

TOWN BOARD MEETING
Public Hearing
December 8, 2025
6:00 P.M

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

ABSENT: Attorney Carly Walas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Supervisor Cetta opened the Public Hearing for any persons wishing to speak in favor or against the Spectrum Franchise Agreement increase.

Supervisor Cetta closed the Public Hearing at 6:01P.M.

TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 8, 2025
6:03 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:

FLOOR TIME: Shelly Johnson stood forward to explain the SEQR local Law. Shelly explained that SEQR rules are entertained in the context of local laws allowing UTV's and ATV's to have roles. SEQR's are applied to the law itself, not directly on the roads as roads are considered a potential impact areas, but not the primary focus of the SEQR. Roads maybe added as needed to the law, not all roads are opened and some roads maybe be exempt due to potential maintenance problems. Supervisor Cetta wanted to be clear that the Town Board is all favor for opening trails, but more legalities need to be completed before continuing the process.

Mayor Bjorn Eilertsen also came forward to talk about the DRI New York grant. Walton is in the top 4 and may receive \$4.5 million for downtown/child-focused improvements for the Village of Walton.

He also discussed the past freedom festival and had a plan to do an award for town outstanding citizen from the Town and the Village and looking for suggestions with that idea and hoping to work as a unity.

RESOLUTION#

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern, approving the minutes of November 10, 2025 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Date: December 8, 2025

Overview:

During the past month, the Walton Assessor's Office focused on updating records and completing required review tasks to keep property records and assessments accurate and current. Continuing education and our conservation easement assessment values and law were also a focus this month.

Work Completed This Month:

1. Field Work, Photos & Inventory

- o Completed field inspections on identified properties.
- o Printed and filed photographs taken during field work.
- o Entered new information and assessments from recent field inspections and permits.

2. Special Districts

- o Assessed values for the Walton Fire District were provided for use in determining the 2026 tax rate

3. Historical Property Records and Stand Alone File

- o In anticipation of the move to online property records the State has advised that only a few, possibly 6, years of historical records will be available on the online file. Measures must be taken to ensure our electronic database is preserved so we don't lose access to property record inventory, exemptions, and historical ownership information dating back in many cases 23 years to 2003. Towns that currently have a stand-alone file, not maintained by the county, have insight into how this can be accomplished and will be bringing that knowledge to the Assessors Association. That is Hancock and Stamford. It is my understanding the assessor's office would maintain name and address changes, and escrow accounts throughout the year. The names and addresses, assessments and exemptions and escrow codes would be provided to the county just for tax bill printing purposes.

- o A plus is that we would not be subject to work slowdowns and stoppages due to the county server issues, more importantly, the integrity of our data can be maintained better, as no one else will be viewing or making changes to the records throughout the year or changing prior year's records.

4. Data Erasures

- o There have been data erasures in past years including photographs I've uploaded and owner's mailing addresses to name two. In the case of addresses, it is in order to accommodate viewing of current addresses in the historical file by employees at the county. It is my feeling that anyone needing current address information, for example delinquent tax, may contact the assessor.

5. Obituaries Review

- o Reviewed local obituaries for potential ownership changes.
- o Updated state and local records where applicable.

6. Property Sales

- o Reviewed and verified recent property sales.
- o Confirmed sale prices and processed ownership transfers.
- o Updated system records accordingly.

7. Change of Address Requests

- o Processed submitted change-of-address forms.
- o Updated mailing information to ensure accurate delivery of bills and notices.

8. Exemptions

- o Reviewed and confirmed exemption status, updating files as needed.
- o Purchased paper and advised County Real Property to process senior and agricultural renewable exemption applications

9. Continuing Education

- o Assessor completed class “Valuation of Golf Courses”
- o Clerk to the Assessor is working on an online Excel class
- o We attended an Assessors’ Association presentation about AI and appraising property. A class is tentatively planned for January.

10. Equalization Rate

- o Our State Office of Real Property Services representative suggested we request utility advisory appraisals again this year. It is my understanding that in the event we keep the Town at 100% equalization rate the new values for utilities properties will be used.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Haddad

Gina Smith

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Garrett Newbauer

Monthly Summary Report
Month of August 2025

Building Permits Issued	3
Building Inspections Completed	2
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	1
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	2
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	2

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

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

Complaints: 6
Dogs Seized: 0
Humane Society: 0
Dangerous Dogs: 1 Court Date: December 4, 2025
Tickets: 2
Redemption Fees: 0 for \$10.00 Town Kennel

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: 12/8/2025
RE: REPORT

- ✓ We have begun the snow removal season and would like to remind the residents to keep any obstructions away from the roads and turnaround areas.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Financial Reports have been provided.

We are getting ready for tax season just waiting for the tax file and roll.

We need to schedule an end of the year meeting to approve vouchers close out. Monday, December 29th? Also need to schedule a re-org meeting the first week of January. January 5th? We can also move the first meeting of the year to January 5th as well so we don't have to have three meeting in a row.

I asked the board if I could order Marriage Filigree certificate holders I have money budgeted for this specific purpose to help protect and secure vital records.

RESOLUTION#

**REQUEST TO PURCHASE VITAL RECORDS
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE CONCEALED
ENVELOPES**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to approve the purchase of Marriage Certificate concealed envelopes. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION#

USE OF FACILITES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to approve the use of Moore Park, October 3, 2026 from 2:00 P.M until 4:00 P.M for a wedding ceremony. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta commented on how great the turn out was for the Christmas parade.

Supervisor Cetta commented on Sheffield's Estates and there are still no closing dates, just inquiries at this point in time.

COMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood showed the sketch for the new town seal made by Amanda Conkling and the board thanked Amanda for the design and how great of a job she did with the new look.

RESOLUTION #

APPROVE THE NEW TOWN SEAL

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood and seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to approve the new Town of Walton Seal, created by Amanda Conkling. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Wood planned a distribution of a cover letter plus a large emergency-info magnet for visibility. The magnet to include essential contact and action steps.

The board thinks the town hall should have a recorded message to provide status, expected outage duration and shelter/warming-station locations. The emergency radio station 92.1 FM and 1270 AM for WDLA is up and running.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION#

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

General Fund A	#208-235	\$56,138.61
General OV B	#30-33	\$4,112.50
General HWY DA	#98-107	\$59,312.45
OV HWY DB	#46-52	\$33,321.42

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara MacDonald
Town Clerk