

**TOWN OF SALEM  
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 08, 2014 MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Joe Boisclair-Highway Sup't.; Al Cormier-Historian; Wendy Bordwell-Georgi

Absent: Councilman Harold Gilchrest; Donna Farringer-Courthouse; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Robert Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.; DCO-Nancy Quell (Herb Perkins has resigned as representative from SYO.)

Public Present: Eric Wilkins-The Eagle Newspaper

Meeting is being held at the Georgi Community Room this month, as has been the tradition for the October meeting.

6:30 pm-Review & signing of Warrants #10 and Highway Abstract #10 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 September 10, 2014 regular monthly board meeting and the September 22, 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Workshop meeting; **motion** made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to approve the minutes of September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, regular monthly board meeting and September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Workshop meeting. Passed 4-0, with Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent.

After review of Warrants and Highway Abstract, **motion** made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to pay **Warrants #10** and **Highway Abstract #10** of 2014 as presented. Passed 4-0, with Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Salem Fire Department-** Chief Graham provided report; **10 Calls for month of September as follows:**

5-Salem (2-good intent calls; 2-structure fires; 1-MVA); 2-Jackson (1-control burn; 1-lines down); Mutual Aid: 3-Hebron (1-MVA; 1-structure fire; 1-stand-by in station)

**Training-**Monthly air pack/multi-meter check; Bailout & SCBA training; vehicle extrication

**Fund Raising-**Redneck Fest at the Carnival Grounds; very well attended

**Total hours-**5,562

Report will be filed

**Courthouse-**Donna Farringer absent; no report.

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.

The Battenkill Kitchen will be holding four classes: Crepe Making Made Easy with Nancy DeBona on Monday, 09/22; Autumn Soups with Martha Culliton on Monday, 10/06; Sunday Brunch with Beth Anthony on Monday, 10/20 and Holiday Candy Making with Elaine Gibb on Monday, 11/10/14; all classes begin at 6:00 pm. The classes are \$30.00 each or all four for \$100.00.

'Fear This' will be returning to the Courthouse on Fridays and Saturdays in October at 7:00 pm, beginning the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>; 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Adults-\$10.00; children 13 and under-\$5.00; Families-\$25.00

**Highway Dept.-**Joe Boisclair reported that he and his crew are working with the Village on drainage and everything is going well; also fixed drainage in the Village in front of Stewart's store. Finishing up mowing and grading on several town roads; made and hauled sand; made gravel; working on town lot in the Village, taking out the remaining stumps, filling holes with stone, putting on top soil and seeding. Trucks are being readied for inspection. Joe would like to review sick days--currently @ ten; could probably be decreased to five days.

Report will be filed.

**Georgi Museum**-Wendy Bordwell reported that the Picnic in the Park was very successful. Community room is in need of renovations on the inside. New propane heater will be installed in the same room as the old one is in. Judy Flagg will work with Friends of the Sun in Manchester, VT and the propane provider, PARACO. The LARAC grant is due on October 15<sup>th</sup> and the grant through SCA American is due on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Georgi spread sheet provided showing income and expenses through September-2014.

**Planning Board**-Mo Patrick absent; nothing to report.

**DCO**-No report provided

**Historian**-Al Cormier reports that the two new signs have been placed--one at the Depot and one at the Courthouse. Councilman Bruce Ferguson reported that the sill has been replaced at the Depot with treated lumber and rubber has been placed along the sides of the building to protect the siding. Painting has been done, also.

Al's new book, **Along the Battenkill**, is selling well. The quilt will be finished soon for the Civil War commemoration; the back and the binding need to be put on. Fund-raising is continuing, with \$500.00 being received from Glens Falls National Bank; \$500.00 from the Chamber of Commerce and \$100.00 will be coming from the Salem Area Woman's Club. Laura Dunham has moved her flower shop across the street into the Linda Marlo building and is now open for business. Jacko's is now open, serving sandwiches and salads, ice cream and many varieties of coffee from Mon.-Fri., 7 am-7 pm; Saturday 7 am-1 pm and closed on Sunday. No one knows yet what is happening on the corner where Sullivan's Diner was. Al reported that the NYS Museum Bio-Architect will be coming on Friday to the Revolutionary War Cemetery.

**Comprehensive Plan**-Nothing new to report.

**Veteran's Park**-Stumps removed by Salem Town Highway Crew; stone was put in the holes, top soil added and the area was re-seeded.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter**-Received from District Attorney re the Riley Hill issue.

**Property tax freeze credit** cards received to hand out. You must receive the STAR property tax exemption and the school district must comply with the tax cap. The NY Tax Department will automatically mail you a check if you qualify; you do not have to apply for anything.

**Salem Seniors**-Letter received from David McNitt and Marilyn Hanby thanking the Town for the contribution to their program.

**Storm Recovery**-Letter received from the Governor's Office re storm recovery and any FEMA monies received. They are requesting time sheets, payroll reports and any contracts that were entered into.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Village Dissolution**-The next meeting of the Dissolution Committee will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The sub-committee met once, discussing staffing issues and a cut off time.

**Local Government Efficiency Grants**-Supervisor Pitts reported that the paperwork has been filled out for the grant.

**Sheriff Jeff Murphy & D.A. Tony Jordan Presentation**-Supervisor Pitts echoed that he felt the presentation at the September meeting regarding the drug problem in Washington was very informative. He reiterated that he was hoping for more attendance, especially from the school.

**Health Insurance Update**-Debbie Bell from Capital Financial met with the highway employees, Joe B., June B. and Bill Zinn. Blue Shield Advantage is raising its cost to almost \$500.00/month. No new figures yet on any other Medicare Advantage Plans, but it looks like CDPHP will be the best fit for the retirees. She is hoping to be able to e-mail figures to Supervisor Pitts tomorrow, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**2% Property Tax Cap**-Supervisor Pitts explained that even though there was a percentage to carry over from last year's budget, the tax increase would still be the figure before the carryover.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Highway Sup't. Joe Boisclair was advised by NYS that the remaining CHIPS money would not be received before December of 2014. Attorney Alan Wrigley will prepare a RAN (after talking to Glens Falls National Bank's attorney, a RAN is fine rather than a BAN), borrowing the balance of the money due Peckham's through Glens Falls National Bank & Trust Company, in the amount of \$83,000.00, as Peckham wants the balance of their money now.

**Resolution #51**-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to sign a RAN with Glens Falls National Bank & Trust Company for one year in the amount of \$83,000.00 to pay the balance of Peckham's bill. Once the money is received from NYS, the RAN will be paid. Roll call vote: Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes; Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent.

**Resolution #52**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to pay Peckham the balance due of \$83,000.00 as soon as the RAN is signed by the Town and Glens Falls National Bank & Trust Company and the money is received from the Bank. Roll call vote: Councilman Joseph Wever-Yes; Councilman Bruce Ferguson-Yes; Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider-Yes; Supervisor Seth Pitts-Yes; Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent.

**Resolution #53**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to allow the Court Clerk, Virginia Curran, to apply for on-line grants for court-required software. Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent.

**Resolution #54**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, for a transfer as follows:

GM7450.4 Contractual	\$ 3,000.00	
GM7450.1 Personnel		\$ 3,000.00

Transfer of funds needed due to shortage in .4 account. Additional funds will need to be transferred from Fund Balance after this; there is no operating money left in .4.

Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent

**Resolution #55**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Dorothy Schneider, for a transfer as follows:

Funds to be transferred from Veteran's Park to General to pay A & J bill for work done in park after stump removal in the amount of \$140.00. Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent

**Resolution #56**-Motion made by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to spend up to \$3,000.00 for the purchase of a new propane heater for the Georgi Community Room. Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent.

**Employee Handbook/Staffing Concerns**-Supervisor Pitts will talk to Capital Financial, who does HR updates. Our Handbook needs to be re-done with all current changes.

**Tentative Budget-Line 27**-Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Personal Services up from \$13,076 to \$14,000.00

**Line #82**-Economic Development-Contractual up from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for Civil War Commemoration and Senior Citizens programs. **Line 89**-Historian-Personal Services-Deputy-New position for \$400.00. **Line 287**-Machinery-Equipmet (New) from \$15,000 to \$12,000

**Resolution #57**-Motion made by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Wever, to move from Tentative Budget to Preliminary with changes as noted to Lines 27, 82, 89 and 287. Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent.

**Prior Resolution #43 from August 13, 2014 meeting**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to amend prior **Resolution #43 from August 13, 2014 meeting**, stating that Councilman Joseph Wever work through State Contract to purchase a computer for the Georgi in an amount not to exceed \$900.00; increase amount from \$900.00 to \$937.41. Passed 4-0; Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent

**Al Cormier-Historian**-Asked Supervisor Pitts if the Civil War committee could add a link on the Town's web page since it was already established. Supervisor Pitts said certainly and to contact Sarah Kelly from Over the Moon Graphics for assistance.

**Public Hearing on Preliminary Budget**-Will be held on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, @ 6 pm in the Salem Town Office; 214 Main Street; Salem, NY.

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting**-November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at the Salem Town Office. Review of Warrants #11 and Highway Abstract #11 at 6:30; regular meeting to begin at 7:00 pm.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion made by Councilman Joseph Wever, seconded by Councilwoman Dorothy Schneider, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board. Passed 4-0; meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm. Councilman Harold Gilchrest absent.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Town of Salem, NY