

TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 9, 2026

6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Wilma Hannan, Joshua Shapiro, Hon. Michael Ripa, Katherina Bridges, Amanda Conkling, Tim Fay, Lillian Browne (The Reporter), Danny Hodges

FLOOR TIME:

Supervisor Cetta called Amanda Conkling forward to present a Certificate of Appreciation for the Art work of the Town Seal.

Amanda then spoke about the Porch Fest event that Music on the Delaware will be putting together again and asked for the Town to be involved and anyone else that would like to volunteer. A meeting to organize the event is February 16th at 5:30. The event is planned to be held on June 6, 2026, rain or shine.

Joshua Shapiro stood forward for the Hon. Michael Ripa to speak about the ongoing security issues with the court room. The Board will set up a separate meeting to discuss this further to find a solution.

Katherine Bridges came to the podium and spoke about the physics for safe tech. This has to do with the new smart meters NYSEG installed to houses in the Town and Village which gives off Radio active waves that can cause migraines, she wanted to just make the Board and Town clear about the situation and the effects it could have to some people.

Wilma Hannan spoke about her issue with where she lives and the snow she receives. Requesting that when the Town plows, if there is anything that could be done with the County. She then thanked the Highway committee for the best efforts they put in with plowing.

Tim Fay came to the Board and continued the process of the ATV/UTV trail and local law. Councilman Kevin had brought up a few established trails they have found. The committee is hoping that once a few trails open with a Local Law that more people in the surrounding areas with then be more willing to open more trails. The Town will be reaching out to Shellie Johnson to get a SEQR before a public hearing. Tim continues to speak about the ATV/UTV club, the trails will be open only to club members, knowing how someone is a member, they would have a sticker on their vehicle to let landowners know. The next step is to put a Local law in place and have a public hearing after the SEQR.

RESOLUTION #38**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Councilwoman Wood, approving the minutes of December 29, 2025 and January 5, 2026 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

This report provides an update on the activities, workload, and operational matters of the Walton Assessor's Office during the reporting period. The office continues to focus on maintaining accurate property assessments, complying with New York State requirements, and providing timely service to residents.

During this period, the office has been actively receiving and processing exemption applications and renewals. These include Senior Citizen exemptions, Agricultural exemption renewals, Forest Land exemption renewals, and STAR.

Public Assistance and Office Activity

The Assessor's Office continues to respond to daily public inquiries both in person and by phone or email. Staff regularly assists residents with property record updates, tax roll questions, and exemption eligibility, including Senior, Agricultural, Forest, and STAR exemptions. Ongoing coordination with the County Real Property Tax Office has continued as needed.

Upcoming Priorities

The office will continue working toward finalization of the assessment roll and preparation for Grievance Day and Board of Assessment Review hearings. Public outreach efforts will also continue to ensure residents are informed about exemption requirements and assessment procedures.

Closing

The Walton Assessor's Office remains committed to fair and equitable assessments, transparency, and responsive service to the community. No significant issues impacting office operations are anticipated at this time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Garrett Newbauer
Monthly Summary Report
Month of January 2026

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

Complaints:

Andrew Tiase pointed out that his neighbor across the street has built structures (over 144 sq ft) without permits and no physical address besides his tax map number

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Christopher Bodo
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street Walton,
New York 13856
January 2025
Dog Control Activity Summary

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Complaints Received | 11 |
| Dogs Seized | 2 |
| Returned to Owner | 3 |
| Humane Society | 0 |
| Dangerous Dog Cases | 0 |
| Tickets Issued | 0 |

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: 1/5/2026
RE: REPORT

We have applied 2035 cubic yards of winter abrasive so far this season.

The fleet seems to be holding up well, thanks to some of the updated trucks that we have purchased.

The crew has been doing a great job keeping up despite being down two guys.

We have received the Shared Services agreement from the Town of Colchester

RESOLUTION #39

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Councilwoman Wood 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 iced removal on portions of Trout Brook Road. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Financial Reports have been provided.

Reported that I am 75% collected which is better than last year at this time which was 72% and that over 197 have utilized the on-line payment services.

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

RESOLUTION #40

APPROVAL TO ATTEND NYSTCA CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Govern to grant Town Clerk permission to attend the NYS Town Clerk's Association Conference in April 19-22, 2026 with the maximum amount spent on the conference of \$500. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 41

REAPPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD MEMBERS

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Councilwoman Wood to reappoint Steve Duchter to the Planning Board and John Litz to the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1/1/2026-12/31/2030. All in favor, motion carried.

The Annual Financial Report for 2025 has been filed with the State and is available for review in my office.

| Budget Amendments | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| December 2025 | | | |
| General-A | Account | Increase | Decrease |
| Justices, CE | 1110.4 | 8,838 | |
| Supervisor, CE | 1220.4 | 240 | |
| Cemeteries, CE | 8810.4 | 3,020 | |
| Assessor, CE | 1355.4 | 1,976 | |
| Unallocated Insurance | 1910.4 | 4,650 | |
| Superintendent, CE | 5010.4 | 80 | |
| Garage | 5132.4 | 17,450 | |
| Floor & Erosion Control | 8745.4 | 681 | |
| State Retirement | 9010.8 | 2,400 | |
| Contingency | 1990.4 | | 500 |
| Interest & Earnings | 2401 | | 26,600 |
| Rental Of Real Property | 2410 | | 3,397 |
| | | 30,497 | 30,497 |
| Highway-DA | Account | Increase | Decrease |
| Machinery, PS | 5130.1 | 3,361 | |
| Machinery, Equipt | 5130.2 | 186,846 | |
| Machinery, CE | 5130.4 | 16,386 | |
| State Retirement | 9010.8 | 4,950 | |
| Snow Removal, PS | 5142.1 | | 43,311 |
| Snow Removal, CE | 5142.4 | | 74,000 |
| Health Insurance | 9060.8 | | 14,157 |
| HRA Ins Deductible | 9089.8 | | 22,048 |
| Sale of Equipt | 2665 | | 44,000 |
| Interest & Earnings | 2401 | | 14,127 |
| | | 211,643 | 244,643 |

RESOLUTION #42

2025 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, approving the 2025 budget amendments as submitted to close out the 2025 Fiscal year. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta advised the Board that he had received a letter from the Delaware County Youth Bureau stating we will receive the funding again for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Supervisor Cetta also stated that residents should clear the snow 3 feet around fire hydrants if they have them in front of their house for emergencies, it helps save time in case of any emergency.

Supervisor Cetta read a letter received by Independent Auditor Brian Pickard of the conducted audit of the cash accounts for town offices for the year ending December 31, 2025 for Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Justice Court.

RESOLUTION #43

TOWN CLERK/JUSTICE CASH AUDIT

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to accept the 2025 Cash Account Audit Report submitted by Brian Pickard CPA for town offices of Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Justice Court. All in favor, motion carried.

We received the yearly Dog Control Officer Inspection Report and was rated Satisfactory. The Board commented on how well the DCO is doing.

We received the annual agreement contract from the Delaware County Planning Board.

RESOLUTION #44

TOWN PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE CONTRACT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt, to accept the 2026 Town Planning Advisory Service contract between the Town of Walton and the Delaware County Department of Planning and Watershed Affairs in the amount of \$3,500.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta spoke about how there was a draft agreement he sent to Attorney Walas for KLW to continue working with the Assessor in doing reevaluation on properties for the next 5 years. This is something we have discussed in the past for budgeting. Cetta asked for permission to sign the contract pending Attorney Walas's approval.

RESOLUTION #45

PERMISSION TO SIGN PENDING CONTRACT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt, approving permission to sign the pending document for KLW to work with the Assessor for reevaluations for the next 5 years (2026-2030) upon approval of pending contract. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt brought up the battery banks from Solar farms that are coming to our area. NYC wants to install battery banks and solar farms on our lands and his concern is that the fire department is not trained for the lithium battery fires that are subject to these. There have already been two fires reported. He recommended we make a moratorium of this topic, Attorney Walas will work on this and should have the draft at the next meeting for this concern.

Councilwoman Wood spoke about finishing and adopting the emergency plan. She has letters and magnets the Town can mail out to the public and would like to see if the Village will split the cost with the Town to mail these out. She also commented that she spoke to BOCES about printing magnets for the public, they have a 5- year agreement to print for municipalities. She asked the Board for permission to sign the agreement.

RESOLUTION # 46

PERMISSION TO SIGN 5-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH DCMO BOCES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt, approving permission to sign a 5-year agreement with DCMO BOCES for print shop services. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Wood also commented on the Austin Lincoln Award that Mayor Eilertsen to see if we want to do the same thing or come up with our own idea. Supervisor Cetta's thoughts were, we do an award as we see reason.

Supervisor Cetta's last comment was about the Time Capsule. We are still looking for ideas to put in the time capsule that will be buried in the Veteran's Plaza to be opened in 50 years on July 4, 2026. The dead line for the idea's will be June 8, 2026.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION#47

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

| | | |
|----------------|--------|-------------|
| General Fund A | #11-30 | \$10,383.54 |
| General OV B | #1 | \$76.88 |
| General HWY DA | #4-11 | \$33,647.33 |
| OV HWY DB | #1-2 | \$4,860.03 |

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara MacDonald
Town Clerk