

TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 11 2026

6:00 P.M.

Public Hearing

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: Amanda Poznaski/Cicerella, Jennifer Davis-Mason, Dean Frazier, Gale Neale, Lorraine Takahashi, Ron Richards, Lillan Browne, Katherine Bridges

Supervisor Cetta opened the public Hearing for persons wishing to speak in favor or against Local Law 3 of 2026, A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A ONE (1) YEAR MORATORIUM ON “SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS” IN THE TOWN OF WALTON

Supervisor Cetta read the purpose and intent of the Local Law 3 of 2026.

Residents speaking in favor to Local Law 3 of 2026, Establishing a one (1) year moratorium on “Solar energy Systems” in the Town of Walton: Lorraine Takahashi, Dean Frazier, Amanda Cicerella, Ron Richards and Katherine Bridges. Most speaking about the future with the moratorium and wanting to make it more than 1 year.

TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 11, 2026

6:17 P.M.

Regular Meeting

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: Amanda Poznaski/Cicerella, Jennifer Davis-Mason, Dean Frazier, Gale Neale, Lorraine Takahashi, Ron Richards, Lillian Browne(the reporter), Katherine Bridges

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FLOOR TIME:

Katherine Bridges stood forward to speak about “no mow may” and the benefits giving the board documents to look over.

Amanda Cicerella stood forward to ask the board for advice about a public bulletin board for upcoming events for everyone to know, stating most don’t have the internet and would like something useful for those residents.

Supervisor Cetta ended floor time with no other public input.

RESOLUTION #68

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Armstrong approving the minutes of April 13, 2026 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Town of Walton
Assessor’s Office Report
May 6th, 2026

The Assessor’s Office has been actively working on several key responsibilities over the past reporting period.

We have met with property owners to review and discuss their property assessments, addressing questions and providing clarification where needed.

Notices of assessment changes were mailed to applicable property owners on May 4th.

The tentative assessment rolls were picked up from Delhi and are currently on file for public inspection.

Additionally, we continue to update the Real Property System (RPS) with current sales data to ensure assessments remain accurate and reflect market conditions.

We are making corrections to the tentative roll removing exemptions where the property is no longer eligible and completing correction documents for the property owners, Board of Assessment Review and County Department of Real property Tax Services.

The Assessor’s desktop computer continues to give warnings of obsolescence and the Town IT has stated that continued use could constitute a security risk.

We are pleased to hear that Josh Morgan, experienced Code Enforcement Officer will continue to be employed by the Village. Josh has recently brought us up to date with building projects in the Village. Garrett continues to provide monthly reports of building projects in the Town. Both are extremely important to the assessor’s office maintaining equity in the assessment roll.

The State has offered to help set values next year. I will be analyzing values and sales in all sectors of the roll to determine the course of action whether to change assessments or not.

However, without this town-wide analysis and changes in some property class assessments, I am told it is likely, almost guaranteed, that the equalization rate will drop several points below 100 for the 2027 roll.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Haddad
Assessor, Town of Walton

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

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

Building Permits Issued	8
Building Inspections Completed	4
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	2
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
April 2026
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints Received	15
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	3
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dog Cases	1
Tickets Issued	1
Ongoing Court Case(s)	1 Dangerous Dog Case

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: 4/13/2026
RE: REPORT

South River Road project is now complete

The crew continues to prepare the roads to be sealed this year

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Financial Reports are provided.

Reported that I am done with tax collection and have collected 90% of my total warrant. I have collected \$3,975,816.12 of my total warrant. \$454,027.11 will be returned to the Delaware County Treasurer for collection. My settlement date is scheduled for May 13th.

Ronda Williams, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector stepped down as Deputy and would like to only be on the schedule when needed as a fill in. I recommend Sue Huntress as Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector. She will be getting the current wage of \$19/hr.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Armstrong, to appoint Sue Huntress as a Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector effective May 12, 2026 – 12/31/2026, at the current 2026 budgeted rate. All in favor, motion carried.

I provided the board with the Standard work day schedule for 2026.

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Walton hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Title	Name	Social Security Number (Last 4 digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System (Y/N)	Days/Month (based on Record of Activities)	Tier 1 (Check only if member is in Tier 1)	Not Submitted (Check box if no record of activities completed or timekeeping system)
Elected Officials									
Council Member	Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt			6	1/1/2026-12/31/2029	N	1		
Town Clerk/Collector	Tamara MacDonald			6	1/1/2026-12/31/2027	N	21.97		
Highway Superintendent	Jeffery Offnick			8	1/1/2026-12/31/2026	N	22.26		
Appointed Officials									
Code Officer	Garrett Newbauer			6	1/1/2026-12/31/2026	Y			
Court Clerk	Kristin Beers			6	1/1/2026-12/31/2026	Y			
Attorney	Carly Walas			6	1/1/2026-12/31/2026	N	1.39		
Assessor Assistant	Gina Smith Scheidegger			6	1/1/2026-12/31/2026	Y			
Assessor	Penny Haddad			6	10/1/2026-09/30/2031	Y			

On this 11 day of May, 2026,
Date enacted: May 12, 2026

(Signature of clerk)

I, Tamara MacDonald, clerk of the governing board of the Town of Walton, of the State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board, at a legally convened meeting held on the 12 day of May, 2025 on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and that same is a true copy thereof and the whole of such original. I further certify that the full board, consists of 4 members, and that 5 of such members were present at such meeting and that 5 of such members voted in favor of the above resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the

RESOLUTION #70

STANDARD WORK DAY REPORTING RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Councilman Govern seconded by Councilwoman Wood, approving the 2026 Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 71

USE OF FACILITIES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Govern, to approve Amanda Conkling permission to use the Veteran's Plaza on June 5th- June 8th starting at 8 am for Walton Porch Fest. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 72

WAIVE FEE

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern to approve waiving the \$25 fee for the use of Veteran's Plaza June 5- June 8, 2026 for the use of Porch Fest. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #73

USE OF FACILITIES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Councilwoman Wood, to approve the Riverside Alliance Church to use the Veteran's Plaza on July 11, 2026 from 9:30 am to 12:30pm for advertising Vacation Bible Camp. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

The following law was proposed, a Public Hearing on Local Law 3 of 2026 will be held on May 11, 2026 for persons to speak in favor or against.

TOWN OF WALTON

A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A ONE (1) YEAR MORATORIUM ON "SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS"

IN THE TOWN OF WALTON

LOCAL LAW NO. 3-2026

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Walton, Delaware County, State of New York as follows:

Section 1. Authority.

This local law is authorized by the New York State Constitution, the provisions of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law, the relevant provisions of the Town Law of the State of New York, the laws of the Town of Walton and the general police power vested with the Town of New Walton to promote the health, safety and welfare of all residents and property owners in the Town of Walton.

Section 2: Purpose, Intent and Findings.

The purpose of this local law is to declare a temporary moratorium on the issuance of building permits, special permits, certificates of occupancy and site plans by the Town of Walton for the approval, construction, establishment and/or operation of any additional or new Solar Energy Systems and Solar Energy Facilities within the limits of the Town of Walton.

The solar industry has grown in recent years due to increased demand to obtain economic and environmental advantages of renewable energy, the federal and state tax benefits and solar industry innovation. Regulations currently exist on solar energy systems in the Town of Walton. The Town Board is concerned about the possible increase in demand and potential impacts of solar energy facilities and solar energy systems and believes it is necessary to establish a Local Law to enact a temporary one (1) year moratorium in order to protect public health, safety and welfare of its community. The Town Board hereby declares said moratorium on the establishment, constructions, enlargement or erection of solar energy facilities or solar energy systems. Recognizing this need, the Town believes that a moratorium is necessary to allow the Town Board to study our code and update our solar energy system and facilities regulations.

Section 3. Moratorium.

Pursuant to the statutory authority vested in the Town to regulate and control land use and to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents, the Town Board of the Town of Walton hereby declares a one (1) year moratorium on the review and approval of new as of yet unfiled and any and all pending applications for any and all land use approvals, including site plan approvals, subdivision plats, building permits, special use permits and variances (hereinafter “Land Use Approvals”) for all Solar Energy Systems and Solar Energy Facilities within the Town.

For a period of one (1) year following the effective date of this Local Law, no application may be processed, and no permits, certificates of occupancy, approvals, variances, denials, determinations or interpretations may be issued or granted for any land uses relating to solar energy, including but not limited to, solar farms.

The term “lands use” relating to solar shall be broadly construed to include any facility designed to generate or store electric power to be marked, sold or used for other than the power demands of the improvements on the property on which such facility is located. Not included within the scope of this moratorium are solar facilities designed to generate electric power solely for the use of the improvements located on the same property. The term “solar farm” shall not include photovoltaic panels that are mounted on or affixed to residential dwellings for personal use, or photovoltaic panels that are mounted on municipal or commercial or industrial buildings.

Section 4: Term.

The moratorium imposed by this Local Law shall be effective for one (1) year from the effective date of this Local Law. This Moratorium may be extended for an additional period by resolution of the Town Board.

Section 5. Effect on Other Laws.

To the extent that any law, ordinance rules or regulation, or parts thereof are in conflict with the provisions of this Local Law, including all provisions of Article 16 of the New York State Town Law concerning special use permit, site plan, building permit, and certificate of occupancy procedure and requirements, this Local Law shall control and supersede such law ordinance, rule, or regulation.

Section 6. No Variances.

No application for variance from the terms of this moratorium may be submitted, or considered or granted by the Town. Any pending application for a variance from the moratorium shall be null and void upon the effective date of this law.

Section 7: Authority.

This moratorium is adopted pursuant to Article IX of the New York State Constitution, §2(c)(6) and (10), New York Statute of Local Governments, § 10, Subdivisions 1 and 7, § 261 through 263 of the Town Law, and § 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York. In particular, this chapter shall supersede those any provisions of the Town Code and New York State Law which require the Town Board, Planning Board, and/or Zoning Board of Appeals to accept, process, and/or approve applications or issue permits for the development of Solar Energy Facilities and Solar Energy Systems within specified statutory time periods.

Section 8: Severability.

If any part or provision of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Local Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the Town Board of the Town of Walton hereby declares that it would have passed this Local Law or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

Section 9: Effective date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

**RESOLUTION No. 74
INTRODUCING A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A ONE (1) YEAR
MORATORIUM ON “SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS”
IN THE TOWN OF WALTON
LOCAL LAW NO. 3 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 11th day of May, 2026, there were:

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an introductory Local Law entitled
“**LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2026**
A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A ONE (1) YEAR MORATORIUM
ON “SOLAR ENERGY 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 pm on May 11, 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 Wood, seconded by Councilperson Armstrong, 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

Adopted this 11th day of May, 2026.

Supervisor Cetta spoke about a resident of Lower Third Brook who suggested the speed limit be reduced from 40 MPH to 20 MPH. Cetta stated we do not have the authority to do so, DOT does.

Supervisor Cetta also brought to the Board that Verizon Wireless called him and spoke about wanting to start discussing generator at the Cell Tower and they would have to go through Crown Castle to get the process started.

Supervisor Cetta mentioned the Senior Meals and wanted to be clear that the Seniors are getting fed.

Supervisor Cetta called Gale Neale, Chairman of the Planning Board to come forward. Gale recommended the hours for the Planning Board meeting be changed from 7:30 pm to 6:30 pm, starting next month.

RESOLUTION #74

APPROVAL TO CHANGE PLANNING BOARD MEETING TIMES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Armstrong to approve the start time meeting change of the Planning Board meetings to 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month when there are items on the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Gale also wanted to recommend Katherine Taggart for the vacant spot and Gary Gregory for the alternate position on the Planning Board.

RESOLUTION #75

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Councilwoman Wood, to appoint Katherine Taggart to the Town of Walton Planning Board effective May 12, 2026 – December 31, 2028. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #76

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Councilwoman Wood, to appoint Gary Gregory as an alternate to the Walton Planning Board, effective May 12, 2026, December 31, 2026. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood spoke about the magnets for the Town and Village of Walton Emergency Procedures, that can be picked up with a letter at the Village or Town Hall for free.

Councilwoman Wood also wanted to thank the Board for donating the flags for Delaware Street and also wanted to thank the two other organizations, VFW and American Legion and the Walton Chamber for their donations as well.

Councilwoman Wood asked the board if they would consider donating the porta-johns for Freedom Festival this year as it was done last year. The Chamber is selling 2-inch coins with the new Town and Village Seals on it for \$25 to help fund the Fireworks for Freedom Fest. The Walton Chamber donated one of these coins to the Time Capsule.

RESOLUTION #77

FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR PORTA-JOHNS FOR THE FREEFOM FESTIVAL

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern, for providing funding for the transportation of the Porta-Johns in the amount of \$300 for Freedom Festival. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Armstrong brought up that Local Law 1- Regulating use of Limited Use Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles on Portions of Certain Town Highways and said that it was submitted April 27th and we are just waiting for signs to go forward with riding.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION#78

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	#66-79	\$8,362.10
General OV B	#7	\$76.83
General HWY DA	#29-34	\$8,502.84
OV HWY DB	#6-10	\$196,398.23

RESOLUTION #79

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to enter into executive session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara MacDonald
Town Clerk