

TOWN BOARD MEETING  
September 10, 2018  
6:00 P.M.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lillian Browne – The Reporter, Gregory Graupman, Alan and Audrey Fairweather

Supervisor Cetta introduced Gregory Graupman and presented him with a certificate of appreciation for the trees he donated to Veterans Plaza as well as for his continued volunteer work within our community.

Mr. Graupman thanked those that helped him with these projects and stated there will be more coming. He thanked the art teachers, the youth, Ren -Rest and those that contributed money toward the projects adding that they are costly.

**RESOLUTION #100                      APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Bentancourt, seconded by Wood approving the minutes of August 13,2018 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**FLOOR TIME:**

Mr. Fairweather approached the Board to follow up from that month's meeting with his concern of excessive water running onto his property.

Supervisor Cetta stated that he knows that the Town of Walton's work on Murphy Hill Road did not cause a water issue. However, he does not have additional information on what the Village Highway Department or other departments have concluded.

CEO REPORT:

Code Enforcement Dutcher informed the Board that he will be away at a training for the next three days.

Reported that at the Flood Commission meeting it was reported that the South Street project has been put on hold due to funding. They will rebid the project in the Spring after they have a chance to review ways to bring the cost down.

Reported that on September 14, 2018, Soil and Water will open bids for the Water Street project. They anticipate the remove of soil to start by the of this month or the first part of October. Supervisor Cetta reminded everyone that this project will take a while.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned how soon after the material is removed, will Water street be lowered? CEO Dutcher stated this is a priority, but did not have a timeline.

Councilwoman Wood questioned if anything has been done with the trails? CEO Dutcher stated he has not done anything since the Spring.

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

**Monthly Summary Report**  
Month of August 2018

Building Permits Issued	5 + 2 Renewal
Building Inspections Completed	14
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	2
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	1
CO Searches	7
Vehicle Mileage	457

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Reported that the Beers Brook Project has been completed, adding that there was a lot more water flowing than anticipated.

Reported that the site work for the stormwater grant has been completed and the process is progressing.

Superintendent Geidel reminded the Board about the possibility of logging behind the Highway Garage. He suggested we contact Rod Jones and discuss the possibilities of generating some revenue.

Reported that he had used a lot more grit than anticipated due to the repairs necessary to the road shoulders from all the rain.

Reported that Homeland Security is looking to see if Delaware County had enough reported damage to be declared an event. He will keep the Board informed.

Superintendent Geidel provided his annual Inventory Report to the Board.

Reported that the gravel that had been placed in More Park to designate a parking area is all dried out now.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

**RESOLUTION #101**

**USE OF FACILITY**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting permission for use of Veterans Plaza on September 29, 2018 for a Pumpkin Painting Contest and October 13, 2018 for a Prayer Rally. All in favor, motion carried.

I have just completed the paperwork for the SAM grant for project #8924. We should be receiving \$50,000 reimbursement shortly. This money was used to put a new roof on the salt shed, seal the parking lot and purchase a new riding lawnmower with winter attachments.

I reported that we have not yet received a signed contract for the grants applications recently applied for and It would be my recommendation we hold off on expenditures until so. The Board agreed to hold off on the purchase of the backhoe as well as the Town Hall roof repairs.

I will need to have the Tentative Budget to the Board at our October 1, 2018 meeting. I would like to propose a couple of dates (October 15<sup>th</sup> or October 17<sup>th</sup>) for a scheduled budget workshop to go over the Tentative Budget. The Board agreed to hold a Special Meeting on October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the Tentative Budget.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta mentioned that the School Tax Bills will be delayed but is anticipated to be mailed on September 14, 2018.

**Town of Walton**  
**Monthly Assessor’s Report**  
**August 2018**

- Spent one day in the Delhi Office of Real Property Tax Services meeting with Mike Sabansky and his Staff regarding Roll issues.
- Completed field inspections for several of the new buildings and property

improvements that have been reported by The Town of Walton Code Enforcement Officer.

- Worked with the Code Enforcement Officer documenting properties that are in significant disrepair and those having pending code issues that could impact 2019 roll assessments.
- 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. One commercial parcel and several residential parcels were inspected and current data gathered for assessment updates.
- Completed a 480a Forest Tax Exemption account history investigation for a local Forestry Service company and their customer.
- Mailed numerous tax exemption change notices for property ownership changes that were updated.
- Attended a STAR Exemption Webinar regarding new STAR requirements for 2019. Reviewed STAR Exemption changes with several property owners and answered their questions.

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

#### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Reported that a publisher would like to recognize Everett DeMorier to honor him in Binghamton, NY on October 27, 2018. We have an author named Everett De Morier, a Walton, New York native who is proud to be listed as one of the two most notable Walton citizens, according to Wikipedia --- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walton\\_\(town\),\\_New\\_York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walton_(town),_New_York)

Everett wrote a novel in 2015 entitled THIRTY-THREE CECILS, that won the top fiction prize at The London Book Festival, was named book-of-the-year by Heroic Magazine, is required reading at two New York High Schools, and is currently being developed into a major motion picture by Hornpin Media and Sunset River Productions.

Everett has a new book being released in December of this year entitled THE INVENTION OF EVERYTHING; Insights on Life, Food, and one good Thermos. It is because of this that The Terrace Restaurant in Apalachin --- which is prominently mentioned in the new book --- have asked to host a pre-release party for Everett on Saturday, October 27th, and so we have built several other events around it. Everett will be speaking at The Binghamton High School, at Broome Community College, we have two radio interviews with WICZ and 101.7 and a second reception on Saturday evening at The Belmar, which is mentioned prominently in Everett's first novel, and he will also be speaking at Broome Community College.

We have a video team that will be traveling with us that weekend, and were wondering if the Town of Walton would be interested in recognizing their notable son for his achievements?

Councilwoman Wood questioned the top two designation and not sure how they would like the town to participate. Supervisor Cetta stated he would follow up with it, but added that there are other individuals like First Lieutenant Steven Doane who was awarded the Medal of Honor in Vietnam and Carl Mugglin to the court's appellate division.

Reported that the Post Office steps still have not been repaired and a phone call revealed that they are not sure when they will be completed. This is a Historical Registered building and the approvals may take longer.

Reported that a request was received from a company by the name of Landmark wanting to purchase the cellular tower lease. The Board was not interested in doing so.

Reported that an invoice has been received to renew the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce membership for \$175.00. It was decided to add this voucher to the current month's abstracts.

## **RESOLUTION #102**

### **DELAWARE CO. CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving Town's membership in the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that a Teamsters meeting has been scheduled for September 11, 2018.

Reported that he will be attending a Community Meeting upon an invite from Acting Superintendent of Schools on October 2, 2018.

## **COUNTY UPDATE:**

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that approximately two weeks ago he proposed a new site to the Delaware County Department of Public Works Committee. He stated that Wayne Reynolds did a nice job presenting the proposed site. However, it was not well received from the committee. The committee then suggested looking for other parcels with a smaller footprint.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned the pros and cons of the proposed property. Supervisor Cetta stated the pro was that it is right along Route 10. The committee's concern was that it was beyond the distance from the geographic center of Delaware County and that a small area of the property was in the 500- year flood plain.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt entertained the notion for the Town's to take over the county roads. Supervisor Cetta stated Wayne Reynolds has done a nice job managing that department and has a great staff as well. It would be a lot more involved than just plowing, providing maintenance of these roads requires a lot more from the towns. Superintendent Geidel stated it all depends on the level of service you would provide. Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt felt the town could do a better job than the County.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

No Reports this month

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION #103**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

General Fund A	#178-197	\$14799.85
General OV Fund B	#10	\$ 22.01
General Hwy DA	#91-99	\$ 8,909.51
OV Hwy DB	#34-38	\$15,963.70

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #104**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to enter into executive session for the purpose of Negotiations. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:05 p.m.

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

Out 8:30 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk