

TOWN OF WALTON
129 NORTH STREET
WALTON, NY 13856

JOINT VILLAGE AND TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 17, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Supervisor Dolph, Councilpersons: Armstrong, Govern, Rodriguez-Betancourt, Wood, Mayor Snow, Trustees: Breeze, O'Leary, Gregory, Reynolds, and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

OTHERS:

Donna Bundy, William Bundy, Keath Davis, Walt Geidel, Bea Bennett, Steve Hodge, Maureen Wacha, Roger Hoyt, Sharon Way, Don Smith, Carol Raymundo, Michael Donofrio, Carol Michalski, and Steve Dutcher

- 1) Call to Order 6:00 PM
- 2) Moment of Reflection/Pledge of Allegiance led by Dolph
- 3) Topics for discussion:

Former Walton Reporter Building

Supervisor Dolph explained that the Town had applied for a grant for the purchase and demolition of the old Reporter building. He explained that this site will allow for flood waters to drain off of Delaware Street. He provided everyone with a copy of the grant application and explained the estimated budget figures. It is hoped to reduce the purchase price with the County; have the back taxes owed to the Village waived; the Town and Village Highway Departments to perform in-kind services; and the Delaware County Planning Department to help with additional funding; which will allow for the project to proceed at a more affordable cost. Supervisor Dolph stated that with the other projects planned through the Flood Commission, it is anticipated that the remaining property along the river could be used for walking trails, RV Park, and a boat launch area.

Trustee Breeze questioned if there would be a street? Supervisor Dolph stated that a street would be placed to allow access to Water Street but Water Street would need to be lowered to allow for the flood waters to reach the Delaware River. Discussion took place on how this process could be carried out. Supervisor Dolph stated that the Flood Commission is made up of the Village and Town and this is where many of the projects are coming from.

Councilman Armstrong questioned if soil testing would be done on the site? Supervisor Dolph stated it would and RFP's will be done and awarded, we just need to wait for the weather to break. Councilman Armstrong questioned when the Host Community Agreement is up on the landfill, because he felt this may help with negotiations on waiving of taxes owed on the property.

Water Street

This topic was discussed along with the discussion of the former Walton Reporter Building

Village Digester Project

Mayor Snow explained that installing a digester would be beneficial to the village for a couple of reasons.

Mayor Snow explained that this concept has been used for years and is big right now. The closest cities currently using this process are Syracuse and Cortland. He explained how the process works and that the project is estimated to cost \$6.5 – \$7 million. He explained that local dairy plants don't have a convenient location to take their waste, and Walton could become that location and use the money received from these companies to pay for the digester without cost to the taxpayers. He stated in addition to the dairy plants, he has been speaking to Superintendent Clough about running a pipeline from the Waste Water Treatment Plant to the school and supplying them with heat for their buildings and fuel for their buses. He stated the projection shows the heat would be much less than what they are currently paying. He stated that Kraft is very excited about the possibility, and they would run a pipeline there too. Also, there are about 7 companies that are willing to sign contracts right now. Kraft is also willing to upgrade their motors so they could use the Bio-gas in the plant.

Councilman Armstrong questioned how long would the contracts term be? Mayor Snow stated they would be 10 year contracts. Councilperson Wood questioned if there are regulatory regulations to put a pipeline in? Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned if there would be surplus gas to supply Kraft and the school? Mayor Snow said Kraft would be willing to take all they can get. He stated there would need to be an agreement with the cemetery, but that they are looking to install a crematory, and would be interested in negotiating.

Mayor Snow informed everyone that a general public meeting will be held in the future, but currently they are in the early stages. It is expected that this project could take 2-2 1/2 years.

Resident Carol Raymundo asked what kind of savings the school would see and if that savings will be passed on to the tax payers. Mayor Snow stated that the Village still needs to meet with the School Board and that all has to be figured out but if the school does not want to participate then Kraft will take all we can give them.

County processing Village tax foreclosures

Supervisor Dolph stated the last he had heard on this matter was that the Delaware County Treasurer would do a pilot program with Walton and he is not sure if this got off the ground. He stated that the problem with trying to make the Villages whole is that the County would need to add approximately a million dollars to their budget. He said he would check at the County level.

Mayor Snow stated that it costs \$23,000 - \$24,000 to foreclose on a property.

Trustee Gregory stated the Village of Walton went from 44 past due properties and are currently down to 2 properties past due. Councilwoman Wood stated she was glad it was working, and hope they can continue to enforce it.

Sharing Town Court Room Facilities

Mayor Snow explained that the Villages court room is upstairs and poses a problem for anyone with disabilities.

Supervisor Dolph stated the Town does not really have enough room unless Village court was held more times a week to break up the number of cases. Also, the Town Hall Office is not separate so an additional door would have to be installed. The Town Board will discuss it further.

Trustee O'Leary questioned if we should ask the Judge how he feels about the matter? And if he felt it was needed?

Goals for Walton

Supervisor Dolph stated we are always looking for public input so we know what we need to address.

Discussion took place about utilizing the Village property along the Delaware River.

Resident Carol Michalski questioned what the Mental Health Facility situation was? Trustee Gregory stated he had attended a meeting where they stated there are currently 44 possible locations but many will not meet the criteria required. Walton currently has some properties in the running. Trustee Breese questioned the appearance of having a jail and Mental Health facilities in the same building in Delhi, which is one of the sites being considered as well.

Resident Carol Raymundo questioned what are the advantages of having a Mental Health Facility in Walton? Supervisor Dolph stated, employment, revenue for our local stores, would not have to transport our residents, and many people move to areas that better serve them. Dolph also stated that numbers of residents served from each community is not released as its classified information because of health laws.

Councilman Armstrong stated it is a benefit to our residents.

Resident Carol Raymundo questioned if Supervisor Dolph was lobbying for it? Supervisor Dolph stated no one is; we need to wait for the committee to announce the proposed locations. Councilwoman Wood questioned if the Supervisors would battle it out for their area? Supervisor Dolph stated the criteria will most likely determine the location.

It was suggested that Councilman Armstrong and Trustee Gregory meet to discuss the possibility of a shared court facility.

It was determined that the next Joint meeting will take place in June, with an actual date to be set later.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams

Town Clerk