

TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 8, 2021

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt, Patty Wood, Supervisor Joseph Cetta, Attorney Carly Walas and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Dutcher, Walter Geidel, Dave Simmons, Patsy DiNardo, Lillian Brown – The Reporter

FLOOR TIME:

Dave Simmons and Patsy DiNardo had privilege of the floor to present the current volunteer EMS service and its future.

Mr. Simmons stated the ambulance emergency services developed a committee to develop a plan to move forward with how to continue ambulance services for our residents. He stated that currently they are dropping approximately 30% of the calls for lack of volunteer availability.

He discussed the need to consider the option of a not-for-profit organization taking over the ambulance emergency services, one that would model Hancock or Sidney. He explained that currently, a fire department is not able to bill for this service, unlike a town, village or not-for-profit, which is able to do so.

Discussion took place of the amount of abuse that occurs when residents call for an ambulance for non-emergencies, adding this puts stress on the volunteers.

Further discussion took place of the decline in volunteers over the years and what this could do to our volunteer fire department as well. The Board was in agreement to have further discussions with the ambulance emergency services committee and together working on a solution that would benefit our community. The Board was in agreement that they needed to do something and not ignore the situation. Supervisor Cetta commented that the village indicated that they are not interested in being involved and Councilwoman Wood felt that was not the right answer from any entity.

Supervisor Cetta will schedule a meeting with the committee and the town board to discuss further options.

RESOLUTION #36

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of January 11, 2021 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Stephen L. Dutcher, CFM

Monthly Summary Report
Month of January 2021

Building Permits Issued	1
Building Inspections Completed	3
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	1
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	0
Complaints Received	1
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	6

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street Walton,
New York 13856
January 2021
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	4
Dogs Seized	
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	0
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	0
Total Redemption Fees	0
Help Requested	0
Mileage	59 Miles

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor’s Report to Walton Town Board

February 2021

- Ongoing work: sales verification, data collection, updates to property records and assessments, and exemption processing. The State phone number for questions about Enhanced Star automatic renewal or for new STAR Credit enrollments is #518-457-2036.
- Equalization Rate: The equalization rate will likely drop to between .94 and .98 for the 2021 year. This is due to property sales prices outpacing assessed values. The most recent town-wide revaluation was in 2016, now we are 5 years out from that. Residential property, the bulk of the town’s property, real estate market value has increased since the 2017 town-wide revaluation as follows:

2018 trend: 0
 2019 trend: +1%
 2020 trend: +2%
 2021 trend: +2%

The Town Board has the discretion to select a rate between .94 and .98 for the 2021-2022 tax year. I recommend a rate of .95.

RESOLUTION # 37 APPROVE THE 2021-2022 EQUALIZATION RATE

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern to accept the Town of Walton’s Assessor recommendation equalization rate of .95 for the 2021-2022 tax year. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Govern stated former Assessor Fran Zujovic had a proposal for maintaining 100% assessing value and suggested we review that proposal once again.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt requested having the assessor attend a board meeting to discuss the value of maintaining 100% equalization rate and how to achieve that.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

TOWN OF WALTON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
 25091 STATE HIGHWAY 10
 WALTON, NY 13856
 607-865-5120

TO: WALTON TOWN BOARD
FROM: JEFF OFFNICK, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: 2/3/2021
RE: REPORT

- ✓ Del. Co, soil and water has some funding available for this year, we need to identify 3 potential stream projects for consideration
- ✓ There have been a few issues with land owners and turn around spots that we need to address.

- ✓ I would like to work on a fee schedule for driveway pipe permits/installations
- ✓ There is a need to replace the current assessor van and dog truck.

Councilman Armstrong explained the difficulties he has experienced with the GSA website and hopes to have an awarded vehicle soon.

RESOLUTION #38

PURCHASE TWO REPLACEMENT VEHICLES ON FEDERAL/STATE AUCTION

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood to grant permission for the Highway Committee to purchase up to two replacement vehicles on federal or state auction, not to exceed \$15,000. It is further agreed that the two current vehicles will be surplus and sold.

FEMA COORDINATOR:

Reported that there was no change in the FEMA portal.

He responded to Councilwoman Wood’s earlier concern of what should be included in a potential stream project and if South River Road would qualify. Mr. Geidel reminded the Board that the Town of Walton has an All Hazard Mitigation plan and should revisit that when determining a needed project. He also explained the time line of obtaining a permit to work in or around the streams.

Councilman Armstrong questioned the Bridge NY grant money availability that Mr. Geidel had passed along. Mr. Geidel stated the Planning department would be able to help with this and reminded the Board that a design has already been performed back in 2006 for a proposed bridge on South River.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided Financial Reports

Reported that I have collected 74% of the levy so far.

Budget Amendments December 2020			
General-A	Account	Increase	Decrease
Town Board PS	1010.1		2
Town Board CE	1010.4		200
Supervisor	1220.4		185
Buildings,Equipt	1620.2		2,222
Attorney, CE	1420.4		
Contingency	1990.4		2,407

Superintendent, Equipment	5010.2	1,030	
Flood and Erosion Control	8745.4	2,123	
		<u>2,407</u>	<u>2,407</u>
General-B	Account	Increase	Decrease
Safety Inspections, CE	3620.4		840
Playgrounds & Recreation CE	7140.4	720	
Retirement	9010.8	85	
Social Security	9030.8	35	
		<u>840</u>	<u>840</u>
Highway - DA	Account	Increase	Decrease
Machinery, CE	5130.4	4,800	
Snow Removal, CE	5143.4		4,800
		<u>4,800</u>	<u>4,800</u>
Highway - DB	Account	Increase	Decrease
Capital Outlay	5112.2	50,165	
FEMA	4960		50,165
		<u>50,165</u>	<u>50,165</u>

RESOLUTION #39

2020 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to accept the 2020 budget amendments as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that we have received the cash account audit report for the Town Clerk and Justice Court records. The report renders assurance that all cash receipts and disbursements were properly recorded by the individuals in these departments and the justices are current in their reporting to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the TSLE&D program. The report further indicated that no adjustments were necessary to be made to any of these accounts.

RESOLUTION #40

TOWN CLERK/JUSTICE CASH AUDIT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to accept the 2020 Cash Account Audit submitted by Brian Pickard CPA. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that the Annual Financial Report has been filed with the State and is now available for review.

Reported that Andrea Elliott has donated her Veterans Plaza deposit back to the Town of Walton.

RESOLUTION #41

ACCEPT DONATION

A motion was made by Wood, seconded by Armstrong to accept a \$50.00 donation from Andrea Elliott for Veterans Plaza. All in favor, motion carried.

I informed the Board that I have contacted another fuel oil card company as the Country Store is having difficulty in processing our current Global cards. The new company has the same process and reportability as Global.

Reported to the Board that the Town Hall roof leak still has not been repaired and that he awarded emergency repair contractor has not responded to phone calls or emails for the urgency of the repair. The Board was in agreement to send a letter to the contractor indicating our intentions to pull the emergency request and instead going out to bid for a complete roofing replacement. The Board was in agreement to go out to bid with the specifications.

Reported that Code Enforcement Dutcher drafted roof specifications for a bid announcement that I will forward to the Board for review before submitting a notice of bid in the paper.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Reported that the phones for the new system have arrived and is just waiting for installation now.

Reported that the Town Board this year has the choice of making a new determination from the 1997 Designated Hamlet Area and/or the 2011 Designated Hamlet Area identified as Exhibit A and B dated April 11, 2016. The Designated Hamlet Area precludes any DEP land acquisition (including the acquisition of conservation easements) and/or WAC acquisition of conservation easements within the defined areas. Should the Board not wish to make changes, no action required. No action was taken.

Informed the Board that the Town of Walton has received the annual agreement for snow removal between the Town of Colchester.

RESOLUTION #42

**TOWN OF WALTON AND TOWN OF COLCHESTER
SNOW REMOVAL AGREEMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting Supervisor Cetta permission to sign the agreement allowing for the Town of Walton Highway Department to plow snow and ice removal for portions of Trout Brook Road in return for Colchester to plow snow and ice removal on portions of Wilson Hollow Road. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta reminded the Board of the Village of Walton's request to have the Town of Walton house their court. The Board was in agreement to have Supervisor Cetta respond, stating they are open to further discussions. Supervisor Cetta stated, "no action would be taken until the end of the year."

COUNTY:

No report

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta thanked the Highway Committee for their time and efforts into finding replacement vehicles for the assessor, dog and code vehicles.

Supervisor Cetta stated he would schedule a meeting between the EMS Committee and the Town Board soon. I reminded the Supervisor that this meeting would need to be advertised and to please let me know the date and time.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #43

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood seconded by Govern approving the vouchers as presented for payment. All in favor, motion carried.

General Fund A	#15-29	\$ 8,134.17
General OV B	#2-	\$ 650.00
General Hwy DA	#4-15	\$38,801.90
General Hwy DB	#1-2	\$ 851.20

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #44

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to enter into executive session for the purpose of a negotiations and a matter pertaining to a particular employee. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:55 p.m.

Motion by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to close executive session. All in favor, motion carried.

Out 8:20 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk