

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 08, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Jim Pitsch at 7:00PM  
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**Members Present:** Jim Pitsch - Supervisor, Renee Busscher - Clerk, Dan Striegle – Trustee, Don Sebright – Trustee, Ashley Brower - Treasurer  
**Also preset:** Thom Dykstra– Salem Township Fire Dept.; Sheriff Baker – Allegan Co Sheriff  
**Absent:** n/a

Reading of previous board meeting Minutes and Bills, if no additions or corrections Minutes and Bills were approved and paid by consent.

**Public Comment:** Sheriff Baker presented on his endorsement for Circuit Court, Elizabeth Peterson. Peterson presented her campaign. 140<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> light is not working. October 29 will be a ground water meeting at 6pm. Allegan County Parks funding as a shortfall and are looking at options, one being closing certain parks. Residents voiced concern for road millage on the ballot. Resident voiced appreciation for nice roads and park. Concern over SEV value on homes in Hopkins School District. Concern over taxes and blight enforcement and health department involvement. Concern on where to find what is on the ballot.

**County Road Commissioner:** n/a  
**County Commissioner:** n/a

**Comments from Commissions & Departments of:**

- *Zoning:* cleaning up blight
- *Planning:* special use permit approved for small pole barn. Reviewing zoning ordinance
- *Fire:* Thom Dykstra presented. See attached report
- *Ambulance:* insurance change due to court issues, now more expensive from \$30k to \$70k (through Wayland Ambulance)
- *Library:* Check out Library webpage for all information <https://saletownshiplibrary.org/>
- *Parks Planning:* no decisions made on the grant yet, hoping for news at end of November
- *ARPA Funding:* no change, awaiting Grant outcome
- *Roads:* flashing signs are now at 26<sup>th</sup> and 146<sup>th</sup>

**Old Business:**

1. Street Lighting – Request to add streetlight to 27<sup>th</sup> St and 142<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
*Postponed*  
Discussion: Can it be Solar?

**New Business:**

1. Park Lighting for the Salem Township Park: Miller Electric \$6,256.00  
Moved by Ashley Brower, seconded by Don Sebright  
Discussion: will be using AARPA funds since it is park related  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
1. Salem Township Cemetery: Request bids to add Footings for Cemetery Stones  
Moved by Dan Striegle, seconded by Renee Busscher  
Discussion: get bids for the new, west cemetery. The person who poured the footings last time, no longer is in business or doing that line of work  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Public Comment:** Comment about lighting in the parking lot addressed. Allegan City Meeting affordable housing, supervisor attended. Question on how many miles of roads does Salem have.

**Adjournment:**

Moved by Don Sebright, seconded by Renee Busscher to adjourn meeting at 8:25 PM  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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**Director's Report  
September 2024**



**Mission:**  
Building a community of  
people who discover,  
share and belong



**Vision:**  
Inspire Curiosity  
Foster Community  
Ignite Imaginations  
Cultivate Learning



**Core Values:**  
Teamwork  
Respect  
Access  
Curiosity  
Kindness

**Allegran County Libraries Circulation**

	<u>Circulation</u>	<u>Population Served</u>	<u>Hours Open Weekly</u>
Salem Township Library	6,058	8,289	45
Dorr Township Library	3,238	7,922	31
Fennville District Library	3,780	14,496	53
Hopkins District Library	1,480	4,851	37
Leighton Public Library (Moline)	5,994	7,001	40
Saugatuck District Library	5,187	5,686	47
Henika District Library (Wayland)	3,616	7,978	53

**Salem Township Library Stats**

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>% +/-</u>
Circulation	6,058	6,031	0%
Overdrive	1,016	746	27%
Hoopla	504	367	27%
Hotspots	24	19	21%
ILL Requests	427	148	65%
MEL Holds	30	23	23%
References	98	137	-40%
New Patrons	15	23	-53%
Patron Count:			
Children	472	415	12%
Adults	770	702	9%
Total	1242	1117	10%

**Programs/Events:**

- \* 6 people attended the plant exchange, a few more came later in the week.
- \* Special fire safety story time tomorrow, October 8 at 11am
- \* Kids' book character pumpkin painting on Thursday, October 10 from 4:30-5:30pm
- \* Lego Club on Saturday, October 12 at 11am
- \* Cruising Tips and Tricks on Thursday, October 17 at 4:30pm
- \* Landscaping your Yard on Friday, October 18 at 3pm
- \* Special Halloween story time on Wednesday, October 31 at 11am
- \* Free Halloween activities and candy available all day (until 6pm, close) on Halloween as well

**Other Notes:**

- \* Patrons have been surveyed and results are being analyzed for 2025-2027 strategic plan incorporation
- \* State Aid reporting for libraries has begun (October 1)



**Salem Township Fire Department  
Monthly Report  
September 2024**

Projects	
SOGs	Working on updating operational SOGs
Tablets for apparatus	The tablets for the apparatus to use with the new dispatching app have been received and will be installed on the trucks
Grants	Working on grants to get headsets in 1712 and 1714
Fire Engineering Online Training	Conducting a trial of an online training platform. Looking at using it for missed training makeup and EMS CE's
School Fire Drills	Conducted first fire drill with new SMV procedure

Total Fire and EMS Year To Date- 364			
Fire Incidents	Total -16	YTD-127	Incidents in Sandy Pines- 0
Type	Number of Incidents	District	Notes
Structure fire	1	1-Salem	30' by 40' pole barn
Vehicle fire	1	1-Salem	Semi-tractor fire
Fire alarm	1	1- Salem	New Life Church alarm after power restored
Vehicle accident	4	4-Salem	3 w/ injuries & 1 w/o injuries
Downed Powerlines	1	1-Salem	Under ground wires cut due to vandalism
Stand-by for a possible structure fire	1	1-Dorr	No structure fire, only controlled burned
Smoke alarm install	3	3-Salem	
No incident found	4	3-Salem 1-Monterey	iPhone crash notifications
Year to date Incidents in Sandy Pines- 7			

EMS			
Total -23	YTD-187	Incidents in Sandy Pines-2	Incidents in Rehoboth- 0
District	Number of Incidents		
Salem-	22		
Monterey-	1		
*Disregarded Priority 3 medical*	6	YTD Priority 3: 64	
Year to date Medical Incidents in Sandy Pines- 31		Year to Date in Rehoboth- 5	

