed and the board felt the lease/purchase of the Xerox machine was too costly. **Resolution #33**-Introduced by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Harold Gilcrest, to give Supervisor Seth Pitts the authority now to move forward with the purchase of the Toshiba copier, to pay the service contract price of \$300.00 now, with full purchase price due in January, 2015. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to Adjourn- Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board. Passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next Regular Meeting-The next regular meeting of the Salem Town Board will be held on June 11, 2014, with review of Warrants #6 and Abstract #6 at 6:30 p.m., meeting to begin @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem