

TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 12, 2014
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt, Leonard Govern, Patty Wood, Supervisor Bruce Dolph, Hwy. Supt., Walt Geidel, Town Clerk Ronda Williams and Attorney Sean Becker of Cowen Law Firm

OTHERS PRESENT:

Village Trustee Charles Gregory and Lillian Browne - The Walton Reporter

FLOOR TIME:

Village Trustee Charles Gregory approached the Board inquiring about the Mental Health Clinic and asked that the Town join in the effort to keep the clinic here in Walton.

Councilman Armstrong questioned who makes that determination and if there would be a public meeting prior? Supervisor Dolph said that he would check into that.

Dog Control Officer Stephen Dutcher informed the Board that numerous complaints have come in on dogs running at larger in Austin Lincoln Park and will be making regular visits.

Mr. Dutcher also provided a report on the revised FEMA maps and the importance of the community to attend the public meetings. He explained that there is a year long process to enroll in the Community Rating System (CRS) but the points that are credited will result in a reduction anywhere of 10% -15% off flood insurance.

RESOLUTION #50

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of April 7, 2014 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Superintendent Geidel reported that the Highway Committee has revised the lowboy trailer bids and would like to go back out to bid.

He reported that the surplus equipment listed on the auction website have sold and is seeking approval to accept the bids.

Loader	\$13,100
1990 Truck	\$6,100
Various Steel	\$1,025

RESOLUTION #51

SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to accept the surplus equipment bids as presented. Loader \$13,100, 1990 Truck \$6,100 and various steel \$1,025. All in favor, motion carried.

Superintendent Geidel asked the Board for permission to declare equipment no longer needed by his department as surplus. He explained that the 1984 Case excavator, the 1987 utility box with generator or a 2003 dump box are no longer needed. He also explained to the Board that the 1996 Dodge Dakota truck that was used for the Dog Control Officer will no longer pass inspection and would advertise this for parts.

RESOLUTION #52

DECLARE SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve the request to declare the 1984 Case excavator, 1987 utility box with generator, 2003 dump box and the 1996 Dodge Dakota truck as surplus. All in favor, motion carried.

Superintendent Geidel informed the Board that he plans to hire two students through the Youth Employment Program this summer.

Geidel also requested permission to hire semi-retired adults to help mow along-side the roadways. Discussion took place and it was decided not to act at this time.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Reported that I have collected 89% of my 2014 tax warrant. I have returned a total of \$448,887.88 uncollected taxes to the Delaware County Treasurer for collection.

Reported on my monthly financial report.

Reported that the Dog Control, Code Enforcement Officers monthly reports are available in my office for anyone wishing to review them.

Reported that the Town Hall had an inspection performed by the NYS Department of Labor on April 4, 2014. We have received the violation letter and have preformed all the suggested corrections and will now wait for a re-inspection date sometime after June 2, 2014 which is the allowable abatement date.

We currently have a list of 34 dog licenses past due. I have spoke with Steve about adopting a late fee. Currently, there is no recourse for past due licenses until a ticket is issued. Prior to that taking place we normally have spent additional money to resend a second notice letter at the town’s expense.

Discussion took place with Attorney Becker requesting him to look into the current laws and draft a possible amendment allowing for a late fee as well as addressing those that fail to

appear for a court date making this a misdemeanor and have bench warrants issued to enforce it.. Attorney Becker stated that the Dog Control Officer could possible serve as the “stand in” prosecutor and prosecutes the tickets himself.

I informed the Board that the Delaware Riverkeepers Network is offering local governments the opportunity to nominate their work that has been undertaken to protect and restore the environment with an Environmental Excellence Award. I provided Highway Superintendent Geidel and Supervisor Dolph with copies.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Reported on the Supervisors Monthly reports.

Reported on various mail received.

Reported that the Board needs to schedule a joint meeting date with the Village of Walton. I was instructed to contact the Village Clerk to work out a date.

Reported that there was a small turnout for the Flood Commission meeting held at the High School. He stressed the importance for people to attend and become informed of the projects that will take place in our community. Flood Plain Manager Stephen Dutcher stated the importance of public input.

Supervisor Dolph presented a resolution from Assemblyman Crouch asking for our support to award a casino license by the NYS Gaming Commission to nearby Broome County. Councilwoman Wood questioned, “What will this do for us?” Supervisor Dolph stated that our area would see job opportunities and the tax revenue will benefit across the state.

**RESOLUTION #53
TOWN OF WALTON**

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A CASINO IN BROOME COUNTY

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of New York overwhelmingly voted in the affirmative to amend § 9 of Article 1 of the Constitution to allow the authorization for up to seven Class III casinos in New York State, and

WHEREAS, the Governor announced that the first four casinos will be built in Upstate New York, including at least one in Region 5, which includes Broome County, and

WHEREAS, it is projected that the construction of these Class III casinos will promote significant job growth, increase aid to schools, and permit local governments to lower property taxes through revenues generated for the host communities and counties within the region, which will benefit the Town of Walton in the event that a Broome County site is selected, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in furtherance of the above goals, the Walton Town Board hereby declares its support for awarding a casino license to a destination resort in Broome County, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the New York State Gaming Commission, Governor Andrew Cuomo, and appropriate state elected officials.

RESOLUTION #53

SUPPORT FOR A CASINO IN BROOME COUNTY

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to declare its support for awarding a casino license to a destination resort in Broome County. All in favor, motion carried

Supervisor Dolph announced that two FEMA Flood Mapping Open Houses will be held in Middletown on May 27th and the other in Stamford on May 28th.

Supervisor Dolph asked for the Boards support in declaring “Mayday for Mandate Relief”. He stated that this will be an effort in urging the NYS Legislatures and Governor to continue addressing unfunded mandates that use local tax dollars to fund State and Federal programs and Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 54

TITLE: RESOLUTION DECLARING “MAYDAY FOR MANDATE RELIEF” AND URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO CONTINUE TO ADDRESS UNFUNDED MANDATES THAT USE LOCAL TAX DOLLARS TO FUND STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, many municipalities in New York State face significant fiscal challenges that are amplified by a slow economic recovery and a state imposed restriction on local revenues; and

WHEREAS, in most instances the county fiscal challenges are directly tied to state imposed mandates and reduced state reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, counties play a central role in delivering state services, due to our state mandated role in the administration and financing of a wide variety of state programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the state enacted Medicaid reforms to assume all of the growth in spending from the local taxpayers by 2015; and

WHEREAS, local taxpayers continue to fund \$7.5 billion of Medicaid costs; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties has identified nine state mandates that consume 90 percent of the county property tax levy statewide. These mandates include: Medicaid, Public Assistance/Safety Net, Child Welfare, Preschool Special Education, Early Intervention, Indigent Defense, Probation, Youth Detention, and Pensions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Walton hereby declares the month of May to be “Mayday for Mandate Relief” to raise awareness that decisions made in Albany have a direct impact on the property tax levy and local community services here in Delaware County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Walton strongly encourages the Governor and State Legislature to work to address the underlying causes of fiscal stress facing so many localities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Walton believes the State must work diligently to enact a no new unfunded mandates law and constitutional protections against future unfunded mandates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.

RESOLUTION #54

MAYDAY FOR MANDATE RELIEF

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Armstrong declaring support for “Mayday” and declares the month of May to be “Mayday for Mandate Relief” to raise awareness that decisions made in Albany have a direct impact on property tax levy and local community services here in Delaware County and the Town of Walton. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Armstrong stated he is working on developing bid specifications for the garage roof, boiler and parking lot.

Councilman Govern shared with the Board that an individual in Hancock is receiving \$100,000 a month from a gas lease agreement on his property and that another who owns 200 acres is earning \$60,000 a month.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #55

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

General Fund A	# 78-96	\$9,645.50
General OV B	#7	\$ 14.48
General Hwy DA	#56-68	\$18,469.94
OV Hwy DB	#5-10	\$11,472.83

RESOLUTION #56

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

CDBG #16	\$9,013.64
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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #57

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Armstrong, seconded by Govern to enter into executive session for a particular personnel matter. All in favor motion carried.

Entered executive session at 7:10 p.m. with no intended action following executive session, I was dismissed at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk