

**Approved**

**SALEM BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
October 14, 2010**

**PRESENT**

T J Butcher  
Carole Eckart  
George Householder  
Greg Preston  
R. Traylor (Alt)  
Bill Weinschenker

**ABSENT**

Janet Griggs  
(2) Vacancy (Alt)

B. Weinschenker called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

**Recognition of Visitors:** None

**Seat Alternate:**

M/S/C (Eckart/Householder) to seat TJ Butcher in place of K. Freiert.

**Vote: Approved Unanimously**

**Communications:**

- A resignation letter was received from Kevin Freiert. Chairman Weinschenker thanked Kevin for his many years of services on the Board of Finance.
- An invitation by Marien & Company was received inviting the BOF Chairman, First Selectman, BOE Chairman and Superintendent to a workshop entitled "Connecticut's State and Local Government's Financial Crisis" being held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Courtyard By Marriott.

**Additions: None**

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

**M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Salem Board of Finance amended as follows:**

- Page 1-Seat Alternate: change Roland to Traylor
- Page 2-Abstaining: change Roland to Traylor
- Page 3-Remove “THE; should read: “Money has been approved”
- Add a comma “Public works crew in other areas,

**Vote: Approved. In favor- Eckart, Householder, Weinschenker. Abstaining- Preston, TJ Butcher**

**2. Treasurers Report**

M. Ferren presented her reports (see file copies Aug & Sept).

- Tax collections are up from 53.4% in 09/10 to 53.9% 10/11.
- Audit adjustments for the 09/10 budget year have not been received. When adjustments are received, reports on the balances will be updated.
- G. Householder reminded the Treasurer about the new appropriation of \$9122 from Undesignated Funds that was not mentioned in her report.
- G. Householder asked about the 2010/2011 Salary Department #105. K. Lyden is aware that the Recording Secretary (P&Z Transcripts), Tax Collector Assistant (Tax Collection), Town Clerk Assistant and the On Call (Injure of EMT Firefighter) lines are over budget. Money will be moved from other lines during the budget year. These events were unanticipated.

**3. Public Comment: None**

**4. Selectman’s Report**

- Vision Appraisal's revaluation team started visiting homes this month. The budget amount for this work was based on the 80% of an original quote of \$136,000. The new quote for this service is \$96,800, which leaves approximately \$12,000 that will be returned to the General Fund. There are two appraisers working on the revaluation. They are starting on the out skirts of the town while the weather is still nice and will do the subdivision in the cooler weather. It will take between 4 to 6 months to collect the information. The appraisers will each visit homeowner twice and, if unsuccessful at finding anyone at home, a letter will be sent to schedule an appointment for inspection. This information will be for the 2012 Grand List. G. Householder suggested information be placed on the website and in "Our Town Salem". C. Eckart asked if pictures of the appraisers could also be placed on the website. R. Trailor asked if a schedule of the appraiser's visits could be placed on the website. First Selectman Lyden will look into adding both these things to the Town's website.
- K. Lyden informed the BOF that the Town will go out to bid for the \$150,000 STEAP Grant Pavilion. This grant requires no town match. Details on where the pavilion will be placed have not yet been determined. Both B. Weinshenker and G. Householder asked if this will be placed on the southwest side of the Gadbois property close to the parking area. The work on this project is slated for spring 2011 with hopes of a finish date of July 2011. The pavilion will accommodate approximately 150 people and will have electricity and water. Restriction on this property will be addressed during the process.
- Solar panels are in place on the Library, Salt Shed, Gardner Lake and the TOB. The estimated electrical yearly saving to the town will be \$8,000-\$9,000. On Monday 10/18/2010, the Library will be on line monitoring the usage and cost savings of these solar panels. This information could be incorporated into the school's math and science curriculum.

- An application for a Historic Grant, for the Salem Towne House, which requires a 50% match, will be submitted this month. The repairs to the Towne House are estimated at \$112,000. The requested grant amount will be for \$38,000- \$50,000. The town, in it's 2010/2011 Capital Budget, allocated approximately \$35,000 for repairs to the Towne House, which can be used for the necessary match.
- Work has begun on the \$104,000 grant received for the installation of a sidewalk between the Salem School and the town owned property. The sidewalk will be set back from the road for safety reasons. G. Householder asked about snow removal and if this will require purchasing additional equipment. First Selectman Lyden informed him that the Public Work's Department already owns snow removal equipment. This sidewalk will be used for emergency evacuations and for the school to access the Library and the students' visits to the TOB without being transported by a bus, which has been done in previous years.
- K. Lyden spoke about new businesses in the Town of Salem. Gung Ho, which has a restaurant in Colchester, will replace Uncle Chong's restaurant which recently closed. The Lecce property sold and the new owner is planning to build a barn and have trails on the 90 acres. R & W Heating is planning to consolidate their business by adding office space to their garage. Right now the office part of their business is in Bozrah. E & B opened as Blackwater Pro Shop and U. S. Training Center, Inc. U. S. Training has contracts with the Navy as a training facility. It is also open to the public.
- The School Building Committee will meet with the Board of Selectmen at their November 9, 2010 meeting. Details on their findings and recommendations will be discussed at this time. K. Lyden has been in contact with Chelsea Bank about financing the school's project. More information on this will be discussed at the next BOF meeting.

- Round-About/Commercial Property located next to Chelsea Bank- G. Preston inquired about the status of these two projects. Selectman Lyden informed the Board the garage purchase for the round-about will be finalized in November/December. The garage and the small white house on the same side will be razed in the spring. He also stated that the water supply for the Salem Town Center is located under the Old General Store creating a problem. The water supply will have to be moved. Work on the round-about has a 2012 start date. The property next to Chelsea Bank has been approved by P&Z. There are other issues that need to be addressed.

**Seat Alternate:**

M/S/C (Preston/Householder) to seat R. Traylor in place of J. Griggs

**Vote: Approved Unanimously**

**5. Appointment of BOF Member**

Chairman Weinschenker informed the Board that the BOF has 30 days to nominate a new member and a new alternate. After this date the Board of Selectman will nominate these positions on the Board. TJ Butcher is interested in becoming a full member of the BOF. This new position will only carry through to November 2011. R. Traylor said he would also like to be a full member, but other obligations at this time would prevent him from doing so.

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to appoint TJ Butcher as a full member of the Board of Finance until November 2011.

**Vote: Approved Unanimously**

**M/S/C (Eckart) to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Unanimous.**

Virginia Casey,  
Recording Secretary