

TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 14, 2018

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt, Patty Wood, Supervisor Charles Gregory, Hwy. Supt Walt Geidel, Attorney Carly Walas and Town Clerk Ronda Williams and Stephen Dutcher

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ethyn Church, Doreen Lupo, Billie Jo Klein, Michael Klein, Emily Sulger, Richard Stankiewicz, Kaelyn Foster, Maureen Wacha, and Lillian Brown – The Reporter

**RESOLUTION #65**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of April 9, 2018 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Gregory started the meeting by stating that our community is very blessed by the number of volunteers we have. He went on to introduce Michael and Billi Jo Klein and Doreen Lupo for their act of kindness in building picnic tables that were donated to Veterans Plaza. Mr. Klein stated it is a nice area that he and his family use frequently and thought it would be a nice to have a place to sit down.

FLOOR TIME:

Maureen Wacha President of the Walton Chamber of Commerce informed the Board that over 2000 people attend the Outdoor Expo this past weekend at the Delaware County Fair Grounds. She thanked the Board for their support and attendance at the event.

Ms. Wacha went on to inform the Board of upcoming dates of the Free Concerts in the Park nights that will start on June 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. with Coyote Junction. There will also be a community wide lawn sale to be held on July 5<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>. She requested the use of Veterans Plaza, but the date needs to be checked on the calendar for the availability of Veterans Plaza.

CEO/DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Town of Walton  
Code Enforcement Office  
Stephen L. Dutcher, CFM

**Monthly Summary Report**  
Month of April 2018

Building Permits Issued	3 + 1 renewal
Building Inspections Completed	6
Fire Inspections Completed	1
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	0
Complaints Received	1
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	6
Vehicle Mileage	180

Code Enforcement: Special Use Permit application submitted to Planning Board for 113 Armstrong Rd and 29119 State Highway 10.

-Structure on CR21 (last property in township) deemed unfit for human occupancy. Met with DEC and Army Corps regarding stream crossing to access building for demolition.

Reported that he is ahead of last year for permit applications.

Reported that last month was a very light month for dogs but hopes to be busier this month.

Supervisor Gregory reported that Stephen Dutcher has completed the "Energy Code Enforcement Training" as part of the Clean Energy Communities Program, for the Village of Walton. Because Stephen is the code officer for our town as well, we will submit this as an action item for program credit. Mr. Dutcher stated this will allow for the Town to receive NYSERDA Grants.

Reported that he is still waiting for the paperwork for the Flood Mitigation project on Third Brook but has received it for the West Brook project.

Reported to the Board that Fred Avilla recently lost his garage to a fire and asked permission of the Board to waive the building permit fee of \$100.00 due to the circumstance.

**RESOLUTION #66**

**WAIVER OF BUILDING PERMIT FEE**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting permission for Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Dutcher for a one-time waiver of a building permit fee for Fred Avilla for the construction of a garage not to exceed \$100.00. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Reported that the extreme weather money will be funded again this year.

Reported that the Engineer through the CWC Storm water Grant will be at the shop in the morning to start the review process of the culverts.

Requested permission to surplus two trucks; 1992 Chevy 4x4 and a 1986 Chevy 4x4 that are no longer used or needed by the Highway Department.

**RESOLUTION #67**

**SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting permission to surplus a 1992 Chevy 4x4 and a 1986 Chevy 4x4 that are no longer used or needed by the Highway Department and to place these items on an auction list. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that information was received from CHIPS stating that there was a discrepancy in the length of Jenkins Road on the Town of Walton’s Local Highway Inventory. Supervisor Geidel stated this needs to be corrected in order to received the correct CHIPS reimbursement.

**RESOLUTION:68**

**AMENDMENT OF TOWN HIGHWAY INVENTORY**

The Town Board (hereinafter “Town Board”) of the town of Walton (hereinafter “Town”), duly convened in regular session at Town Hall, does hereby resolve as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Superintendent has determined that the Town of Walton Local Highway Inventory (LHI) is not complete and as a result is not accurately depicted on the online mapping tolls and needs to be amended to include the following road: Jenkins Road (length .24 miles); and therefore

**IT IS RESOLVED**, that the town hereby amends its LHI to include the above Roads and its correct length and

**RESOLVED**, that the Highway Superintendent is authorized to take such action necessary to amend such LHI, including but not limited to notifying Delaware County and New York; and their respective applicable departments; and

**RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**ADOPTED** this May 14, 2018 at the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Walton.

**RESOLUTION #68**

**LOCAL HIGHWAY INVENTORY (LHI)**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt amending Jenkins Road to reflect the length of .24 miles and hereby amends its LHI. All in favor, motion carried.

Superintendent Geidel requested spending approximately \$57,000 for the purpose of processing gravel. He acknowledged that the fund is short \$10,000.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned how much was currently left? Geidel replied we have enough for another year.

Councilman Armstrong suggested meeting with himself, the Supervisor and Town Clerk to review the account.

Reported that he has purchased 7 truck tires and 4 pallet jacks from Federal Surplus for \$191.22, stating the tires along go for \$400-\$500 apiece.

Supervisor Gregory thanked him.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

Reported that I am 89% collected and have returned \$448,855.27 as uncollected tax amount to the Delaware County Treasurer.

I am working on the final stages of a DASNY Grant for the amount of \$50,000. This grant was for the salt shed roof and parking lot and should be finalized soon.

I will once again place a Town Clerk Report in the Walton Reporter to remind residents that live in the Town or Village of Walton that all dogs 4 months of age or older need a valid dog license and more importantly a rabies vaccination. We have several free rabies clinics coming to our area with one on June 13, 2018 from 6-8 p.m. at the Walton Highway Garage. With so many dogs past due, the access of a local rabies clinic may help bring some of them in.

Reported that a request for Veterans Plaza was made for a small wedding celebration on May 28, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #69**

**USE OF VETERANS PLAZA**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting permission for use of Veterans Plaza on May 28, 2018. All in favor, motion carried.

I presented the following resolutions.

**Resolution Authorizing the Town Clerk as Tax Collector to Collect Partial Payments for or on Account of Real Property Taxes**

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Walton held on May 14, 2018, the following Resolution was duly adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board recognizes that some taxpayers have difficulty paying their real estate taxes on a timely basis, due to being on a fixed income or other financial difficulties; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 928-a of the New York Real Property Tax Law, authorizes the Town Tax Collector to accept partial payment for or on account of real property taxes and apply such payments on the account, provided that the Town Board adopts a Resolution authorizing such partial payment;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the Town’s taxpayers to have the ability to make partial payments for or on account of taxes and for the Town Tax Collector to accept such partial payments and apply them to the account, on certain conditions; be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Walton hereby authorizes the Walton Town Clerk, as Tax Collector, to accept from any taxpayer partial payments for or on account of taxes and apply such payments to the account, on the following terms and conditions:

1. County and Town property taxes may be paid in partial payments during the Town's tax collection period (January 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>) of the then-current year. No partial payment will be accepted after April 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. A taxpayer can make no more than two partial payments on a tax bill for a particular tax map parcel. Such partial payment must be one-half of the current bill.
3. If a taxpayer has made a partial payment and still has a balance remaining upon the expiration of the non-penalty and interest free period, the Town Clerk shall collect interest on the remaining unpaid balance only.
4. The Town's acceptance of a partial payment shall not be deemed to affect any liens and powers of any municipal corporation conferred in any general or special act, but such rights and powers shall remain in full force and effect to enforce collection of the unpaid balance of such tax or tax liens together with interest, penalties and other lawful charges.
5. If a taxpayer requests to make a partial payment that complies with the conditions herein, the Town Clerk shall not refuse to accept such payment.
6. Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the Town Clerk to accept a partial payment after the expiration of his or her warrant, or at any other time that he or she is not authorized to accept tax payments.

The Town Clerk shall file a certified copy of this Resolution with the Commissioner of the Department of Taxation and Finance within 30 days of its adoption.

**RESOLUTION# 70**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK AS  
TAX COLLECTOR TO COLLECT PARTIAL PAYMENTS  
FOR OR ON ACCOUNT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt authorizing Town Clerk/Collector to collect partial payments for or on account of real property taxes for the Town of Walton. All in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution Authorizing the Payment in Advance of Audit for NYS Community  
Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds**

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Walton held on May 14, 2018, the following Resolution was duly adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board desires to minimize the time period involving funds from the NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in comply with 24 CFR 85.20 (b)(7) by implementing a procedure for such time minimization,

**WHEREAS**, Title 24 CFR 85.20 (b)(7) requires grantees to follow standards pertaining to financial management systems, including procedures for minimizing the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the U.S. Treasury and disbursement by grantees whenever advance payment procedures are used. Specifically, when advances are made by letter-of-credit or electronic transfer of funds methods, the grantee must make drawdowns as close as possible to the time of making disbursements; now be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to make disbursements in advance of audit of NYS CDBG funds to the subgrantee when the Town of Walton as grantee of the grant funds receives funds from the U.S. Treasury by letter-of-credit or electronic transfer. All such claims and disbursements shall be presented at the next regular meeting for audit by the Town Board.

**RESOLUTION #71**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT IN  
ADVANCE OF AUDIT FOR NYS COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt authorizing the payment in advance of audit for NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

**Town of Walton**  
**Monthly Assessor's Report**  
**April 2017**

- Attended the monthly meeting of the Delaware County Assessors' Association in Delhi. Spent several hours with the Delaware County Director of Real Property Tax Services and his staff to address outstanding Roll issues.
- Completed field inspections for several of the new buildings, property improvements and demolished buildings that have been reported by The Town of Walton Code Enforcement Officer.
- Responded to numerous Property Assessment and Tax Billing questions from parcel owners regarding their new reassessment roll valuation.
- Completed field inspections on three parcels at the request of the property owners who questioned the accuracy of reassessment data or valuation.
- Prepared the required annual Board of Assessment Review Grievance Day Legal Notice and submitted the posting to The Reporter for a May 1<sup>st</sup> publication.
- Provided Grievance/Complaint forms and instructions to several property owners and reviewed the process with them.
- Began scheduling the 2018 Board of Assessment Review Grievance Day appointments.
- Prepared the Mobile Home Parks STAR Exemption Data Forms for 2018 reporting to the New York State Department of Tax and Finance.

Fran Zujovic  
Assessor  
Town of Walton  
129 North Street  
Walton, New York 13856

## SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Reported that there will be a Farmers' Market held at Veterans Plaza on Fridays starting in July. He and Attorney Walas are just finalizing the paperwork with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Provided an update from the May 8 meeting with DOT

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brook Bridge – DOT is open to accelerating the project but it is now a funding issue, so he will seek help for the CWC.
- Parking Spaces – explained that there are signs for parking area but the lines to depict that area are missing. DOT will be marking these lines and plan to add a few more.
- Crosswalks – suggestions of adding crosswalks between Delaware St. and Gardner, McDonalds and Big M, TA's and West St. and Stockton Ave and the School. Discussion also took place about adding a sidewalk and grass island starting in front of TA's and working down toward Ogden Reality.

Councilwoman Wood stated "I understand we want to slow down traffic down on Main Street, but will this slow it down too much?" COE Dutcher stated we need to make sure we still have movement.

Provided an update on the Meat Processing Plant stating that Adam is still trying to move forward and is currently looking for a staging area in NYC.

Reported that we have received a \$2,500 Mattern grant for the River Edge Trail

Reported that an application and map have been submitted to the State on the Acquisition of NYS Property along the river between East Brook and Bridge Street, where the railroad tracks once were.

Reported that the request for the South River Road Extension has been turned down. The Town has appealed DEP's decision.

Cell Tower Update

- Sprint test tower is up and running
- Verizon is up and running

Supervisor Gregory and Stephen Dutcher spoke about an initiative to have a mountain trail on the NYC property that would include hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, etc. This would be on the property of the former South Mountain Wind Project that would connect Route 206 to South River Road.

Discussion took place about available parking on both ends of the trail and finding group or organization to maintain the trails and procedures of getting people off the mountain in emergency situations.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt stated we are behind on using our natural resources and need to move our focus toward tourism.

Reported that he spoke with Kim Smith of the Delaware County Sheriff Department about developing a social media page. Supervisor Gregory stated he understood it could have risks but would like to give it a trial period of 6 months.

**RESOLUTION #72**

**ESTABLISH SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern granting a six- month trial to establish a social media page. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt suggested looking at our webpage as well and the possibility of having it app accessible.

Supervisor Gregory turned over the matter to the Technology Committee.

Supervisory Gregory reported that Route 10 will be resurfaced with a \$2.1 million project. This will start at High Street in Walton and go to Launt Hollow Road in Hamden. There will also be a \$1.8 million project to include Route 28 from the Village of Andes to the Delaware River.

Reported that the DPW Committee is still working out the details of the relocation and the Hybrid solution and that he was just recently appointed to the committee.

Reported that the location of the Mental Health Facility has been decided. The location chosen is the property on Delaware Street currently owned by Timothy Robinson. The sale price and design of the building will be voted on at the Board of Supervisors meeting to be held on May 23, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Nothing Reported

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**RESOLUTION #73**

**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	#77-97	\$34,547.95
General Hwy DA	#49-62	\$19,453.51
OV Hwy DB	#7-15	\$46,177.50



EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #74**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contractual matters concerning a use of facilities, court entrance and legal matter of a particular employee. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:50 p.m.

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

Out 8:40 p.m.

As a result of executive session, it was decided to apply for grant funding for the Town Hall roof, court entrance and purchase of a backhoe.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk