

TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 8, 2025

6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Shaplio, Honorable Michael Ripa, Jennifer Fay

FLOOR TIME: Joshua Shaplio stood before the Board to speak about the general guideline for the Judicial Security Court. He spoke about the ongoing issue with Judges with threats all over, and how the Town of Walton Judge has been receiving numerous threats. His concern is suggesting to tighten up the security for the Town Judge and limit the amount of people going through the Court Room. With it being a mixed facility, the solution has to be further discussed.

**RESOLUTION #93**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Armstrong, approving the minutes of August 4, 2025 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

September 2025

Data collection and assessing is being done for next year's roll. Forest exemption modifications are being made as mapping techniques have improved, and adjustments are being made to exempt acres. Many of the stand maps haven't been remapped since the 80s or before. The foresters at the Stamford DEC office are staying up on top of this and being and thorough, which improves the accuracy of the exemption I calculate on the property. Most often the acreages eligible are being adjusted down. Typically, it is only a few acres, often 5 acres or less, but recently a twenty-plus acre adjustment was made.

The State property records system may go online before long (2 years +/-) in a program called RPSO (Real Property System Online). There will be different levels of access for general public, Town officials, Assessors, and so on. The RPSO would enable log-ins and work done on the records from any internet access. Most are talking about entire Counties going over to the new system at once, rather than one Town at a time. I'm told this is because the County accesses all the towns to print rolls and tax bills, so having everyone in the same operating system would simplify the processes.

Veterans' exemption: two pages follow that summarize the state guidelines for the two most widely used exemptions, both currently offered in Walton.

Several people have called wondering where their STAR credit checks are. The State

delivery schedule says they began mailing checks to Walton on September 3rd, and will continue mailing for several weeks.

Attached:

summary RPTL 458a (war vet 15% up to 12,000, combat war vet +10% up to 20,000, disabled

vet up to 40,000)

summary RPTL 458b (war vet 15% up to 12,000, disabled war vet up to 40,000)

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted September 8, 2025

Penny Haddad

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton  
Code Enforcement Office  
Garrett Newbauer

**Monthly Summary Report**  
Month of August 2025

Building Permits Issued	7
Building Inspections Completed	3
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	3
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	5

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Chris Bodo  
Dog Control Officer  
Town of Walton  
129 North Street  
Walton, NY 13856  
July 2025  
Report

Complaints: 4

Dogs Seized: 0

Humane Society: 0

Dangerous Dogs: 0

Tickets: 0

Redemption Fees: 0 for \$10.00 Town Kennel

Assisted other Departments: 2      Sheriffs Dept. and Health Dept.

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:** 9/8//2025  
**RE:** REPORT

- The crew has continued ditch and shoulder work on the roads to be sealed next year.
- We have had the rental mower and have been getting caught up on the mowing.
- We have received an updated shared services agreement from the Town of Tompkins

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Financial Reports have been provided.

School tax collection has started and we are getting flooded with phone calls because residents have not received their tax bills yet. From what I understand the school had a printer problem that caused the delay.

**RESOLUTION #94**

**USE OF FACILITES**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood seconded by Govern to approve Ronda Williams use of the Town Hall Board Room October 7, 2025 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm for the purpose of a "Town Hall Meet and Greet". All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

**RESOLUTION #95**

**TO RESCIND RESOLUTION #8 OF 2025**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt, to rescind Resolution #8 Sole Assessor Penny Haddad 10/1/2025-9/30/2031. All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #96**

**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF SOLE ASSESSOR**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to accept the resignation of Sole Assessor Penny Haddad, due to retirement effective September 27, 2025. All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION# 97**

**TO PLACE MILITARY BANNERS IN VETERAN'S PLAZA IN RECOGNITION FOR VETERAN'S FROM WALTON**

The following resolution was presented by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt;

**Whereas**, the Boards desire to place Military Banners in Veteran's Plaza in recognition of certain Veteran's from Walton, New York; and

**Whereas**, the Town Board desires to outline the criteria for such Military Banners;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the Town Board of the Town of Walton hereby adopts the following criteria for a Military Banner in Veteran's Plaza: A Military Banner may be placed in recognition of a Veteran who:

- 1) departed for Military service from Walton, New York;
- 2) subsequently died in action; and
- 3) served in war, including but not limited to, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Gulf War, or War on Terror

All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta recognized and thanked Danny Hodges for the idea of the Banner's, Jimmy Phraner owner of Empire Metals works for donating the poles and Mayor Bjorn for assisting with digging the holes.

Supervisor Cetta stated that the seasonal employee 200 Hours has been completed for the summer and he reached out to Lara Yambor from the Delaware County Office for the Aging, to see if there were any more funds available to keep him until the end of the month and we are able to extend to 4 more 6-hour days.

Supervisor Cetta stated that he went to the Flood Commission Meeting last week and one of the discussion points was that they don't want to call it the boat launch by Beerston. They want to limit the amount of people going in at out of that location. Councilman Govern asked about the Kayak Kiosk program, and we should look into it for next year.

**COMITTEE REPORT:**

Councilman Armstrong spoke about his Committee with the UTV/ATV and they had a virtual meeting with Jacke Mahoney, the director of the Recreation Forestry and Parks, also runs the Lewis County Trail System. One of the main points is they have to have trail head to trail head and in areas and do it portion by portion for legal reasons. Armstrong is looking into the steps we need to take such as, seeing what kind of SEQR is necessary or can there be temporary permits. We will be moving forward and discuss further with more information as its gathered.

Councilwoman Wood spoke about a gentleman, Shawn from Level Up that reached out to her. He would like to do a two week "Jack-O-Walton", event; a lantern display, hay bales, corn stalk, etc. The only concern for the length of time to set up is the vandalism that could go on.

**RESOLUTION#98**

**USE OF FACILITES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to approve Shawn Moyston use of Veteran's Plaza October 24, 2025 through October 31, 2025 for the purpose of "Jack-O-Walton". All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION# 99**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

General Fund A	#152-162	\$8,356.61
General OV B	#16	\$76.66
General HWY DA	#73-82	\$10,826.67
OV HWY DB	#34-40	\$29,438.68

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara MacDonald  
Town Clerk