

TOWN BOARD MEETING

January 9, 2023

6:00 P.M.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Rusty and Sharon Way, Mel Steinbrecher – The Reporter

FLOOR TIME:

None requested

RESOLUTION #29

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Armstrong approving the minutes of December 12, 2022, December 29, 2022 and January 3, 2023 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Jonathan R. Henderson

Monthly Summary Report

Month of December 2022

Building Permits Issued	2
Building Inspections Completed	18
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	8
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
December 2022
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	4
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	5
Total Redemption Fees	0
Assistance, Police	2
 Mileage	 58 Miles

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor’s Report
Meeting

January Walton Town Board

1. **Public announcement:** This following announcement was submitted to the Walton Reporter late last month.

Walton seniors are reminded to switch their Basic Star exemption to the Enhanced Star exemption, before March 1st in the year they turn 65. Upgrade to the Enhanced Star exemption by calling the assessor’s office at 865-5281 and requesting the forms. Applications must be made by March 1st.

Also, of importance but not appearing in the paper: If you are receiving the Star Credit check in the mail, the State should automatically upgrade to the Enhanced Star Credit check when you are eligible. If in doubt, call the State Star Unit at 518-457-2036.

The County has increased their senior partial exemption maximum income limit to \$28,000. The Village has told me they’ve increased their senior partial maximum income to match the Towns of \$19,600. All three exemptions are on a sliding scale so anyone with income under these limits will receive some level of benefit between 20% and 50% exempt.

I appreciate the support of the respective Boards to be able to offer this exemption to Walton seniors. I’m sure this will be a welcome help to qualifying seniors in these times of rising costs.

2. **New business:** The Governor has signed a bill into law requiring seniors be given a second notice that they may be eligible for a partial tax exemption. There are conflicting interpretations of this law in the assessment community and. I have referred it to Carly for her opinion on how the notice should be handled. The deadline for the notice is 30 days prior to March 1st.
3. **Exemption season** is beginning in the Assessor’s office. Agricultural and Senior Partial renewals will be mailed next week and processed as they come in. The deadline for renewal and original application both is March 1st.

Thank you.
Respectfully submitted
January 6, 2023
Penny Haddad

FEMA COORDINATOR:

Reported that PW #78, Houck and Wakeman, has been closed out by FEMA and NYS Homeland Security. Two more to go, Woodlawn and Management Costs.

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:
RE: REPORT

- ✓ The crew has continued to work on the fleet, as well as cutting brush.
- ✓ The gate near the end of William Beers Road has been removed by Town forces.
- ✓ We have been issued our mining permit which is good until December 2027.
- ✓ We have received the stone that we will need for our 2023 road sealing projects.

RESOLUTION #30

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

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt 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 Wilson Hollow Road in return for Colchester to plow snow and ice removal on portions of Trout Brook Road. All in favor, motion carried.

The Highway Superintendent appointed three wingman in preparation of a heavy snow event. He recommended Richard Doig, Steven Dutcher, and Stephen Condon.

RESOLUTION #31

HIRE OF WINGMAN

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to accept the appointment of Richard Doig, Steven Dutcher and Stephen Condon as seasonal wingman at their current seasonal salary rate. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Provided Financial Reports

I have received the tax warrant on December 27, 2022 authorizing me to collect \$4,321,823.17. I reported to the Board that after a meeting held by myself, Supervisor Cetta and the County, we were able to receive our tax data information earlier then in past years and it was very helpful.

Reported that we have collected \$400,234.61 thus far which include 3 partial payments.

I requested permission to attend the Annual Town Clerk Association Conference in April.

RESOLUTION #32

APPROVAL TO ATTEND NYSTCA CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood to grant Town Clerk permission to attend the NYS Town Clerk's Association Conference in April 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

I presented the annual obsolete records that have met the New York State Records Retention and Disposition Schedule and are no longer required to keep as well as 20 yellow metal chairs.

TOWN OF WALTON
OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK
129 NORTH ST.
WALTON, NY 13856

TO: Town Board Members
FROM: Ronda Williams, Record Management Officer
DATE: January 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Obsolete Records

The following records have met the New York State Record Retention and Disposition Schedule and are no longer required to keep. Upon your approval these records will be disposed of properly.

**DOG IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL
RETENTION**

2019 Copy of original or renewal license 3
years

FISCAL

Banking and Investment:

2016 Banking communications; bank statements 6
years
copy of checks, deposit books & slips, receipts

Payroll:

2016 Employee time cards, sheets, request for time off, 6
years

Purchasing:

2016 Invoices, abstracts, 6
years

General Accounting and Miscellaneous:

2016 Accounting register, Cash transaction, Daily cash records 6
years

GENERAL

2021 Correspondence including e-mails of no fiscal, legal
or administrative value 0 no
longer need

INSURANCE/SELF-INSURANCE

Insurance policy:

2016 Insurance Policies 6
years

Certificate of insurance:

2016 Certificate of Insurance 6
years

PERSONNEL/CIVIL SERVICE

1997-2004 Employee Benefit Records 6
years

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Consumption and Dispensing Records:

2016 Fuel Consumption Records 6
years

2010-12 Use of Facilities Request 6
years

TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment Roll/Tax Roll:

2017 Tentative assessment roll 5
years

2016 Tax Collection Records 6
years

2016-2018 Tax Escrow Requests 1
year

TRANSPORTATION & ENGINEERING

Highway, Engineering, and Public Works:

2016 Truck Load Slips 6
years

RESOLUTION #33

Motion made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern

Roll call vote:

Aye	Nay	Councilman Armstrong
Aye	Nay	Councilwoman Wood
Aye	Nay	Councilman Govern
Aye	Nay	Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt
Aye	Nay	Supervisor Cetta

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta brought the attention of the Board to the newly donated conference table. He stated the table was donated from Attorney Gary Graysen and that it was originally owned by former Attorney Richard J. Thomson.

RESOLUTION #34

2023 ANNUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DELAWARE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AND THE TOWN OF WALTON

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood granting Supervisor Cetta permission to sign the agreement with the Delaware County Planning Board authorizing to provide planning services to the Town of Walton for \$3,500.00 from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. All in favor, motion carried

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board of a NYSDOH decision that minor revisions to the 2017 FAD require public review and comment. He provided the Board with a copy of the comments. In addition, he asked Planning/Watershed Affairs Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett to provide a recap that he can share with the Board.

Additional discussion took place of the Board’s concern that NYC is purchasing more land without proof of improving water quality and they would like a report showing this information.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt expressed his concern that NYC is purchasing land that is hindering future growth of Walton and ultimately effecting the local people to retain their homes.

Supervisor Cetta stated it was not just the NYC's fault, many local people chose to sell themselves.

Councilman Govern reminded everyone that Delaware County was the last one to cave to the MOA, stating the number of employees out weighted the farms.

Discussion took place on the Senior Exemption and the Counties income scale that they had approved. It was decided to revisit the town's exemptions next year to determine the need to increase to match the Counties.

Supervisor Cetta spoke about broadband and its availability. He informed everyone that the maps are out but not accurate as to whether or not the area actually has service. He encouraged everyone to update this information on the website.

Supervisor Cetta presented a newly passed law allowing local governments the option to provide a property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters. The Board requested the Assessor to review the impact should the Town opt to participate.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilman Govern stated he is continuing to work on the Emergency Disaster Plan.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #35

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

General Fund A	#1-12	\$4,496.25
General OV B	#1-	\$3,500.00
General Hwy DA	#1-2	\$12,085.47
OV HWY DB	#1-	\$21,644.03

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk