

TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 12, 2016
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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dolph, Steven Dutcher, Greg Ruffer, Ed Sommer, Steven McCarthy, Abby Butler – Walton Reporter, Tim Dietz – videographer.

Supervisor Gregory opened the Public Hearing for anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the Town of Walton granting a Senior Citizens Property Tax Exemption.

Supervisor Gregory provided an impact information sheet stating seven individuals are currently receiving a village, county and school senior citizen exemption.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt stated he was willing to pay a little extra to help those in need. “At 65, you should not have to worry about who will own your home.”

Councilman Armstrong stated he worries that this exemption will shift the tax burden onto our young people just starting out.

Councilman Govern stated he felt it was a good place to start and suggested that the school should take a look at their own established base level.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt stated the school amount is ridiculous.

Councilwoman Wood stated she felt it was a good thing but asked for clarification. She stated, “It’s not that I don’t want to do it, but feel it should be after the revaluation is complete to see where everyone stands.”

No comment from the Public was received.

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to close the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #152

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of November 14, 2016 and December 7, 2016 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME:

None requested

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Requested permission to add a pole saw that is no longer used by the Town Highway Department as surplus.

RESOLUTION #153 DECLARED SURPLUS

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood granting Superintendent Geidel permission to surplus a pole saw and place on the auction site with the other declared items. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that he was in receipt of a Shared Service Agreement between NYS DOT and the Town of Walton. Attorney Walas recommended checking on the insurance coverage and who would become liable.

RESOLUTION #154 SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH NYS DOT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting permission for Superintendent Geidel to enter into a Shared Service Agreement with NYS DOT pending the outcome of Attorney Walas concern with the insurance coverage. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

Reported that tax collection for the Town and County tax bills will start in January and I will once again collect taxes on one Saturday in January prior to the penalty period for those wishing to pay in person that are not available during the week.

Reported that there are currently 80 past due dog license renewals and the Town of Walton has collected \$970.00 in late fees to date but the late renewals keeps climbing.

It was suggested placing the names of those delinquent in the paper. Attorney Walas will check into this.

CEO/DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Reported that he has completed the required training for this year.

Reported that a property owner on County Highway 21; would like to place a deed restriction on this property so that no building can be erected in the flood plain, and questioned if he would receive a tax reduction for doing so. The Board was in agreement that there is no exemption at this time.

Supervisor Gregory questioned what can be done to reduce the number of late dog renewals? DCO Dutcher stated other than the late notices being mailed, he will need to visit each property to issue tickets.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Supervisor Gregory presented the 2016 Budget Amendments to the Board for review.

Budget Amendments November 2016

General - A		Debit	Credit
Attorney - Salary	A1420.1		\$2,133.40
Attorney - Cont.	A1420.4		\$3,406.12
Celebrations - Cont.	A7550.4		\$20.96
Retirement	A9010.8		\$22,617.05
Justice - Cont.	A1110.4		\$1,115.78
Special Item - Taxes	A1950.4		\$25,747.27
Supervisor - Cont.	A1220.4		\$2,207.45
Assessor - Cont.	A1355.4	\$2,000.00	
Building - Equip	A1620.2	\$1,000.00	
Dog Control - Cont.	A3510.4	\$2,800.00	
IDA - Cont.	A6460.4	\$2,500.00	
Publicity	A6410.4	\$2,000.00	
Records Mgt. - Cont.	A1460.4	\$1,700.00	
Revenue	A2706	\$45,248.03	
Highway - DB			
Employee Benefit	DA9089.8		\$5,410.83
Employee Benefit	DA9060.8	\$5,410.83	

\$62,658.86	\$62,658.86
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TOWN OF WALTON
BUDGET AMENDMENT

Upon resolution of the Walton Town Board, the Town Supervisor has reviewed the following accounts and found it necessary to do a budget amendment to the 2016 Budget as follows:

Increase Appropriations	A1620.4	\$120,450.00
Increase Revenue	A2706	\$120,450.00

This budget amendment is due to a grant award from a NYS Member Item.

Increase Appropriations	DB5112.2	\$47,251.81
Increase Revenue	DB3501	\$47,251.81

This budget amendment is due to an increase award in CHIPS funds.

RESOLUTION #155 2016 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the budget amendments as submitted. Roll Call Aye – Armstrong, Wood, Govern, Rodriguez-Betancourt and Supervisor Gregory. 0 Nay. motion carried.

Supervisor Gregory read the following proposed resolution.

RESOLUTION # 156

RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WALTON REQUESTING THAT THE NYCDEP EXTEND ITS LAND ACQUISITION MORATORIUM TO INCLUDE THE TOWN OF WALTON

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection ("NYCDEP") has implemented a Land Acquisition Program ("LAP") in the watershed of the New York City water supply as part of a comprehensive watershed protection program intended to protect the City's water supply by preserving open space and prohibiting residential and/or commercial development by future generations; and

WHEREAS, of the thirty-one (31) towns participating in the LAP, fifteen (15) of those towns are located in the County of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, during the time period from January 1, 2010 to date, 2,692 acres in the Town of Walton have been acquired by the NYCDEP; and

WHEREAS, during the period from January 1, 2010 to date, the NYCDEP has acquired 1,667 acres in the Town of Windham located in Greene County and 1,886 acres in the Town of Bovina located in Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, the NYCDEP has instituted a voluntary moratorium on active solicitation of land acquisition in the Towns of Windham and Bovina in order to take time to evaluate the impacts on these communities from the continued land acquisition; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County has requested that NYCDEP consider placing a temporary moratorium on solicitation, as well, in the Towns of Walton, Roxbury and Kortright, all of which are located in Delaware County in order to take time to complete their impact evaluation; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Board of the Town of Walton that the NYCDEP place a temporary moratorium on the solicitation of land within the Town of Walton; and

WHEREAS, a moratorium on solicitation, however, will not preclude the NYCDEP from responding to inquiries from property owners desiring to have their land purchased by the NYCDEP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Board officially requests that the NYCDEP institute a voluntary moratorium upon its solicitation of land under its Land Acquisition Program within the borders of the Town of Walton, County of Delaware, State of New York pending completion of their impact evaluation.

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong.

	Aye	Nay
Supervisor Gregory	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Board Member Armstrong	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Board Member Rodriguez-Bentancourt	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Board Member Govern	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Board Member Wood	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

Supervisor Gregory requested action take place on the proposed Tax Exemption for Person 65 Years of Age or Over.

RESOLUTION # 157 TAX EXEMPTION FOR PERSON 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER

WHEREAS, the Town of Walton (hereinafter the “Town”) does not currently offer a Real Property Tax Exemption for residents 65 and older in the Town effectively protecting the most vulnerable of this Town’s citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the authority granted by Sec. 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, real property within the Town of Walton owned by one or more person, as their primary residence, each of who is 65 years of age or over, or real property within the Town of Walton owned by a husband and wife, as their primary residence, one who is 65 years of age or over, shall be exempt from Town tax levy according to the following schedule based on income of the owner or combined income of the owners of the property for the tax year immediately preceding the date of application:

Income \$10,600 or less	50% exemption
Income more than \$10,600 but less than \$11,600	45% exemption
Income more than \$11,600 but less than \$12,600	40% exemption
Income more than \$12,600 but less than \$13,600	35% exemption
Income more than \$13,600 but less than \$14,500	30% exemption
Income more than \$14,500 but less than \$15,400	25% exemption
Income more than \$15,400 but less than \$16,300	20% exemption
Income more than \$16,300	NO exemption

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all of the provisions of Sec. 467 of the Real Property Tax Law shall apply in the administration and interpretation of this resolution and such exemption shall not be granted unless the applicant qualified thereunder.

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong.

	Aye	Nay
Supervisor Gregory	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Board Member Armstrong	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Board Member Rodriguez-Bentancourt	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Board Member Govern	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Board Member Wood	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>

Supervisor Gregory explained to the Board the issues that have arose with the Data Collection process with ENPM. He explained that residents received duplicate and some triplicate data sheets and many that submitted changes during the first collection was not reflected in the last mailing.

Supervisor Gregory stated a teleconference will be held tomorrow afternoon and will request a public session be held sooner than February.

He explained findings of the assessor where one property picture collected from ENPM showed just grass and weeds; when in fact there was a house and fence after he visited the same property. “The company has made excuses but needs to be held responsible”.

Councilwoman Wood questioned the trust of the community with the company.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned who is responsible for making sure the company is doing their job? Supervisor Gregory stated the Town and State are involved.

Discussion took place on possible procedures that can take place to be sure all possible data is corrected and entered into the system properly. Supervisor Gregory stated the importance for all residents to return the data sheets to the assessor.

The Board was in agreement for the Supervisor to send a letter to all residents explaining the concerns and provide confidence that the revaluation will be completed correctly and accurately.

Councilwoman Wood agreed that the public needs to feel confident.

Supervisor Gregory informed the Board that the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) is looking to consolidate their facilities and plan to build a new building to house all departments at one location. The Executive Director recently met with him to discuss possible locations in Walton, after which they took a windshield tour of the potential sites. He stated he will keep the Board informed as it progresses.

Supervisor Gregory thanked the NYS DOT for their work in clearing trees and brush at the turnoff on Route 206.

Supervisor Gregory stated a year-end financial meeting will be held on December 29th at 7:00 p.m. and the reorganizational meeting will take place on January 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #158

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	#331-345	\$19,482.46
General OV B	#17-25	\$ 900.00
General Hwy DA	#118-129	\$12,953.48
OV Hwy DB	#49-53	\$83,770.06
WTHRCD-08	#2	\$24,800.00

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood questioned Code Enforcement Dutcher when he thought the electric would be complete at Veterans Plaza? CEO Dutcher stated it was a matter of having the time to finish it and was willing to accept any help. Councilwoman Wood stated she will contact a license electrician to see about helping.

Discussion took place on the amount of a cleanup deposit for the use of Veterans Plaza. The matter was turned over to Attorney Walas to bring back at the January meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #159

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Armstrong to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, and proposed network contract and agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:15 p.m.

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

Out 8:10 p.m.

As a result of discussion from executive session, the following was agreed upon.

RESOLUTION #160

COMPUTER NETWORK SYSTEM

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood granting Supervisor Gregory permission to seek computer network services from ISD Tech, 98 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820. All in favor, motion carried.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk