

TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 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:

FLOOR TIME: No floor time was requested.

RESOLUTION #48

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Councilwoman Wood, approving the minutes of February 9, 2026 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor's Office – Monthly Report Town of Walton Date: March 4, 2026

Monthly Board Report

During this past month, our office has been finalizing all Forestry, Senior, and Agricultural (Ag) Exemptions. We have reviewed submissions, completed processing, and ensured all documentation is up to date.

All phone calls have been returned promptly, and residents have been assisted and directed to the appropriate resources when necessary. We have worked to make sure questions were answered clearly and that applicants understood their exemption status and next steps.

As we move forward, preparations are now underway for Grievance Day on May 27th. We are organizing schedules, reviewing procedures, and ensuring all materials are ready to support a smooth and efficient process.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Haddad, Assessor
Gina Smith, Clerk

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Building Permits Issued | 3 |
| Building Inspections Completed | 4 |
| Fire Inspections Completed | 0 |
| Notices of Violation Issued | 0 |
| Tickets Issued | 0 |
| Certificates Issued | 0 |
| Complaints Received | 0 |
| Floodplain Development | |
| Permits Issued | 0 |
| CO Searches | 3 |

NOTE: Stormwater Managers Conference Dates: April 28-30th, being held in Utica, NY. The hotel fee is \$100/night

RESOLUTION# 49

APPROVAL TO ATTEND STORMWATER CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to grant Code Enforcement Officer permission to attend the Stormwater Managers Conference April 28-30, 2026. All in favor, motion carried.

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Christopher Bodo
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street Walton,
New York 13856
February 2026
Dog Control Activity Summary

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Complaints Received | 7 |
| Dogs Seized | 2 |
| Returned to Owner | 2 |
| 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: 3/9/2026
RE: REPORT

- ✓ We have applied 2754 cubic yards of winter abrasive so far this season.
- ✓ We are looking forward to spring operations!!!

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Financial Reports are provided.

I reported to the Board that I am 78% collected so far for tax season and I am mailing out seconded notices to those who have not paid which at this time is about 540 parcels.

I spoke about the NYSTCA conference I will be attending and after registering for the conference and hotel, the amount total was more than what was approved for the maximum at the previous meeting, I informed the board that it was budgeted for.

RESOLUTION# 50

RESCIND RESOLUTION# 40 OF FEBRUARY 9, 2026

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Armstrong to rescind resolution #40 of February 9, 2026 to approve attending NSYTCA Conference with maximum amount spent of \$500. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION# 51

APPROVAL TO ATTEND NYSTCA CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt to grant Town Clerk permission to attend the NYSTCA conference on April 19-22, 2026. All in favor, motion carried.

I had also informed the Board that I sent the signed contract to DCMO BOCES from the previous meeting and unfortunately, they no longer provide those services for municipalities.

RESOLUTION# 52

RESCIND REOLUTION#46 OF FEBRUARY 9, 2026

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Armstrong to rescind Resolution #46 of February 9, 2026 to sign 5-year agreement with DCMO BOCES. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Town of Walton, New York

Resolution No. 53 of 2026

A Resolution Demanding Immediate Regulatory Action, Independent Audit, Public Hearings, and Rural Ratepayer Protections Regarding NYSEG Delivery Rates.

WHEREAS, residents and small businesses in the Town of Walton continue to experience escalating electric delivery charges imposed by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG), resulting in measurable financial hardship for working families, seniors on fixed incomes, renters, homeowners, and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, these delivery rate increases have occurred without sufficient transparency or clear, accessible explanations of actual cost drivers, capital project justifications, administrative overhead, executive compensation impacts, debt servicing, and shareholder return expectations; and

WHEREAS, rural communities such as Walton face structural disadvantages under current utility rate models, bearing disproportionate delivery costs relative to income levels, population density, and economic conditions, while lacking any meaningful market alternative for electric service; and

WHEREAS, residents are increasingly forced to choose between essential needs—including food, medication, housing stability, and heat—and maintaining electric service, creating conditions that threaten public health, community safety, and local economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) is legally obligated to ensure utility rates are just, reasonable, necessary, and in the public interest, and not merely administratively convenient or insulated from meaningful public scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, continued approval of rate increases without rigorous, independently verified justification undermines public trust in regulatory oversight and fuels the perception that rural ratepayers lack equal protection under state utility regulation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Walton formally and unequivocally demands that the New York State Public Service Commission:

Initiate an immediate, independent, comprehensive audit of NYSEG's delivery rate structure, capital spending practices, and cost allocations, conducted by a third-party entity with no financial ties to NYSEG or its parent companies;

Require NYSEG to publicly disclose, in plain language, a full breakdown of delivery rate cost drivers, including infrastructure projects, maintenance backlogs, storm restoration costs, administrative overhead, executive compensation impacts, debt servicing, and shareholder return expectations;

Hold one or more in-person public hearings in rural communities, including in or near the Town of Walton, to receive direct testimony from affected residents and businesses prior to approval of any future delivery rate increases;

Freeze approval of any new or expanded delivery rate increases until meaningful cost-control measures and performance benchmarks tied to service reliability, outage duration reduction, maintenance completion rates, and customer service improvements are implemented and independently verified;

Prohibit expedited, automatic, or administrative approval of delivery rate increases absent documented necessity, public benefit, and measurable service improvement outcomes;

Review and reform rate design practices that disproportionately shift system costs onto rural and low-density communities, and implement corrective measures to ensure equitable cost distribution; and

Provide a written, public response to the Town of Walton and similarly affected municipalities within 60 days outlining concrete actions taken to address these concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Walton formally requests that the New York State Legislature:

Conduct oversight hearings into NYSEG's delivery rate practices affecting rural communities;

Explore statutory reforms requiring independent cost audits as a condition precedent to future rate increases; and

Strengthen statutory protections for rural and low-income ratepayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Walton calls upon municipalities across New York State to pass parallel resolutions, coordinate testimony before the PSC, and form a united municipal coalition to oppose unjustified delivery rate increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Walton directs the Town Clerk to transmit certified copies of this resolution to:

The Chair and Commissioners of the New York State Public Service Commission

Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York

The Majority and Minority Leaders of the New York State Senate and Assembly

Peter Oberacker, State Senator and Chris Tague, Assembly Member representing the Town of Walton

The Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors of NYSEG

The Association of Towns of the State of New York

The New York State Comptroller

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Walton affirms that access to affordable and reliable electricity is essential infrastructure for modern life, and that residents must not be forced to choose between basic survival and maintaining electric service.

Adopted this 9th day of March, 2026,

by the Board members of the Town of Walton, New York.

Discussion took place on the environmental impact of the battery storage facilities as well as requiring a moratorium on solar farms.

RESOLUTION No. 54
INTRODUCING A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A ONE (1) YEAR MORATORIUM
ON "BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS"
IN THE TOWN OF WALTON

LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2026

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Walton, Delaware County, New York, held at 129 North Street, Walton, NY 13856, on the 9th day of March, 2026, there were:

Supervisor Joseph Cetta
Councilman Kevin Armstrong
Councilman Leonard Govern
Councilwoman Patricia Wood
Councilman Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt

Supervisor Cetta offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that an introductory Local Law entitled

**“LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2026
A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A ONE (1) YEAR MORATORIUM
ON “BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS”
IN THE TOWN OF WALTON**

is hereby introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Walton, Delaware County, New York pursuant to authority under the New York State Constitution, the provisions of § 10 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law, § 10 of the New York State Statute of Local Governments, and the New York State Town Law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law be laid upon the desk of each member of the Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hold a public hearing on said proposed local law at 129 North Street, Walton, NY 13856 at 6:00 pm on April, 2026;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the Town of Walton of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto;

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor or his designee is authorized to take any other action required under law in furtherance of this resolution and passage of the proposed local law.

On a motion by Councilperson Govern, seconded by Wood, the resolution was adopted on a roll call vote, the results which follow:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor Joseph Cetta | Aye |
| Councilman Kevin Armstrong | Aye |
| Councilman Leonard Govern | Aye |
| Councilwoman Patricia Wood | Aye |
| Councilman Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt | Aye |

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board of the report received by our 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. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilperson Wood reported the need to order magnets for the emergency plan and will include a letter to be mailed out to residents.

RESOLUTION #55 TO ADOPT THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY PLAN

A motion was Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to approve and adopt the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan as presented All in favor, motion carried.

The Board reviewed and went over section Part 1 and Part 2 of the Full Environmental Assessment form provided by Delaware County Planning Department for the purpose of establishing the SEQR status.

RESOLUTION #56

SEQR REVIEW

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to accept and grant Supervisor Cetta to sign the Full Environmental Assessment with corrections and approve the SEQR as a negative declaration for limited use vehicles and all-terrain vehicles on portions of certain town highways. All in favor, motion carried.

Copy of original form attached.

**RESOLUTION No. 57
INTRODUCING A LOCAL LAW REGULATING USE OF LIMITED USE VEHICLES
AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES ON PORTIONS OF CERTAIN TOWN HIGHWAYS
LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2026**

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Walton, Delaware County, New York, held at 129 North Street, Walton, NY 13856, on the 9th day of March, 2026, there were:

Supervisor Joseph Cetta
Councilman Kevin Armstrong
Councilman Leonard Govern
Councilwoman Patricia Wood
Councilman Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt

The offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that an introductory Local Law entitled

**“LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2026
A LOCAL LAW REGULATING USE OF LIMITED USE VEHICLES AND ALL-
TERRAIN VEHICLES ON PORTIONS OF CERTAIN TOWN HIGHWAYS”**

is hereby introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Walton, Delaware County, New York pursuant to authority under the New York State Constitution, the provisions of § 10 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law, § 10 of the New York State Statute of Local Governments, and the New York State Town Law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law be laid upon the desk of each member of the Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hold a public hearing on said proposed local law at 129 North Street, Walton, NY 13856 at 6:00 pm on April 13, 2026;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the Town of Walton of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor or his designee is authorized to take any other action required under law in furtherance of this resolution and passage of the proposed local law.

On a motion by Councilperson Armstrong, seconded by Wood, the resolution was adopted.

Adopted this 9th day of March 2026.

Councilwoman Wood mentioned to the Board about accepting a donation of a bench at Veterans Plaza and questioned how many benches should we accept in the future? The Board was in agreement to accept the donation of a bench and agreed to accept only two more

RESOLUTION #58 ACCEPT DONATED BENCHES FOR VETERANS PLAZA

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Armstrong to accept up to a total of four (4) donated benches to be placed on Veterans Plaza. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION#59 APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

| | | |
|----------------|--------|-------------|
| General Fund A | #31-46 | \$18,822.80 |
| General OV B | #2-4 | \$1,036.14 |
| General HWY DA | #12-18 | \$11,979.12 |
| OV HWY DB | # | \$ |

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to enter into executive session for the purpose of an employment matter. Entered 7:30 pm

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

RESOLUTION #60 PERMISSION TO HIRE A JUSTICE COURT SECURITY OFFICER

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to approve the hiring of a Justice Court Security Officer at a starting rate of \$30.00 an hour not to exceed \$40.00 per hour. Aye: Armstrong, Govern, Rodriguez-Betancourt, Cetta, Nay: Wood, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara MacDonald
Town Clerk