

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

**The minutes submitted below have been filed in accordance with
Section 7-342 of the CT General Statutes. They are subject to final approval
with or without amendments by a vote of the Board of Finance (BOF).
Approval and any such amendments will be detailed in subsequent BOF minutes.**

PRESENT

William “Skip” Dickson, Chairman
Marshall Collins, Clerk
Corinne (Cory) Bourgeois
Deborah Cadwell
Janet Griggs
Matt Rucci
Kate Belleville, Alternate
John Bernier, Alternate
Maryann Casciano, Alternate

ABSENT

none

ALSO PRESENT

First Selectman Ed Chmielewski
Finance Specialist Lisa Jablonski

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dickson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Horace Lindo, 542 Flanders Road, Oakdale

SEAT ALTERNATE IF NEEDED: *none*

COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. A copy of a letter, summons, and complaint against the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. (GLVFCO), James Savalle, and Stephen Philopena from Tobin, Carberry, O’Malley, Riley & Selinger
- b. A copy of a memo from Clerk Collins regarding the Governor’s Proposed Budget

AGENDA:

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 9, 2023 BOF Meeting**
M/S/C: Griggs/Collins, to approve the February 9, 2023 Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes, with the following amendment:

Page 4, Item 5(D), 2nd to last sentence:

... Registrar Sartori commended both Registrar of Voters Butts and former Registrar of Voters Doris ~~Butts~~ Burr for their hard work and efforts....

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Horace Lindo, 542 Flanders Road, Oakdale, clarified how the town acquired Salem Volunteer Fire Company's (SVFCO) property and building. He stated that, due to extensive repairs, the Fire Company donated the land to the town, and the town funded the demolition and construction of a new building. In contrast, the GLVFCO is an independent 501(c)3 organization, which owns its property and building. The organization has been in existence for over 50 years and is available for public use by the residents of the town, including funeral services, birthday parties, and the like, free of charge. Because there are no alternative meeting rooms for private functions in the Town of Salem, the property and building are, in essence, owned by and exist to serve the people of Salem, not the Fire Company. In addition, as a Volunteer Fire Company, they receive donations, including an A/C System for the Recreation Room and electrical and masonry work. Should the Fire Company dissolve, it would be required to transfer its property and associated building to a public organization which, he suspected, would be the town. He cited and stood by a former Selectman and Board of Finance Member's comment that the town would not benefit from owning the building. He requested that the town cease using the excuse that it does not own the property/building to avoid funding necessary repairs.

Cheryl Philopena, 309 Witch Meadow Road, a volunteer member of the Fire Company for 48 of her 68 years of life, commented on the defamatory remarks that have been made against the GLVFCO and its members. She urged them to remember that allegations, no matter what they are, how they are made, or how often they are made, are not factual, and the premise, "innocent until proven guilty" applies. The Fire Company's silence should not be misunderstood as a sign of weakness or admission of guilt; their side of the story will be revealed very soon. She urged them to recognize that, despite being defamed, maligned, and/or accused, they are the individuals who wake up in the middle of the night to respond to a variety of emergency calls. During the last three calendar years, they have responded to the majority of total Calls for Service. She recalled that in one year alone, the members responded to 548 ambulance calls. The members witness a variety of incidents that no individual would like to see. These incidents not only stay with them for their entire lives but are also regularly relived. The budget the town allocates to the Ambulance provides them with a tool to risk their lives and take care of the members of the community. While acknowledging the lack of representation at the Capital Budget meeting, she respectfully requested that the repaving of the Fire Company's parking lot, which was deferred to the FY2024/25 Capital Budget, be reinstated to the FY2023/24 Capital Budget. She presented photographs of the holes, ranging from one (1) to five (5) inches in depth, that have

transpired over the years and will only worsen. The holes are a safety issue for the public and its valuable members who could not only injure themselves and place them out of service, but also result in a workers' compensation claim for the town. She concurred with Mr. Lindo's comment regarding the use of the Fire Company's hall by the residents, adding that it is also used by such community groups as the Recreation Commission, State of Connecticut, Unsung Heroes, Salem Seniors, Boy Scouts and Venture Crew, County & Regional Chiefs, Lions Club, etc. She thanked them for their consideration and reiterated that they are not the enemy and are innocent until proven guilty.

Gene Maiorano, 799 West Road, an SVFCO Member since 1972/73, former Chief for approximately 39 years and Treasurer, and current Deputy Chief, agreed that the Fire Company requested the town to fund a new building in 1988/89, but corrected Mr. Lindo regarding the transfer of ownership. Realizing that a town building was now housed on the Fire Company's property, the then-First Selectman Hugh Teel requested that both of the Fire Companies transfer their buildings, properties, and equipment to the town. The SVFCO complied with his request within six (6) months and the town now owns the building, property, and all of the equipment, with the exception of a 6 x 6 utility vehicle. Regarding their billing issues, he suggested the Board ask all of the departments whether they are having any issues with the processing of their invoices in a timely manner.

Horace Lindo, 542 Flanders Road, Oakdale, stated that, according to the town's recent audit, the town has approximately 37% of its budget in undesignated funds, i.e., approximately \$6 million of the \$50 million the town receives in tax revenue is currently in reserve. As such, the town has sufficient funds to "do what needs to be done" and the Fire Company's parking lot should be funded.

Cheryl Philopena, 309 Witch Meadow Road, corrected the First Selectman's comment at the Special Town Meeting that the ambulance crew was compensated. She informed them that they are paid \$40.00 for a six (6) hour shift or \$6.66/hour to be on call. During this period, they are not free to engage in any substantial type of activity that would prevent them from immediately conducting their duties as Volunteer EMTs. According to Labor Laws, the stipend is considered a Nominal Fee, which does not *eviscerate* their Volunteer status. A Nominal Fee is not compensation. She also humbly requested and recommended that the parking lot drainage be improved and the parking lot be paved rather than chip sealed, which is not a long-term solution. She also agreed with Mr. Lindo's comments regarding the transfer of property to the town should the Fire Company be dissolved.

Clerk Collins raised a procedural item in the spirit of maintaining transparency, openness, and honesty. He took issue with the use of such actionable words as corruption, defamation, and unethical has been used over the last two months. An independent, third-party audit was recently completed on the town's finances and no issues or evidence of corruption were found. In addition, the term, "defund" concerning the GLVFCO has never been heard or

used. The Board of Finance, he believed, functions in a quasi-judicial role, listening to departmental requests, balancing the interests of the town, and making recommendations to the residents who submit their final vote. Impartiality is an important aspect of the process. As such he will be recusing himself from item 3(C) on the Agenda as his wife currently serves on the Library Board. He expressed his confidence in each of the Alternate Members' objectiveness and abilities. He cautioned the public against utilizing such words that are actionable and not constructive.

M/S/C: Griggs/Cadwell, to seat Alternate Board Member Belleville for Full Board

Member Collins for the discussion and vote for Item 3(C), #158 Library.

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0-1. Voting in Favor: Board Members

Bourgeois, Cadwell, Griggs, Rucci, and Dickson. Voting in Opposition: None.

Voting in Abstention: Board Member Collins.

5. ACT ON PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2023-2024

A. #116 ASSESSOR

Assessor Mike Kapinos presented the budget request for Department #116 – Assessor, with a flat budget. He thanked the Board for their continued support and stated that he has had no issues with the payment of invoices. He explained that, while the Vision CAMA Software cost has increased, the total budget was balanced by the reduction of other line items. Clerk Collins expressed his appreciation for the correspondence of numbers based on the budgeted, expended, and actual amounts.

B. #118 TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector Vivian Waters presented the budget for Department #118 – Tax Collector, with a flat budget. She reported that the office is running smoothly, the Collection Rate is on track, and all of the department's submitted invoices are paid for in a timely fashion. Like the Assessor's proposed budget, Clerk Collins appreciated that the numbers support the requested amounts.

Online Payments (Board Member Casciano) – Tax Collector Waters reported that approximately 75% to 80% of the Motor Vehicles, Supplemental, and Property Tax payments are paid through escrow accounts and the bulk of the payments is paid online. There have been no security issues with the online payment system, which is in the process of being upgraded by the vendor. The upgraded system will allow the residents to schedule reminders and automatic payments.

C. #158 LIBRARY

Library Director Shannon Henson presented the budget for Department #158 – Library, which includes an increase of \$3,325.00 or 8.42% due to an increase in equipment and materials costs. She confirmed the often-used description of the Library as a Library/Community Center as it hosts and supports numerous programs and events for individuals of all ages and community organizations. As they come out of the pandemic,

they have seen a rise in patrons from approximately 7,800 patrons during the previous fiscal year to approximately 7,000 patrons, to date, in the current fiscal year. In addition, the number of patrons who utilize the Library as an office space has also increased. While the Salem School students visit the Library twice a year, she hopes to increase their outreach and work more closely with and supplement the School through the resources they provide. She reviewed each of the line items and their respective increases. There have been no issues with the submission and payment of bills.

Computer Usage (Board Member Casciano) – Library Director Henson stated that they are witnessing a large increase in patrons utilizing the computers and the five-year replacement schedule should be maintained.

DVDs (Board Member Casciano) – Library Director Henson reported that, surprisingly, DVDs continue to be circulating. Duplicate DVDs were eliminated to provide additional shelf space.

Alternate Revenue Sources (Board Member Casciano) – Generous gifts are received and funneled through the Friends of the Library, who support 100% of the programming. She recently subscribed to a membership to the Association for Small & Rural Libraries, which provides some grant support, and applied for grant funding for an art program.

M/S/C: Griggs/Cadwell, to approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$42,800.00 for Department #158 – Library, subject to review and/or revision, pending approval at the Board of Finance’s March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

**D. #220 GARDNER LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF
#222 GARDNER LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

GLVFCO Pete Silva presented the budget for Departments #220 – Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company (a.k.a. Salem Fire Department) Chief and #222 – Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company (a.k.a. Salem Fire Department), with flat budgets. He provided the following updates:

Line Item 5-222-527, GLVFC Insurance – The new rates, which will not be received until May, is estimated to increase by 3% to 5% or \$800.00 to \$1,400.00. The currently budgeted amount should be sufficient to accommodate the increase.

Line Item 5-222-614, GLVFC Testing – The testings for the SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) and Pumps have been completed. The Hose Testing for both Departments is scheduled for the end of March.

Line Item 5-222-612, GLVFC Vehicle Maintenance – Vehicles are currently out for repair, including the Forestry Truck for an electrical issue.

Line Item 5-222-517, GLVFC Training – A new laptop and a/v equipment, including a projector and speakers, that is used for training will be purchased.

Training (Clerk Collins) – Much of the training is conducted jointly with SVFCO, including the EMS (Emergency Medical Service) and Hazmat (Hazardous Materials Management) Training. Training sessions are held in town whenever possible and are open to both Fire Companies; no funds are expended for out-of-town training.

Line Item 5-222-225, GLVFC Physicals (Board Member Casciano) – Several Hartford Healthcare invoices were recently approved and will be submitted to the town. Some invoices have remained unpaid. The individual members' roles dictate how often and what type of physical they receive.

Alternate Revenue Sources (Board Member Casciano) – A minimal amount of donations are received. The Annual Monster Mash event breaks even..

Number of Volunteers (Board Member Bourgeois) – There are 18 (eighteen) Volunteers who respond to calls. *A breakdown of those who serve as Firefighters, EMTs, and Fire Police will be provided.*

Line Item 5-222-432 Fire Wells (Clerk Collins) – The Fire Wells, which accommodate both Fire Companies, are assessed during the spring. The necessary repairs are unpredictable and often weather dependent.

Line Item 5-222-217 GLVFC Professional Fees (Clerk Collins) – The Line Item includes memberships to such organizations as NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), County Chiefs, and the like. Funding for the Fire Company's legal fees derives from their in-house budget, which is traditionally utilized for medical supplies, a new ambulance, ambulance repairs, equipment for both departments, AED Testing costs, etc. Funding for judgment(s) for the current lawsuit(s) will derive from the Fire Company's Insurance Company and in-house budget.

Ambulance Revenue (Board Member Casciano) – The majority of the revenue earned from the transport fee derived from ambulance calls is allocated to the purchase of a new ambulance. The fees vary depending on the level of care required during the transport. GLVFCO Board President Philopena stated that there is a set rate, established by the state, that they are allowed to collect. On average, \$975.00 is collected per transport. For Medicaid or Medicare individuals, an average of \$475.00 is collected per transport. The amount is further reduced to \$200 for individuals requiring a Medic (Advanced Life Support (ALS) transports) — an issue which Senator Saud Anwar is seeking to remedy through recently introduced legislation. A recent review of their records revealed that approximately 80% of their account receivables are for Medicaid/Medicare transports that will not be collected. The Ambulance Fund balance is currently \$272,697.00. The EMS Fund balance is \$66,724.00. The EMS Fund is used

for medical supplies and stipends, which are reimbursed by the town. The Fire Department's in-house account balance is approximately \$28,000.00. The in-house account includes funds received from donations, fundraisers, membership dues, and the like. *The Senate Bill Number of the legislation introduced by Senator Anwar will be provided to the Board.*

In response to Board Member Casciano who wished to confirm that the Fire Company receives the revenue from the transporting of patients by the town's two (2) full-time (career) Firefighters/EMTs during the weekdays, GLVFCO Board President Philopena stated that the paid staff has been refusing to include the patient's insurance information in the patient care reports resulting in a loss of funds due to their inability to bill the patients. She estimated that their average collection rate is 65%.

Ambulance (Board Member Casciano) – They are currently in the process of investigating the purchase of a new ambulance to replace their current ambulance which is approximately ten (10) years of age. A new ambulance is estimated to cost approximately \$300,000.00 and would require a lead time of approximately two (2) to three (3) years. They plan to determine the specifications and final amount within the next two months.

Status of Previous Audit Recommendations (Clerk Collins) – Per their previous Audit, some of their accounts receivables were updated. Some of the existing friction between the Fire Company and the town results from the Fire Company's refusal to release the results of their recent Audit, which does not pertain to public funds, to the town. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the Fire Company's lack of transparency. Board Member Casciano felt that, because the town provides funds and full-time staffing from which they receive revenue from the transport fees, their refusal to fully disclose its finances is unfounded. She was offended by the comments stated by one of their members during the recent Special Town Meeting, adding that the Board provides full disclosure. GLVFCO Board President Philopena stated that all 29 pages of their previous tax returns are available online and are unable to release the requested information due to HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Laws. *GLVFCO Board President Philopena agreed to provide their tax returns, in-house budget, audit, and redact any information that would violate the HIPAA Law, by March 1.* In all due fairness, she requested that the SVFCO also provide its financial information to the Board.

Ambulance Fund (Clerk Collins) – GLVFCO Board President Philopena confirmed that, because the pending lawsuit against the town is related to the Ambulance stipends, the Ambulance Funds are being used to finance the litigation. She stated that the lawsuit was filed to protect the Fire Company, its EMTs, and the Ambulance Funds from the town's incorrect payment of funds.

Fire Truck Expenses (Board Member Bourgeois) – *GLVFCO Board President Philopena agreed to provide information regarding the fire truck expenses deriving from its funds to the Board.*

Chief's Account (Board Member Casciano) – Some of the funds from the Chief's Account are used to purchase sweatshirts, t-shirts, uniforms, and the like.

Office Supplies (Clerk Collins) – The in-house budget is used to purchase of office supplies.

Payment of Invoices (Board Member Bourgeois) – GLVFCO Board Treasurer John Cunningham reported that there are outstanding invoices for both the Fire Company and the Ambulance. Some of the bills and their associated P.O.s have been submitted more than once. Outstanding invoices include Hartford Healthcare (partial payment was issued) and bill(s) for the digitization of their training records (submitted in November). He noted that the checks for the Fire Company's Verizon account were held for five (5) months before being mailed. He expressed his continuing frustrations and difficulties dealing with the Finance Department from which he has been forbidden, in writing, to have any contact. No explanation has been provided regarding the delays or the directive to have no contact nor has he received any response from any Board of Selectmen or Board of Finance member to whom he stated the issues he has encountered. He apologized if he had offended them during the Special Town Meeting and clarified that he was speaking on his behalf, as a resident and taxpayer of the town, and not the Fire Company.

Clerk Collins reiterated their statement that the Board does not have any jurisdiction over the payment process. GLVFCO Board Treasurer Cunningham did not agree, stating that, per the Town Charter, the Board is responsible for overseeing the finances of the town and should be made aware of any issues. He felt that activities could lead to corruption. GLVFCO Board President Philopena added that the Fire Company has begun paying invoices that have not been paid out of their EMS account to ensure that their accounts remain in good standing.

First Selectman Chmielewski expressed his pride in the paid and volunteer Emergency Services staff, including the Fire Police and First Responders, who work for and keep the town safe. He stated that, since being elected as the town's First Selectman, he has been involved with two (2) Audits, both of which received stellar marks, with no notes or suggestions for improvement. Per their Agreement with the Fire Company, the town has requested that the Fire Company undergo an Audit – their previous Audit having been conducted approximately three (3) years ago. Their request was refused, making it difficult for the town to make recommendations on behalf of the Fire Company. He stated that several of their allegations have been very hurtful and troubling and stated his full support of the Finance Department. He also appreciated that the Board has

begun questioning each of the departments regarding any billing issues they might have encountered as the responses will reveal that there are none. He reminded the Board that one of the primary purposes of the Fire Chiefs Roundtable Meetings, which was established two-and-a-half years ago, was to enhance the communication between the town and the Fire Companies by devising and streamlining procedures. A Chief's Training Session was also held regarding invoicing procedures. To the best of his knowledge, the established and agreed-upon procedures have not been followed nor have the billing issues been raised during their meetings. In addition, the GLVFCO has not attended numerous meetings. He further informed the Board that the Verizon bill was held due to its inclusion of an individual who is no longer a member of the Fire Company. The invoice was paid once the individual was removed from the account. He reiterated his commendation of the Finance Department, adding that the accusations and allegations have been very hurtful, harmful, and traumatic, resulting in the institution of an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Finance Specialist Lisa Jablonski provided a brief explanation of the outstanding invoice(s).

Clerk Collins suggested that the Point of Contact be clarified should it not be the Chief.

**E. #220 SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF
#222 SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

In lieu of SFVCO Chief Chip Weston, SVFCO Deputy Chief Gene Maiorano presented the budget for Departments #220, Salem Volunteer Fire Company, Chief, and #222, Salem Volunteer Fire Company, with an increase of \$10,000.00. The increases include:

Line Item 5-222-529 SVFC Insurance – Reflects a rate increase of \$1,000.00.

Line Item 5-222-618 SVFC Repair/Maintenance of Equipment – Due to an NFPA requirement to replace tires every seven (7) years, the tires for the tanker are due for replacement. The cost for the tires, which is currently \$7,300.00, is estimated to rise to \$8,000.00 by July 2023. In FY2024/25 and FY2025/26, the tires of the ladder truck will also be due for replacement. The vendor is on the state bid. Because the tires are in, relatively, good condition, they were offered to the Public Works Department. Unfortunately, the tires will not fit any of their vehicles.

Line Item 5-222-619 SVFC Testing – The ladder truck is due for its required five (5) year testing.

Additional Appropriations (Board Member Casciano) – SVFCO Deputy Chief Maiorano stated that there are no additional expected expenses that he is aware of at this time for the current year's budget.

Line Item 5-222-622 Radio Repair (Board Member Bourgeois) – A joint Grant Application for new radios was recently submitted. The receipt of the Grant will not affect the line item. They are in the process of remedying issues that were recently

encountered with the current radio communications that are received through the tower located on Old Colchester Road.

Alternate Sources of Revenue (Board Member Casciano) – The Fire Company has not held any fundraising events for the past two (2) years due to the pandemic nor have they mailed a letter requesting donations. Part of the savings they had was used to cover the costs of construction of the back building. Unsolicited donations are received and the hall is open to town organizations; it is not rented to the public. It is unknown whether any fundraising events will be held due to rising costs.

Number of Volunteers (Board Member Casciano) – There are 20 (twenty) volunteers, including Fire Police, Firefighters, and support staff.

Line Item 5-222-222, SVFC Physicals (Board Member Casciano) – Physicals are conducted by Yale-Pequot Health. A few of the members' physicals are still pending. He added that, in addition to the individual members' roles, their age also dictates how often and what type of physical they receive. A roster of those who serve as Firefighters, EMTs, and Fire Police will be provided to the Board.

Tax Returns (Board Member Bourgeois) – A copy of their tax returns were submitted to the town.

Line Item 5-222-218, SVFC Professional Fees (Clerk Collins) – The line item includes complete background checks for all new members, copiers, dues, etc. The Fire Company is in the process of revising its Bylaws to begin allowing members who are 14 years of age and older to join the Fire Company.

Attorney Fees (Clerk Collins) – The Fire Company has not found it necessary to hire the services of an attorney. Their accounting costs are paid for through their internal budget.

Line Item 5-222-438 Chief's Account (Clerk Collins) – SVFCO Deputy Chief Maiorano stated that he is unsure as to the allocation of the funds in the Chief's Account.

Line Item 5-222-518 SVFC Training (Clerk Collins) – He confirmed that they have been conducting in-town joint training sessions with GLVFCO. The original Engineer of the fire training building has been contacted for an estimate for an inspection of the building, which, he was recently informed, is required every five (5) years. The Hazmat Training will be conducted next year and online training possibilities are being explored.

Payment of Invoices (Board Member Bourgeois) – The invoices are being processed. An agreement was reached regarding the payment of their invoices from the leasing company for their copiers, which are not received promptly and were resulting in late

fees. The payments are now immediately submitted and the invoices are approved soon after. He recommended the Capital Items be assigned a number for organizational purposes.

F. #230 AMBULANCE – see item 3(D), Gardner Lake Fire Company

M/S/C: Collins/Cadwell, to approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$21,100.00 for Department #116 – Assessor, subject to review and/or revision, pending approval at the Board of Finance’s March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

M/S/C: Collins/Cadwell, to approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$13,500.00 for Department #118 – Tax Collector, subject to review and/or revision, pending approval at the Board of Finance’s March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

Discussion ensued regarding Department #220 – Gardner Lake Fire Company, Chief’s Account. Clerk Collins felt that the amount should coincide with the actuals and proposed reducing the budget from \$2,500.00 to \$2,000.00. The SVFCO, Chief’s Account is utilized for different items and may remain flat. The Chiefs are afforded some discretion as to the use of the funds.

M/S/C: Cadwell/Rucci, to approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Department #220 – Gardner Lake Fire Company, Chief’s Account, subject to review and/or revision, pending approval at the Board of Finance’s March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-1. Voting in Favor: Board Members Bourgeois, Cadwell, Griggs, Rucci, and Dickson. Voting in Opposition: Board Member Collins.

M/S/R: Cadwell/Collins, to table the appropriation of funds for Department #230 – Ambulance, subject to review and/or revision, pending the receipt of their audit, tax returns, and in-house budget. Discussion: Clerk Collins expressed his discomfort with voting on the item without the submission and review of their fiscal information. Board Member Bernier stated that the standard motion allows the Board to return to the item and adjust the amount as necessary; preliminarily allocating an amount would provide the Board with a baseline from which to start. The motion was rescinded.

M/S/C: Griggs/Cadwell, to approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$28,804.00 for Department #230 – Ambulance, subject to review and/or revision, pending approval at the Board of Finance’s March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-1. Voting in Favor: Board Members Bourgeois, Cadwell, Griggs, Rucci, and Dickson. Voting in Opposition: Board Member Collins.

In response to GLVFCO Board President Philopena, the Board requested that the most recent audit conducted by Doherty, Beals, and Banks, P.C., their tax returns, and in-house budget for the last three (3) years be submitted to the Board. The information will be delivered to Town Hall.

M/S/C: Griggs/Rucci, to approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$187,541.00 for Department #222 – Salem Fire Company, subject to review and/or revision, pending approval at the Board of Finance’s March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting. Discussion: Board Members Collins and Bernier reiterated their position/observation. Voice vote, 5-1. Voting in Favor: Board Members Bourgeois, Cadwell, Griggs, Rucci, and Dickson. Voting in Opposition: Board Member Collins.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING DEDICATION FOR ANNUAL REPORT

The Board Members agreed to dedicate the town’s FY2021/22 Annual Report to Firefighter/EMT Brian Whitlatch, who passed away in November 2022. They will consider dedicating the FY2022/23 Annual Report to William Schultz and Joan Golubek, who passed away more recently.

OLD BUSINESS: *none*

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Collins/Rucci, to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem

A VIDEO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN’S WEBSITE UNDER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS – BOARD OF FINANCE – MEETING VIDEOS