

TOWN BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
October 3, 2022
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt, Supervisor Joseph Cetta, , Jeff Offnick, Highway Superintendent, and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

ABSENT: Patty Wood, Attorney Carly Walas

OTHERS PRESENT: Rusty and Sharon Way, Walter Geidel, and Jim Bowker

Supervisor Cetta opened the public hearing for anyone wishing to speak in favor or against Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-C

With no comments, the Public Hearing was closed upon a motion from Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt at 6:01 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 3, 2022
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt, Supervisor Joseph Cetta, Jeff Offnick, Highway Superintendent, and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

ABSENT: Patty Wood, Attorney Carly Walas

OTHERS PRESENT: Rusty and Sharon Way, Walter Geidel, and Jim Bowker

FLOOR TIME:

None requested

RESOLUTION #105

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of September 12, 2022 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor's Report to Walton Town Board

October 2022

• **Ongoing Work:**

Exemption processing, property review and data collection, updating property records and assessments, monitoring real estate listings, verifying property sales values, returning phone calls and emails, reviewing Real Property Tax Law, legislation, court cases and legal opinions.

• **New Business:**

Please see proposed resolution to increase the existing RPTL 467 Senior Partial Exemption income levels by 20%.

Current Cost to taxpayer at existing levels

V: \$0.42 for a property assessed at 100,000

T: \$0.58 for a property assessed at 100,000

Proposed Cost to taxpayer at 20% increase (including potential 38 new exemptions)

V: \$2.21 for a property assessed at 100,000

T: \$3.41 for a property assessed at 100,000

- **Assessor Training:**

Virtual Learning October 14th: Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Modeling and Trending

- **Property Owner Hotline Numbers**

Star Credit: **518-457-2036**

Homeowner Property Tax Rebate Check: **518-453-8146**

- **Resources and records online:**

- Department of Taxation and Finance Municipal Profiles

<http://orps1.orpts.ny.gov/cfapps/MuniPro/>

- Delaware County Real Property Tax Services

<http://www.co.delaware.ny.us/departments/tax/tax.htm>

Penny Haddad, Assessor

Respectfully submitted September 30, 2022

The Assessor presented the following proposed resolution for the Boards consideration.

RESOLUTION #106

TAX EXEMPTION FOR PERSON 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER

WHEREAS, the Town of Walton (hereinafter the “Town”) on December 12, 2016 approved to offer a Real Property Tax Exemption for residents 65 and older in the Town effectively protecting the most vulnerable of this Town’s citizens;

WHEREAS, the Town has since determined that a higher level of exemption would benefit our seniors. Therefore, as a goal to help seniors age in place, the Board wishes to increase the current income levels by 20%

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the authority granted by Sec. 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, real property within the Town of Walton owned by one or more person, as their primary residence, each of who is 65 years of age or over, or real property within the Town of Walton owned by a husband and wife, as their primary residence, one who is 65 years of age or over, shall be exempt from Town tax levy according to the following schedule based on income of the

owner or combined income of the owners of the property for the tax year immediately preceding the date of application:

Income \$12,700 or less	50% exemption
Income more than \$12,700 but less than \$13,900	45% exemption
Income more than \$13,900 but less than \$15,100	40% exemption
Income more than \$15,100 but less than \$16,300	35% exemption
Income more than \$16,300 but less than \$17,400	30% exemption
Income more than \$17,400 but less than \$18,500	25% exemption
Income more than \$18,500 but less than \$19,600	20% exemption
Income more than \$19,600	NO exemption

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Public Hearing was held on _____ for anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the proposed resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all of the provisions of Sec. 467 of the Real Property Tax Law shall apply in the administration and interpretation of this resolution and such exemption shall not be granted unless the applicant qualified thereunder.

A motion was made by _____, seconded by _____.

	Aye	Nay
Supervisor Cetta	_____	_____
Board Member Armstrong	_____	_____
Board Member Rodriguez-Bentancourt	_____	_____
Board Member Govern	_____	_____
Board Member Wood	_____	_____

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt did not feel the proposed exemption was enough to meet the needs of persons 65 years of age or over. He proposed to research what the areas poverty level income is and adjust our exemption limit to meet that need. He commented, "We need to help the elderly".

RESOLUTION #107

HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED TAX EXEMPTION FOR PERSON 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Armstrong to hold a Public Hearing on November 14, 2022 for the purpose of residents to speak in favor or against a Resolution to increase the current income levels of Tax Exemption for Person 65 years of Age or Over by 20%. All in favor, motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Jonathan R Henderson

Monthly Summary Report
Month of September 2022

Building Permits Issued	3
Building Inspections Completed	32
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0

Certificates Issued	7
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	1

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street Walton,
New York 13856
September 2022
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	3
Dogs Seized	3
Returned to Owner	1
Humane Society	2
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	5
Total Redemption Fees	0
Help Requested	1
Mileage	1 Miles

FEMA COORDINATOR:

Nothing new to report on.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Recommended to appoint Paul Gray and Kevin Wood as HEOs at the current contractual agreement salary and to waive the 10% salary reduction during the probationary period due to their prior experience.

RESOLUTION #108

APPOINT TWO HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (HEO)

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to appoint Paul Gray and Kevin Wood as HEOs at the current contractual agreement salary of \$21.95/hour and to waive the 10% salary reduction during the probationary period due to their prior experience. All in favor, motion carried.

Requested permission to replace a 2016 Ram 5500 with a new 2023 Ram 5500 from Statewide Piggy Back Contract #ONGOV-106-19 in an amount not to exceed \$68,000.00.

RESOLUTION#109

PURCHASE 2023 RAM 5500 TRUCK

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to purchase a 2023 Ram 5500 truck from Statewide Piggy Back Contract #ONGOV-106-19 in an amount not to exceed \$68,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.

After sending out RFP’s and receiving several quotes, Superintendent Offnick requested awarding the following spray foam quote for the cold storage facility.

RESOLUTION#110

AWARD SPRAY FOAM AND BLOWN-IN INSULATION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to award Upstate Spray Foam for the purpose of spray foaming insulation in the walls of the storage building and blown-in insulation in the ceiling in the amount of \$24,680.00. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Financial reports will be forthcoming.

I presented the 2023 Tentative Budget to the Board for review noting that it currently has a 3.59% (47,320.00) increase to the tax levy, which is below our 3.6% allowable cap.

The budget comes with an increase to salaries, health insurance, highway equipment and an additional revenue of \$20,000 from the Uplands Center In-lieu of tax agreement as well as adjusting other revenues to be more in line with actuals.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta presented a photo notebook that Beatrice Bennett had compiled from the 225th Anniversary events.

Informed the Board that he asked Graydon Dutcher of Soil and Water to do a drone fly over of the tornado damage. He is currently awaiting the file and will upload to the website.

Informed the Board that after speaking to a member of the United Presbyterian Church, he learned that they are in fact a Red Cross Evacuation Shelter as well. He stated that this was not a problem with the current generator purchase, as there can be more than one site and the Baptist Church is currently used as an evacuation shelter for the school system.

With no comments from the public during the hearing, the following was resolution was introduced.

RESOLUTION # 111

LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE 2023 TAX CAP LIMIT

WHEREAS, according to New York State’s Property Tax Cap legislation, if a town government decides to adopt a budget with a property tax levy that exceeds the level set by the State, the town government must pass a local law to override that cap, and;

WHEREAS, adopting said local law is not predictive of the final tax levy but will provide the Walton Town Board flexibility to exceed the Property Tax Cap if it is deemed necessary, and to ensure that any State recalculation of the applicable limit will not make the Town inadvertently out of compliance, and;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held before the Walton Town Board on October 3, 2022 to hear all persons interested in proposed Local Law No.3 of 2022, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Local Law No. 3 of 2022 Local Law Overriding Tax Levy Limit for 2023 is hereby adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law Section 3-c, which expressly authorizes the Walton Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Walton Town Board,

RESOLVED, further, that the Walton Town Clerk shall publish in the official newspaper of the Town a notice of adoption containing a synopsis of said local law and shall within twenty days file one certified copy in the Office of the County Clerk, and one copy with the Secretary of State.

A Motion was made by Rodriguez-Betancourt seconded by Armstrong

	Aye	Nay	
Supervisor Cetta	_x_	_____	
Board Member Armstrong	_x_	_____	
Board Member Govern	_x_	_____	
Board Member Rodriguez-Betancourt	_X_	_____	
Board Member Wood	_____	_____	_x_ Absent

RESOLUTION #112 MOVE THE 2023 TENTATIVE BUDGET TO THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to move the 2023 Tentative Budget to the Preliminary Budget and to hold a public hearing on November 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #113 APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the vouchers as presented for payment. All in favor, motion carried.

General Fund A	#194-205	\$8,555.69
General Hwy DA	#77-85	\$15,934.86
OV HWY DB	#36-37	\$3,531.33

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #114

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to enter into executive session for the purpose of Union Negotiations All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 6:47 p.m.

Prior to closing the meeting, Councilman Govern suggested making a public statement regarding the IDA holding the Sheffield Estate property for a commercial developer versus a private owner ready to build the site themselves.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk