

TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 6, 2018

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt, Patty Wood, Supervisor Joseph Cetta, Hwy. Supt Walt Geidel, Stephen Dutcher, Attorney Carly Walas and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

EXCUSED: Leonard Govern,

OTHERS PRESENT: Sara Andros – The Reporter, Beatrice Bennett, Sharon M. Way, Alan and Audrey Fairweather

Supervisor Cetta announced that Councilman Govern has been excused to attend the Public Safety Meeting on eminent domain this evening.

RESOLUTION #94 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of July 9, 2018 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME:

Beatrice Bennett approach the Board to donate two notebooks that she had compiled. One of the Walton National Guard 204th Engineer Battalion Company heading to Iraq and the other on the Town of Walton Bicentennial Committee of 1797-1997.

Bea spoke about the work that went into the Bicentennial celebration and that she felt because the Town of Walton has heat and humidity control in their records room that this was the best location for these documents.

Supervisor Cetta and the Board thanked Ms. Bennett for the time and work she had put into them. Supervisor Cetta informed the public that the books are here for anyone wishing to review them.

CEO/DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Floodplain Manager Dutcher informed the Board that he has completed his training and once he was able to straighten out his credit hours, he is all set for another two years.

Mr. Dutcher informed the Board that he had resigned as Dog Control Officer effective immediately. Councilwoman Wood thanked him for all the work he has done and his years of service, stating it is a thankless job and you have put a lot into it.

Stephen L. Dutcher
Town of Walton Dog Control Officer
129 North St.
Walton, NY 13856
July 2018

Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints Received	3
Dogs Seized	3
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	3
Dangerous Dog Cases	0
Tickets Issued	0
Total Redemption Fees	\$0.00
Vehicle Mileage	115

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

Monthly Summary Report
Month of July 2018

Building Permits Issued	10 + 2 Renewal
Building Inspections Completed	29
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	6
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	0
Vehicle Mileage	409

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Superintendent Geidel reported that the stormwater work will start tomorrow. Stating they will inventory 90+ pipes to determine if they are the correct size. He went on to explain C&S Company will have a year to complete this process.

Reported that he went to address the issue of the chain across Bonnefon Road but when he arrived the chain was down. He has had a phone conversation with the property owner, who expressed concern over vehicles speeding down the road and setting up kayaks on his property.

Ms. Bennett questioned if this was the house that was the old railroad station? Superintendent Geidel believed it was.

Reported that he plans to order a backhoe that will be partly purchased with grant money. I informed him to wait until we received the signed agreement before placing the order. Superintendent Geidel believes he could receive anywhere from \$20,000 - \$25,000 for the old one.

Supervisor Cetta questioned the turn-around time before we would receive the new backhoe? Superintendent Geidel felt it would be about two months. It was agreed that this would be brought back at the September meeting.

Discussion took place on processing grit. Superintendent Geidel stated he would like to take 10,000 yards each year and felt one way to keep this affordable was to reduce the equipment fund. It was decided to wait for the financial report and bring back at the September meeting.

Reported that he made the August 9, 2018 CHIPS deadline and should receive the money in December.

Councilwoman Wood stated that the Highway Department was doing a nice job along South River Road.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

RESOLUTION #95

USE OF FACILITY

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting permission for use of Veterans Plaza on October 18th and November 8 and 22nd, 2018 for insurance representative as well as September 15, 2018 for a free concert. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that the Town of Walton has been awarded \$75,000 for the purchase of a backhoe from Senator John Bonacic.

Reported that we are currently out for bids for the roof repairs. I informed the Board that since the meeting date had been changed after the published legal notice, do they want to hold a special meeting to review the bids or wait until next month. It was the pleasure of the Board to wait until next month.

I reported that I was in receipt of the annual Heart of the Catskills Contract for dog impound services.

RESOLUTION #96

**HEART OF THE CATSKILLS AND TOWN OF WALTON
CONTRACT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting permission for Supervisor Cetta to sign an agreement with the Heart of the Catskills. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

**Town of Walton
Monthly Assessor's Report
July 2018**

- Spent one day in the Delhi Office of Real Property Tax Services meeting with Mike Sabansky and his Staff regarding Roll issues.
- Completed the week-long New York State Assessors Association training course and exam at Cornell University. This year's course requirement was The Application of the Three Approaches to Value.
- Completed field inspections for several of the new buildings and property improvements that have been reported by The Town of Walton Code Enforcement Officer.
- Responded to Property Assessment and Tax Billing questions from parcel owners regarding changes in their 2018 roll valuation.
- Completed field inspections on parcels at the request of the property owners who questioned the accuracy of reassessment data or valuation. Two commercial parcels and one residential parcel were inspected and current data gathered for assessment updates.
- Reviewed STAR Exemption changes with several property owners and answered their questions.
- The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance has forwarded the Town of Walton with the Notice of Final State Equalization Rate for the 2018 Assessment Roll which is 100%.

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

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that a formal Town Council picture will be taken at the September meeting.

Supervisor Cetta stated in the wake of the Dog Control Officers resignation, he had reach out to Julie Lockwood about filling in on a per diem bases. This discussion will be table for executive session, but sought permission to advertise for the position for two weeks.

RESOLUTION #97

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR DOG CONTROL OFFICER

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood granting permission to advertise for the position of Dog Control Officer for two weeks. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion took place on the use of the law enforcement versus Julie Lockwood for emergency situations with dog cases until a Dog Control Officer could be obtained.

Reported that David Bloodgood of NYMIR Risk Control toured the facilities and currently waiting for a report.

Reported that notice of the State Equalization rate for Walton is 100% and we need to determine how we will keep it at 100%. Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt suggested Assessor Zujovic present a proposal to the Board.

Reported that a letter of compliance has been received from the most recent CDBG audit. All corrective actions have been completed and resolved.

Reported that he will be reaching out to the Union Representative Roberta Dunker to start negotiations.

Reported that the budget process will be starting, Attorney Walas confirmed the dates.

COUNTY UPDATE REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta reported that Councilman Govern was currently at a meeting being held at the Public Safety Building for the purpose of discussing eminent domain. He will wait to hear the results of that meeting and reminded the Board that the next County meeting will be held on August 22, 2018.

Councilwoman Wood questioned if the Town would entertain a resolution opposing eminent domain? Supervisor Cetta stated he did not feel the Town of Walton should not take the lead on that. He informed the Board that he was meeting with Delhi Supervisor Mark Tuthill on Wednesday to get a feeling about moving forward.

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that the Mental Health Committee was still gathering information prior to starting the SEQR process. Councilwoman Wood was concerned about the amount of time this is taking and questioned if a contract had been

signed with the landowner yet? Supervisor Cetta stated he was confident it would still move forward, but will look into it.

Councilwoman Wood questioned what the hold up is with the removal of material from Water Street? Supervisor Cetta stated they are still working on finding locations to take the material to. Superintendent Geidel stated the DEC needs to approve the 360 Regulations process first which takes time. Floodplain Manger Dutcher stated the first grant has been approved and must be spent by the first of the year.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Floodplain Manager Dutcher reported that the storm water on Delaware Street was over whelmed after 4 days of rain. Everything was saturated but the green space area worked as expected. Until the Water Street project is completed, we still have an undersize pipe so it takes longer for the water to dissipate from that area.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on More Park to designate a parking area. It was decided that boulders would be placed to keep with a natural landscape. They will keep moving with this to complete the project.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #98

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	#160-177	\$11,448.13
General OV Fund B	#9	\$29.01
General Hwy DA	#79-90	\$9,579.13
OV Hwy DB	#29-33	\$95,493.34

Prior to entering into executive session, Supervisor Cetta acknowledge two residents that entered the meeting after public session. Allan and Audrey Fairweather expressed their frustration over the amount of water their property received during this last storm. Explaining that their garden was washed away and their pool received damage. Mr. Fairweather asked if there was going to be any resolution to divert the water on the Town’s part? Supervisor Cetta stated his property was located in the Village and that he really needs to express this to the Village. Mr. Fairweather stated he just left the Village meeting because they sent him to the Town and said it was because of water coming from Murphy Hill Road.

Supervisor Cetta apologized to the Fairweathers but did not believe the problem was due to Murphy Hill Road but would look into the matter for him. Supervisor Cetta questioned Floodplain Manager Dutcher if he knew where the water was coming from and reminded him that there was an old drainage system in that area. Mr. Dutcher stated the Village is looking at this with the State to determine if the sluice running under your garden is part of that drainage system or not. Mr. Dutcher stated we are working on a solution at the Village level. Supervisor Cetta stated the Town will look into it as well.

Mr. Fairweather stated he will solve the Townships water problem and dig a ditch along his property. Councilwoman Wood stated if the Town did something to cause the water run-off, we will look into it. Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned the interaction with the village and stated all entities need to get involved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #99

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood to enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiating a matter relating to a particular person and union negotiations. All in favor, motion carried.
The Board invited Superintendent Geidel into executive session.

Entered 7:25 p.m.

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

Out 8:25 p.m.

As a result of executive session, the following resolution took place.

RESOLUTION #100

HIRE PER-DIEM DOG CONTROL OFFICER

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Armstrong approving Julie Lockwood as a per-diem dog control officer at the cost of \$100/event plus mileage, until no longer needed. All in favor, motion carried.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk