

TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 14, 2025

6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: Town Clerk Tamara MacDonald, Highway Superintendent Jeff Offnick

OTHERS PRESENT: Katherine Bridges, Mary Phraner, Mallory Phraner, Patti Bowker, Kimber Bowker, Reese Latourette, Shannon Fairchild, Kinley Fairchild, Sharon Way, Martin Way, Addisen Vantyle, Jaelyn Cash, Bjorn Eilertsen and Lillian Brown – The Reporter

FLOOR TIME: Members of Girl Scout Troop 61172 approached the Board to request their group plant trees on the former Breakey Motors lot for the purpose of earning their bronze award.

Jaelyn Cash provided the action plan while Mallory Phraner discussed the type of tree that will be planted.

Reese Latourette explained the need for a natural buffer and Addisen Vantyle explained the natural benefit to the soil that trees will produce.

Kinley Fairchild and Kimber Bowker explained how trees provide food, shelter to many animals and how pin oak trees will be the ideal tree due to the type of soil in that area and that planting will take place around April 28, 2025.

RESOLUTION #54

GIRL SCOUT TROOP DONATION OF TREES

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood approving the donation of 10 trees by Girl Scout Troop 61172 to be planted on the former Breakey Motors lot. All in favor, motion carried.

Elinor Oles of 202 Upper East Brook Road approached the Board with a concern that the road use to have a curb and over the years, the road has risen and now the water from the culvert across the road is damaging her property. She provided pictures to show the damage. She stated, that the current culvert is too old that it is disintegrating.

Ms. Oles states this additional water on her property has caused mold in her basement. Supervisor Cetta stated he would meet with the Highway Superintendent to see if this is a public safety issue.

Supervisor Cetta welcomed the new Mayor Bjorn Eilertsen.

RESOLUTION #55

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of March 10, 2025 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor’s Report to Board
April 2025

- KLW has completed around 120 informal meetings with property owners regarding their new assessed values. I’m continuing to process agriculture and forest exemptions and placing new value on the 2025 roll.
- The roll with tentative assessments will be filed May 1. The Tentative assessments will appear on the Delaware County SDG site May 1 or after. Postcards correcting an error in the Assessment Disclosure Notices, mailed earlier in March that stated the wrong date for Grievance Day, will also be mailed at that time.
- The next step in the reassessment process includes assessor meetings with property owners, and Grievance Day May 28th.
- The ongoing court case Airey et. al. v. State of New York, concerning Real property Tax Law s. 575-b which allowed NYS Department of Taxation and Finance to mandate a solar and wind project valuation method currently ruled against NYS and upholds the assessors’ right to assess using other methods. The court ruled it unconstitutional for NYS Tax and Finance to mandate assessors use the NYS valuation model.
- This decision means I will be valuing our solar project according to cost of construction less depreciation method, rightly so, the same method used for other utilities, and same property class properties.

Ultimately, the Court held that Petitioners demonstrated the invalidity of RPTL §575-b beyond a reasonable doubt, as the Legislature had abdicated its constitutional responsibility and delegated its taxing power to DTF in violation of the New York State Constitution. Mar 5, 2025



Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
<https://www.woh.com> › blog › Small-Town-Heroes-Supe... ⋮

Property Tax - Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP - Albany, NY

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Garrett Newbauer

Monthly Summary Report
Month of MARCH 2025

Building Permits Issued	7
Building Inspections Completed	0
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	3
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	7
CO Searches	1

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street Walton,
New York 13856
MARCH 2025
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	8
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	1
Total Redemption Fees	0 for \$10
Assistance, Police	0
Mileage	79 Miles

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: 4/14/2025
RE: REPORT

- ✓ We have spread about 2760 Cu. Yd. of winter abrasive this past winter, Compared to 1639 the winter before.
- ✓ Surplus truck #9. 2009 Western star tandem axle dump truck with plow and wing equipment, the truck has approx. 118,000 miles and needs multiple repairs.
- ✓ Surplus truck #11. 2007 Chevy Colorado pickup truck. The truck has approx. 125,000 miles and is not road worthy due to rotted frame.

RESOLUTION #56

**SURPLUS 2009 WESTERN STAR TANDEM TRUCK
AND 2007 CHEVY COLORADO TRUCK**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve (1) 2009 Western Star Tandem Truck with plow and wing equipment and (1) Chevy Colorado Truck as no longer in use by the Walton Highway Department as surplus and to be auctioned or disposed of properly. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Financial statements have been provided.

Reported that I am 88% collected. Of the taxes collected, 226 payments have been made online. Second notices have been mailed out. Residents only have until April 30, 2025 to pay at the town level before unpaid taxes are returned to the County, where an additional 5% will be added.

Reported to the Board that I submitted an application for a scholarship to NYSTCA for a grant to cover the cost of the conference. I am proud to announce that I have been awarded the Margaret Lamoree, (founder of NYSTC) Scholarship that will cover the cost of the conference itself of \$984 which I will receive a refund check after the conference is over.

I am requesting to attend the New York Association of Local Government Records Officers conference which is held in June and I would need to register by May 1, 2025. I am looking forward to attending the NYSTCA conference as I hope to bring more knowledge to my position as Town Clerk and hope I can attend this conference to gain more knowledge of the position of Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION #57

ATTEND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood to attend the Local Government Records Officers conference on June 1-4, 2025 at the cost of approximately \$387.00. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that he has the final draft of the lease agreement between the Town of Walton and the Walton Chamber of Commerce. He anticipates the need for an executive session prior to finalizing.

Supervisor Cetta shared information he received from Jamie Smith from Delaware Opportunities on the Big Buddy Program with the Board. He explained the need of volunteers and how this can have a positive impact in a child life.

Supervisor Cetta shared a letter received from Delaware River Solar in reference to RPTL 487 concerning in lieu of tax payments for a solar project. He stated he will turn this letter over to Attorney Walas to draft a response.

Reporter Lillian Brown asked if Supervisor Cetta will release the name of the property owner. Supervisor Cetta stated, not at this time until the attorney has drafted a response.

COMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood stated she will be working with Mayor Eilertsen, Trustee O'Brien to start a clean-up committee. Their goal is to clean up the streets and store fronts and hope people will adopt a street. They are hoping to start May 18, 2025.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned the legality of the clean-up committee. He was concerned who would be responsible if a storefront window was broken? Mayor Eilertsen stated permission would be sought from the owners.

Councilman Armstrong informed the mayor that he would like to have a conversation with him on the ATV usage on town and village roads. Supervisor Cetta stated we have discussed this and the State Law was clear about having the ATV/UTV registered. Councilman Armstrong felt there was other laws that may allow this activity.

Councilwoman Wood stated they will be seeking help to place a shade tree at Veterans Plaza.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION# 58

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

General Fund A	#49-65	\$21,645.02
General OV B	#7	\$77.48
General HWY DA	#34-43	\$9,980.35
OV HWY DB	#7-12	\$774.13

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Armstrong, seconded by Wood to enter into executive session for the purpose of attorney/client privilege. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 6:50 p.m.

Back in regular session at 7:40 p.m.

As a result of executive session, the following resolution was offered.

RESOLUTION #59

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR SIGN

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to grant Supervisor Cetta permission to sign a lease agreement for the sign located on Water Street between the Town of Walton and the Walton Chamber of Commerce upon its completion. Yea: Armstrong, Govern, Rodriguez-Betancourt, Supervisor Cetta. Abstain – Wood. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Deputy Town Clerk