

TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 2, 2017

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt (arrived at 6:25), Supervisor Charles Gregory, Hwy. Supt Walt Geidel, Assessor Fran Zujovic, Attorney Carly Walas and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

ABSENT: Steven Dutcher, Patty Wood

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dolph, Lillian Browne-The Reporter, Kathleen Hayek

**RESOLUTION #117**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of September 11, 2017 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME:

Resident Kathleen Hayek asked the Board what came about of the Clean Energy presentation? Supervisor Gregory stated that some things the town is already doing but are looking into electric charging stations once Breakey Motors and Water Street are developed.

Mrs. Hayek also questioned if it will be possible to make the river more visible now and what step can be done immediately? Supervisor Gregory stated that if Flood Plain Manager Dutcher was available tonight, he would be able to provide more information, but stated that the Town may be able to clean some of the area with it highway employees now.

Superintendent Geidel explained that now is not the time to remove the knotweed as the seeds can be easily spread. Councilman Armstrong stated that some of this area is within the Village. Superintendent Geidel stated that the town highway department would be willing to help the village should they need it.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor Zujovic provided the board with a monthly report of activity. He stated that he received many questions over the school taxes, as they were the first taxes to incorporate the reassessment changes.

Assessor Zujovic stated that there were three identified mapping errors and after investigating and recalculating, a revised school bill will be issued to the property owners.

Councilman Armstrong thanked Assessor Zujovic for providing the report and stated it helps understand the job at hand.

Assessor Zujovic explained that there are two parcels that appeared, that had not previously shown on the RPS system before. They are both very small parcels with one on Park Street and the other on Delaware Street. Discussion took place as to how the town acquired these and requested that Attorney Walas provide a title search.

Supervisor Gregory informed the Board of their options of continuing 100% level of assessment now that the revaluation has been completed. Assessor Zujovic suggested that the Town make every effort to do so and to take the time to weigh their options. “We need to find the most cost-effective way to do this.”

Supervisor Gregory suggested having ENPM attend a meeting to explain to the Board their recommendations and provided options. The Board was in agreement.

Assessor Zujovic informed the Board that a request of exemption has been made by 120 Industrial Park Road. He is currently seeking further direction from the Delaware County Office of Real Property.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:**

Questioned the Board on the status of logging the Town property? Supervisor Gregory stated he reached out to Rod Jones and has not heard back yet.

Reported that the Town of Walton has been awarded the CWC Stormwater Grant and is just waiting for the contract. He also requested to use the same engineer that helped complete the grant application for the project. Superintendent Geidel also requested the help of Flood Plain Manger Dutcher to help with the project.

**RESOLUTION #118**

**STORMWATER GRANT AGREEMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodrigues-Betancourt granting Supervisor Gregory permission to sign the CWC contract agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #119**

**C&S ENGINEERS**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting permission to hire C&S Engineers to perform the Stormwater Grant Project. All in favor, motion carried.

Requested permission to apply for two grants that will address stream bank stabilization areas on Wakeman Brook and Pines Brook. The Board was in agreement and Councilman Armstrong and Govern agreed with protecting the projects we have already invested money in versus staring new ones.

**RESOLUTION #120****STREAM BANK STABILIZATION PROJECTS**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong granting Superintendent Geidel to seek funding to carry out stream bank stabilization projects on Wakeman Brook and Pines Brook. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned the status of the soil removal from the Water Street area? Supervisor Gregory stated they are still on schedule for this fall and Soil and Water Conservation as taken the lead on this. Superintendent Geidel explained it wasn't a matter of just removal but what to do with the material once removed.

Reported that the seasonal roads need to be declared by November 1 of each year. A copy of the legal notice was provided to be publish in the paper for the purpose of posting Chase Brook from Town of Tompkins town line to Town of Tompkins town line and Beers Brook from Russ Gray Pond to NYS Route #206 as seasonal roads.

Reported that the town has tried to take tires to the Delaware County Solid Waste Management Center only to be turned away due to no room. Councilman Armstrong expressed the same experience and found it very frustrating considering we are the host community. Councilman Armstrong stated the County needs to address this issue, "They wonder why people dump them over banks."

Discussion took place to hold another town wide dumpster for the purpose of collecting used tires for town and village residents. Supervisor Gregory stated he would check with Code Enforcement Officer Dutcher to see if he would be interested in organizing this again.

**RESOLUTION #121****TIRE DUMPSTER RENTAL**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the rental of a dumpster for the purpose of collecting used tires for the town and village residents. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that after several years, an error was discovered with the SPED Permit invoice. The town had not been properly billed as a municipality which resulted in an additional \$250.00 fee. The State would only agree to refund the current year error.

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:**

I will provide my financial reports to the Board as soon as they become available from the bank.

Received the Walton Fire District notice of Public Hearing on their 2018 budget that will be held on October 17, 2017. They are showing an increase of 1.74%.

I received two requests for Use of Facility of Veterans Plaza on November 25, 2017. It was decided that both groups could utilize

the area without conflict and both will be for the purpose of the annual Christmas Parade.

**RESOLUTION #122**

**USE OF FACILITY REQUEST**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting permission for the use of Veterans Plaza on November 25, 2017 for the purpose of a Christmas Parade and set up of a popcorn tent. All in favor, motion carried.

I provided the Board with the 2018 tentative budget explaining that as presented, we are looking at a reduction of 2.71% tax levy as a result of the completion of the reassessment and computer networking project.

The Board requested to hold an additional budget workshop prior to moving the tentative budget to a preliminary budget. It was the agreement of the Board to hold a special meeting on October 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of a budget workshop and moving the budget from a tentative to a preliminary budget.

**CEO/DOG CONTROL REPORT:**

Provided Monthly reports to the Board.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:**

Supervisor Gregory reported that the Town of Walton has received a "No Designation" status from the State Comptroller's Office. He explained that this is the best status one can receive showing the town is not in fiscal stress.

The Supervisor read a response letter he had sent to NYC on behalf of the Filtration Avoidance Determination Agreement (FAD).



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Dr. Roger Sokol  
Corning Tower, Rm. 1198  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Dr. Sokol:

August 28, 2017

The Town of Walton would like to provide the following comment, for the record, regarding the New York City Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) document.

We strongly oppose the continuation of the New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program as addressed in section 4.2 of the document. Our research shows there is less than 6% of land in the Town that is still suitable for development. This severely hampers our ability to ever grow our tax base. This is particularly when considering that our recent town wide revaluation resulted in a 2.92% decrease in town wide assessed values and a 5.23% decrease within the village!

With the limited developable land available in Walton, further land acquisition clearly threatens the economic viability of the community. It is for this reason the Town of Walton calls for a permanent moratorium on the land acquisition program in the town and recommends that you instead dedicate those funds to flood mitigation initiatives in Walton and throughout the county.

Regards,

Charles Gregory  
Walton Town Supervisor

Reported that in efforts to update the Town of Walton's Comprehensive Plan, he would like a questionnaire be mail from the County Planning Department looking for feed-back from the community on park usage.

#### **RESOLUTION #123**

#### **APPROVAL FOR QUESTIONNAIRE**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting permission to mail a questionnaire out to residents to obtain feedback used to update the Comprehensive Plan. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Gregory asked for the Boards input as to the priority of projects for the Revitalization Initiative. The Board discussed and came to an agreement of the following order:

- 1) River Edge Trail Development
- 2) Veterans Plaza
- 3) Enhancement of Post-Reclamation Development of 87-93 Delaware Street

RESOLUTION #124

**PRIORITY OF REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE**

- 4) A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Govern approving the order of priority for the revitalization initiative on behalf of the Town of Walton’s interest as stated:1) River Edge Trail, 2) Veterans Plaza, 3). Enhancement of Post-Reclamation Development of 87-93 Delaware Street

All in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed the use of money from the Equipment Reserve Account to cover the purchase of the 5710 Massey Ferguson tractor and boom mower in the amount of \$100,000.

RESOLUTION #125

**USE OF EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting the use of \$100,000.00 from the equipment reserve account for the purchase of a 5710 Massey Ferguson Tractor and boom mower. All in favor, motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

<u>General Highway Town Wide</u>		<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
DA201	DA Checking	100,000.00	
DA889	Equipment Reserve		\$100,000.00
DA5130.2	Machinery Equipment		\$100,000.00

RESOLUTION #126

**2017 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the budget amendment as a result of the transfer from the Equipment Reserve account to cover the expenditure in DA5130.2 Machinery Equipment for the purchase of the 5710 Massey Ferguson Tractor and boom mower. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Gregory provided an update on County business to the Board. Reported that the County DPW presentation on September 27, 2017 is available on the County website for interested parties.

Reported that the Office of the Aging will start moving to its new location this week.

Reported that Mental Health is still working with a consultant at this time.

Reported that the budget process has started at the County level.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION #127**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

General Fund A	#201-229	\$15,314.14
General OV B	#14	\$55.62
General Hwy DA	#104-112	\$116,188.00
OV Hwy DB	#31-34	\$2,714.87

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilman Armstrong reported that he and Councilwoman Wood have been conversing over the Veterans Plaza guidelines.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #128**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to enter into executive session for the purpose of pending litigation and 2018 contract salaries. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:15 p.m.

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

Out 8:37 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk