

TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 6, 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:

Timothy Fay, Jennifer Fay, Sharon Way, Martin Way, Kay VanDusen, Eric Noll, Gerry Stanton

FLOOR TIME:

Kay VanDusen (DSS) stood before the board to speak about the Foster Care program. She shared what the process was, why children come, what kind of homes they can get into and the financial support foster parents will receive. She is advocating for people to become foster parents as they always have children entering the program for unfortunate reasons.

Eric Noll stood before the board to speak about his Non-Profit organization (The Walton Experience Initiative Corporation-WEIC) to help Walton's Town and Village parks, recreation centers and public spaces up to speed. Looking to have fundraiser's, grant submissions, etc. Noll requested if he could have an event in the Veteran's Plaza, November 10, 2025 through December 30, 2025. He will be showcasing 6 to 8 beautifully decorated and lit Christmas Trees, along with a North Pole-themed shed for selfies.

RESOLUTION# 100

USE OF FACILITES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Armstrong to approve the use of Veteran's Plaza, November 10, 2025 through December 30, 2025 for "the Walton Winter Wonderland". All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION# 101

WAIVE VETERAN'S PLAZA FEE

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to approve waiving the \$25 fee for the use of Veteran's Plaza for the Non-Profit Organization, Walton Experience Initiative Corporation (WEIC) for "the Walton Winter Wonderland". All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME CONT.:

Jennifer Fay stood forward to speak about her and her husbands (Timothy Fay) Delco ATV Club. This Club enhances riding experiences and shares memories. Helps build friendships and foster old friendships. They have been working on building trails in the Walton area and have made an LLC and insurance. The membership for this Club has grown to over 50 machines. They have a long list of people waiting to join to see what the Town Board does with opening the road. Councilman Armstrong spoke for the Board saying we fully for opening the roads eventually, but there is a lot of background work that needs to be finished before that is done. He will hopefully have more information before or by next meeting to continue with this topic.

RESOLUTION# 102

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong, approving the minutes of September 8, 2025 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

- Numerous calls have been received and returned concerning school taxes. During this period, the office has been handling a high volume of phone calls regarding school tax bills. Many of these calls required clarification and assistance for residents with questions about their bills.
- Adjustments have been made for individuals where errors or clarifications were necessary.
- We have continued to return phone calls, address taxpayer concerns, and process corrections as needed.
- In addition to tax-related inquiries, work has continued on sales reports and maintaining RPS (Real Property System) records.
- Penny was on vacation for a week and Gina managed calls and follow-ups during her absence.
- The desktop computer the Assessor is currently using is outdated and will no longer support her work efficiently after October 2025. Sometimes it takes almost an hour to boot up all the different programs we use. This impacts productivity. Rather than purchase a new desktop, a laptop is the better option for mobility. Especially because the new RPS Online will be up and running soon, though it's undetermined when exactly Delaware County as a whole will make the switch to the new web-based platform. We do have sufficient funds available in our account for the purchase of a new laptop

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Garrett Newbauer

Monthly Summary Report
Month of August 2025

Building Permits Issued	5
Building Inspections Completed	1
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	1
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	1

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

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

Complaints:	5
Dogs Seized:	0
Humane Society:	0
Dangerous Dogs:	0
Tickets:	0
Redemption Fees:	0 for \$10.00 Town Kennel
Assisted other Departments:	3 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: 10/6/2025
RE: REPORT

Nothing new to report this month

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Financial Reports have been provided.

Ronda Williams, the Bookkeeper presented the 2026 Preliminary Budget. She informed the Board that the 2026 budget has a decrease in the tax levy by 1.23% and contributes this to a decrease in appropriations from the Taxes and Assessment line item providing an overall \$48,339.00 reduction from 2025. A The Board reviewed additional changes.

Christopher Bodo, the Dog Control Officer, asked to go on the 2025 Annual DCO/ACO Training Conference that he attends every year.

RESOLUTION# 103

DOG CONTROL OFFICER ATTEND ANNUAL ACO/DCO CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern to approve Christopher Bodo attending the 2025 ACO/DCO Training Conference on November 12 & 13, 2025 with registration fee being \$125. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta presented the following resolution.

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to support Congressman Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 104

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY'S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY'S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**, which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other

fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration’s climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the **Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945)**, federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Walton Town Board strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State’s natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Walton Town Board urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

RESOLUTION# 105

APPOINT SOLE ASSESSOR

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to appoint Penny Hadded as the Sole Assessor, October 1, 2025- September 30, 2031. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta brought up the DPW and the Walton Legion giving out Thanksgiving Turkey’s to Veteran’s in the Town and Village of Walton that is in need for Thanksgiving. There will be a flyer made and going around with more information and who to contact.

Supervisor Cetta also wanted to remind everyone about the Village and Town meeting happening October 7, 2025, at 3:00 PM, located at the Village Hall.

COMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood spoke about the Emergency Meeting she had and said that 92.1 radio station will be coming back which is great to help get information out for emergencies when the time comes. At that meeting they also spoke about getting each trustee and board member a radio, which means they will need a dual band radio as well. Before they look into getting new Supervisor Cetta said he would ask if the Delaware County Emergency Services if they have any extra radios.

Supervisor Cetta said that there were 2 elderly residents with dementia that were lost over the weekend, and they were missing people over night. Fortunately, they were found eventually. Cetta spoke about the “Project Life Savior” and “Are you okay?” program that the Sheriff’s Department provide free of cost. This program is something that you can put an ankle brace on an elderly person and if they wander out and get lost, the Sheriff’s Department can locate that person with the ankle brace on in minutes.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION# 106

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	#163-174	\$9,362.73
General OV B	#17-19	\$255.26
General HWY DA	#83-86	\$14,153.01
OV HWY DB	#41-42	\$4,740.62

RESOLUTION# 107

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood to enter into executive session for a matter relating to particular employee.

Following executive session, the Board had made a decision to hire a part time Highway Laborer at the contractual rate of \$22.49, at a maximum 40 hour pay period. And the Board made a resolution to move the 2026 tentative budget to the Preliminary budget with a public hearing to be held November 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara MacDonald
Town Clerk