

TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 12, 2016

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt (arrived at 6:30), Patty Wood, Supervisor Charles Gregory, Hwy. Supt., Walt Geidel, Attorney Carly Walas and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

OTHERS PRESENT: Abby Butler – The Reporter, David Buteau, Patrick Carr, Karin Fletcher, Bruce Dolph, Zack Murphy, Albert Murphy Jr., Kesley Miller, Abbie Hodges, Joseph Emminger and Stephen Dutcher.

RESOLUTION #119 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of August 8, 2016 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME:

Supervisor Gregory presented David Buteau with a certificate in recognition of his years of service to the Town of Walton while he served on the Board of Assessment Review.

Supervisor Gregory asked Joe Emminger from ENPM to take the floor and provide an update to the on-going revaluation taking place in the Town and Village of Walton.

Mr. Emminger explained that ENPM is approximately 6-7 months from providing notices to the property owners of their results of their assessments. He explained that the data teams are out in the community and are currently a third of the way done.

Mr. Emminger stated that the first tax bill to be impacted by the revaluation will be the School taxes in September 2017. He stated that in February of 2017 there will be another information meeting (a date to be determined) to be held at the Walton Fire Hall. He explained that there will also be 2-3 weeks of informal hearings in March of 2017 and if the property owner still feels their assessment is unfair their next step would be to go before the Board of Assessment Review.

Resident Patrick Carr of 5091 County Highway 23 expressed his concern about not receiving a call from ENPM to be sure he was present during the data collection and felt he has been paying more than his fair share for years. He was upset that the Town had one property description the County another. He stated he is on a fixed income and can't afford to have his taxes increase more.

Mr. Emminger stated ENPM's goal is to have everyone pay their fair share, no more, no less. He responded to Mr. Carr that his assessment may go up but that does not mean he will have an increase to his taxes.

Supervisor Gregory and Councilwoman Wood explained because it has been so many years since the last reval it is almost certain that many assessments will increase but that it does not mean that your taxes are going to increase. Many factors come into play but the assessments which are currently at 25% will be brought up to 100%.

The Board discussed that once this is complete; the Town will need to keep up with this process every 4 years to keep the assessments at 100%.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt stated the Board is aware that there are inaccuracies and we need to take the time to move forward and do it right.

Supervisor Gregory addressed Mr. Carr's concern about two different property descriptions. Supervisor Gregory explained that the property cards are housed in the Town Assessor's Office and while the County receives information from the Town, the previous assessors may not have updated the property cards on a regular basis; so if a barn was torn down and no permit was submitted for that, the assessor may not have taken that off of your assessment.

Councilwoman Wood thanked Mr. Carr for his questions and for attending. Supervisor Gregory asked Mr. Carr if he had additional concerns and if so to please contact him.

Director of Real Property Michael Sabansky provided a report on the senior citizen exemption, comparing the senior citizen exemptions between towns, villages, and schools throughout the county.. He stated that if changes are desired, this will need to be done by the end of this year.

Supervisor Gregory stated he felt exemptions are like squeezing a balloon; you squeeze one end and the other gets larger for the rest. "That said; senior citizens exemptions for town taxes needs to be addressed".

Supervisor Gregory spoke about the Kraft assessment challenge, stating the Village, Town, School and County are pursuing this, as it cannot go unchallenged.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Reported that he has received the truck back from being undercoated. The expense for this was \$2,535.17.

Reported that the 2017 truck has been approved and will replace the 2011 truck.

Councilman Armstrong suggested surplusizing the 2011 truck in the winter, as it may be more marketable.

Superintendent Geidel requested permission to purchase stone once again this year. He stated this would cost the Town approximately \$60,000.00. Superintendent Geidel stated it will be a DB charge and the Board was in agreement.

Supplied the Board with his garage inventory report and his departments 2017 budget requests.

Supervisor Gregory stated there is a property line tree between the Town Hall parking lot and Ms. Bennett's property that has caused concern with the neighbor but the department feels that it is too large of a job for the highway department. Supervisor Gregory will follow up with a tree company on the health of the tree and cost of taking it down.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Provided the Board with my monthly report.

I explained to the Board the reason for redoing the Justice Audit for 2015 again. The original paper has been missed placed and never provided to the Uniformed Justice Department in which they have granted an extension.

Last month I reported that Senator John Bonacic has provided the opportunity for another DASNY grant that I have applied for and I'm currently awaiting a response.

I just returned from a weekend training in Watertown, NY for my NYS District #3 Director position. A lot of information was covered and I will be compiling and sharing this information with the seven counties that I oversee and will share a copy with you as well.

I reminded everyone that next month's meeting will be held on October 3rd and the preliminary budget will be presented at that meeting.

CEO/DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Provided his monthly reports to the Board.

Informed the Board that he will be attending training in Oxford.

Mr. Dutcher provided an update on the Veteran's Plaza. He stated the sidewalk is complete and the flag pole stone will be delivered next week. He will contact Jess F. Howes to have the holes drilled prior to the pavilion being delivered.

He reported that this past week he has received complaints about the smell in the air from the MacGibbon farm. He explained that a project established through Soil and Water for the MacGibbon farm is to mix whey product into their slurry system and then that product is spread onto the fields. He explained that 40% of that product can be whey and that is where the smell is stemming from.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Provided his monthly reports to the Board.

Reported that in response to Mr. Schick's affidavit in regards to 1528 East River Road property, the matter has been turned over to the court and the court does not feel the affidavit was adequate for the court to take action.

Supervisor Gregory requested permission to send a letter to Mr. Schick indicating the court's decision and to explain the Board feels it is beyond their legal obligation and is now in the court's hands. The Board was in agreement.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt stated it is now more than the owner violating a property code but failure to appear for a court action.

Reported that there are a few questions that need to be answered in reference to the computer backup proposal and he will report back when he has more information.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #120

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	#210-237	\$17,933.46
General OV B	#13-14	\$30,045.92
General Hwy DA	#83-92	\$16,233.42
OV Hwy DB	#29-34	\$11,576.80

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood stated once the pavilion is complete, she will have additional information on the dedication and days events.

Supervisor Gregory reported that he is still working with Graydon Dutcher on reconnecting the flood gage. He stated they would like to speak with Dean Frazer prior to drafting a letter to the DEP.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #121

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood to enter into executive session for the purpose of litigation and contract negotiations. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:50 p.m.

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

Out 8:50 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk