

TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 10, 2017,  
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt (arrived at 6:15), Leonard Govern, Patty Wood, Supervisor Charles Gregory, Hwy. Supt Walt Geidel, Attorney Carly Walas and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Lillian Browne – Walton Reporter, Bruce Dolph, Stephen Dutcher, Monica Randazzo, Kelsey Stilson, and Jerry Colon – videographer.

**RESOLUTION #56**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of March 13, 2017 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME:

None Requested

**SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:**

Permission to attend the NYS Superintendent Highway conference June 12-14<sup>th</sup>, he will be sharing the cost of a room with the Town of Hamden.

**RESOLUTION #57**

**ATTEND HIGHWAY CONFERENCE**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Armstrong granting Superintendent Geidel permission to attend the Highway Conference from June 12-14, 2017. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Armstrong reported on behalf of Superintendent Geidel absence that the salt shed roof bid specifications are complete and a legal notice will be posted soon.

Reported that the highway department had a problem with the newest Federal Surplus truck. It appears a weld broke on the plow, while plowing and caused approximately \$9,000 in other damage to the vehicle. Henderson, the company that performed the modifications, has agreed to cover the repairs; they picked up the vehicle to take back to Watertown for the repairs to be made. Councilman Armstrong informed the Board that there will be a bill for the towing from the breakdown site to the Town Highway Department.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

Reported that tax collection is 82% collected.

I presented the board with a proposal for a new copier; I recommend we hold off until next month so that I can gather additional quotes for comparable copies.

I have received a Use of Facilities request from the Walton Fire Department for a Recruit NY event. I would recommend we waive the \$50.00 deposit as we have several members of the Fire Department here at the town if additional clean up needs to be done.

**RESOLUTION #58**

**WAIVE OF VETERENS PLAZA FEE**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Armstrong granting permission to waive the \$50.00 deposit fee for the Walton Fire Department Recruit NY event. All in favor, motion carried.

In connection with the NYS Town’s Association and town clerks across the State, I sent a letter opposing the Governor’s plan to have county governments establish a “shared” services plan that is fundamentally flawed as it prohibits any role of Town, Village or City governments in crafting such plans. I have received letters from Senator Bonacic and Assemblyman Crouch indicating they strongly opposes the Governor’s plan as well and will continue to be a voice and reject this unfair proposal.

Supervisor Gregory explained to the Board the reason why the letter opposing the shared service plan was important and stated the town already has many shared service agreements. “We are already doing this.”

CEO/DOG CONTROL REPORT:

CEO Dutcher explained the three quotes received on having the Town of Walton’s laws compiled into one book.

Municode	\$18,600.00
General Code	\$5,145.00
American Legal	\$7,250.00

Discussion took place about the availability of a down payment and to have the option of making payments over time.

**RESOLUTION#59**

**APPROVAL OF COMPILED LAW BOOK**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood to award General Codes to compile the Town of Walton law book. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that he is making headway with the past due dog licenses, indicating he is down to 40.

Requested that he would like to attend a flood conference in June in Maryland. He stated this will be a week-long training and would be shared with the Village of Walton. He further explained that the only cost for the training would be food.

**RESOLUTION#60**

**PERMISSION TO ATTEND FLOOD CONFERENCE**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong granting Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Dutcher permission to attend a flood conference in June. All in favor, motion carried.

CEO Dutcher explained the current status on the flood gage. He stated he met with Graydon Dutcher and although everyone is very supportive, it comes down to obtaining the financing to fund the gauges. An attempt to get help from the City has been redirected back to their funded programs like CWS and Soil and Water. They are currently waiting to see if there is possible funding within these programs.

Supervisor Gregory explained that \$80,000 would cover the high end program but are looking for a lesser data system that would still be effective.

CEO Dutcher reminded everyone that there will be a flood mitigation walk through for Kraft on April 13, 2017.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:**

Supervisor Gregory announced that Verizon will be joining our cell tower that will generate additional \$2,960 in revenue to be split with Crown Castle and the Town of Walton on a 50/50 basis. He suggested holding off on signing the agreement until we receive Verizon's response to changes made in the agreement.

**RESOLUTION #61**

**VERIZON CELL TOWER AGREEMENT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting permission for Supervisor Gregory to enter into an agreement with Verizon after verification of Verizon's response. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Gregory and Attorney Walas confirmed that Sprint has agreed to the changes made to the contract and will be installing the temporary tower soon.

**RESOLUTION #62**

**SPRINT TEMPORARY CELL TOWER AGREEMENT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Armstrong granting permission to enter into an agreement for a temporary cell tower with Sprint/Nextel to include a rental fee of \$500.00 per month payable to the Town of Walton in equal monthly installments. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Gregory informed the Board about a broadband project initiated by Deposit Telephone Company. The project plan is to expand broadband coverage to unserved communities in the Southern Tier Region. A public hearing will take place on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Walton Town Hall.

Supervisor Gregory informed the Board on the number of hours the Assessor has currently used and what would still be needed if he were to update each data card with the new information versus archiving them and going electronic moving forward.

The Board was in agreement to archive the old files and move forward with the electronic version.

Supervisor Gregory stated letters would go out by the end of the month or first week in May to the approximately 150 people that attended the informal hearings.

Supervisor Gregory presented a Complete Streets resolution to the Board for consideration.

Councilwoman Wood indicated she did not believe it would benefit the Town versus the Village.

Councilman Armstrong stated he did not want to get locked into having to adhere to the Complete Streets requirements. He felt it would become very costly.

Councilwoman Wood pointed out that Complete Streets has not secured funding themselves so it would completely be a Town expense.

Councilman Armstrong questioned what the other towns have done. Supervisor Gregory will obtain that information and share with the Board.

Councilman Govern suggested tabling the matter for another month. All were in agreement.

Supervisor Gregory updated the Board on County matters. The first was the relocation of the Department of Public Works facility. He explained they are requesting a 25 acres lot and have narrowed it down to a property along County Route 18.

Councilman Armstrong questioned what would be cheaper, a new bridge or correcting a road up to the jail site? He would suggest looking for a place that does not need a bridge.

Councilwoman Wood questioned why 25 acres? Supervisor Gregory stated Commissioner Reynolds wanted to be sure there was adequate space for the future.

Supervisor Gregory stated the Office of the Aging is still looking for a new site, as the current building they had been renting for over 20 years has been sold.

Supervisor Gregory then reported on the Mental Health consolidation/relocation project. He stated a firm had been hired to provide programming and design services and anticipated a 2-phase approach. He believes a site decision will take place in late summer and the site location will offer public hearings. He informed the Board that the Supervisors will receive an updated briefing at the April 26<sup>th</sup> or May 10, 2017 meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION #63**

**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	#72-87	\$16,249.25
General OV B	#4	\$ 150.00
General Hwy DA	#38-49	\$24,081.14
OV Hwy DB	#2-5	\$ 6,792.98

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood stated she was surprised with how simple the boat launch was at Ice House Turn. She wondered who will be maintaining the kiosk.

Councilman Armstrong questioned the potential removal of the railroad tunnel on County Route 23. CEO Dutcher stated a permit was not needed if it is all private money but the DEC may need to be contacted to address the low spot that would be left if the tunnel is removed.

Supervisor Gregory reported that he had accompanied the Watershed Agricultural Committee around the village and town looking for a new consolidated site.

Supervisor Gregory stated he had attended Municipal Budget Education training and feels the budget should be increased to acknowledge the increase in revenue from Sprint and Verizon.

**RESOLUTION #64**

**INCREASE BUDGET AMOUNTS**

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood granting a budget adjustment of \$15,840.00 for account A2410 Rental of Property. All in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #65**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing Kraft Assessment, revaluation contract and dog license litigation All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 6:55 p.m.

Motion by Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood to close executive session. All in favor, motion carried.

Out 7:55p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk