

TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 8, 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:

Jennifer Davis-Mason, Sarah Williford and Theresa Kadish

FLOOR TIME:

Theresa Kadish from East Brook Farms asked the board about applying for change in zoning and they would like to receive an environmental easement on their property that is in the Hamlet designation. There is a certain time for an opening window on this process. The Board and Attorney Carly Walas will have to further research this and the request was tabled for next meeting.

Eric Ball dropped off the proclamation for Congressman Josh Riley to in the time capsule on July 4th.

RESOLUTION #80

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Govern, approving the minutes of May 11, 2026 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

June 2026

Assessor's Report to Town Board

Legislative Updates

458-a seriously disabled veterans exemption update

The recently signed 2026-2027 New York State Budget includes an amendment to subdivision 11 of section 458-a, bill number S.9009-C Part EE.

Most notably, subdivision 11 now provides a full exemption, at local option, to qualifying veterans who are considered permanently and totally disabled as a result of service.

New STAR letters hitting mailboxes

Department of Tax and Finance is mailing a new letter, the RP-5300-AGE, to impacted STAR exemption recipients. Recipients of this letter are not eligible for Enhanced STAR as none of the resident property owners meet the age requirement.

DTF is also continuing to mail the following letter to impacted STAR recipients across the state:

RP-5300-RES: Recipients of this letter are not eligible for any STAR benefit for one of the following reasons related to residency:

DTF is unable to confirm the property is the primary residence of any of the owners; They indicated that they are receiving a benefit for a primary residence in another state;

Rental income reported on their income tax return indicates that the property may be occupied by a tenant and may not be the primary residence of any owners; or
They registered to receive a STAR benefit for multiple properties and listed them as their primary residence.
If you are contacted by a property owner about any of these letters, please direct them to the [STAR Resource Center](#) online or by phone 518-457-2036.
Scheduled Assessor Continuing Education
Modeling: Using the Real Property System database for valuation, virtual attendance
Emerging Topics in Assessment, Ithaca
Ongoing work
Updating property records for new sales, owners’ name and addresses, building permits
Assessments and data collection
Gina has set up a Starlink Mini mobile internet connection for use in a vehicle, enabling access to and updates of property records in the field. The system is currently being tested, and further updates will be shared as they become available.
Respectfully submitted
Penny Haddad, Assessor
Gina Smith, Clerk

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton	
Code Enforcement Office	
Garrett Newbauer	
Monthly Summary Report	
Month of May 2026	
Building Permits Issued	8
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

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Christopher Bodo	
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton	
129 North Street Walton,	
New York 13856	
May 2026	
Dog Control Activity Summary	
Complaints Received	9
Dogs Seized	1 unattended death dog transferred to shelter
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dog Cases	0
Tickets Issued	3
Ongoing Court Case(s)	1 Dangerous Dog Case - Case hearing in Franklin

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: 6/8/2026
RE: REPORT

The crew is finishing up the ditch and shoulder work We will begin mowing and patching operations next Discuss hiring a motor equipment operator

RESOLUTION #81

MEO HIGHWAY EMPLOYEE

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern, to appoint Kevin Reis-Nascimento to the Highway MEO position at the 2026 budgeted rate of \$26.19/ hour starting July 29, 2026. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #82

WAIVE PROBATIONARY WAGE REDUCTION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to waive the probationary wage reduction and start at the full 2026 budgeted rate, due to his experience. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Armstrong thanked the highway department for putting the signs up for the ATV club.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Financial Reports are provided.

I reported that my new Deputy Clerk, Sue Huntress is doing a great job and catching on fast.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta announced that Garrett Newbauer, the Code Enforcement Officer is going to resign and gave his 60-day notice for his last day being July 18, 2026.

Supervisor Cetta commented that there has been a lot of calls to the fire department for campfires that residents are having. To help the fire department, Cetta recommended that anyone having a larger, visible fire to call the non-emergent number 607-832-6961 and just warn them that there will be a fire and this will minimize the tone outs to the fire department.

Supervisor Cetta also wanted to remind everyone that the time capsule will be buried on July 4th for the 250th anniversary to be opened in 50 years and we can still take some ideas to put in the box.

Supervisor Cetta stated that Councilman Govern was approached by a vendor and would like to set up at Breakey Motors green space. The Board discussed having a policy with something similar to the Veteran's Plaza and More Park rental procedure. Attorney Carly Walas will have to further research this and will be tabled for next meeting.

It has come to our attention that we have overlooked our current New York State Insurance Fund policy endorsement where it states the wording "Existing Covers Only Town Highway Workers". This wording should be removed to include all eligible employees, as once the Paid Family Leave Benefits was established in 2018 when the Town of Walton opted into PFL, all payroll reports have included all eligible employees' premiums, less elected individuals.

As this is a self-funded employee policy, all premiums come from eligible employees' deductions for Disability benefits as well as Paid Family Leave that meet the required eligibility. Eligibility is that of an employee that has regular schedule of 20 or more hours per week after 26 weeks of employment and regular schedule of less than 20 hours per week are eligible after 175 days worked.

Therefore, the Town of Walton request that you remove the wording "Existing Covers Only Town Highway Workers"

RESOLUTION# 83

NEW YORK STATE INSURANCE FUND ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, to have the wording" Existing Covers Only Town Highway Workers" removed from NYSIF policy and reflect that all eligible employees will be covered under the Town of Walton's NYSIF Policy. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman suggested we put signs on our property that leads to the bridge.

During Mayor Eilertsen clean-up efforts, there was a large amount of garbage, and other miscellaneous items under the bridge. "It is out of control". In order for the Village police to be able to do anything about what goes on down there, the Village, Town and DOT need to put signs that lead down to the bridge to control the issue. Councilman Armstrong is concerned that the people that would like to use that area to fish, they might not go because of the signs.

RESOLUTION #84

PURCHASE 3 NO TRESPASSING SIGNS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt to purchase 3 "NO TRESPASSING" signs on the Town of Walton's property leading to the bridge down to the stone wall. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Wood commented that George Washington (Eli Williams) will be floating down the river, singing American the Beautiful at 2 PM on July 4th to kick off Freedom Fest, starting from Breakey’s to the boat launch, leading to Veteran’s Plaza where he will sing “Crossing the Delaware” and after there will be more ways to learn History about Walton.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #85

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

General Fund A	#80-98	\$62,442.27
General OV B	#8-10	\$922.36
General HWY DA	#35-38	\$885.24
OV HWY DB	#11-18	\$24,269.86

RESOLUTION #86

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, to enter executive session for negotiations. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 8:20 pm.

RESOLUTION #87

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Councilwoman Wood, to leave executive session. All in favor, motion carried.

Out 8:51 pm.

As a result of Executive Session, the A Fund abstracts have been amended. The voucher for ISD will be paid through the end of May.

RESOLUTION #88

RESCIND RESOLUTION #85

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt to rescind resolution #85 Approval of Bills, in General Fund A to remove for ISD Voucher for the month of June payment. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 89

APPROVAL OF GENERAL A FUND ABSTRACT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve the amended abstract for General Fund A to the amount of \$61,212.18. All in favor, motion carried.

Prior to closing the Board meeting, the Board approved the purchase of 3 computers not to exceed \$1000 each.

RESOLUTION #90

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE 3 COMPUTERS

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve the purchase of 3 new computers up to the maximum amount spent of \$1000 per computer. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara MacDonald
Town Clerk