

**Town of Walton  
129 North Street  
Walton, NY 13856**

**Call to Order 6:00 PM**

**13 March 2023**

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance – Kevin Armstrong**
- 2. Invocation**
- 3. Public Hearing – Senior Exemption**
- 4. Floor time**
- 5. Approval of Minutes – 13 February 2023**
- 6. Assessor, Code, Dog Control, FEMA Coordinator -**
- 7. Highway Report:**
- 8. Town Clerk Report:**
- 9. Supervisor Report:**

**Senior Exemption**

**Revised FAD Resolution**

**Former Breakey Motors Property**

**Re-Evaluation**

**Ag. & Market Report**

**10. Committee/Council Reports**

<b>Public Works</b>	<b>Armstrong/Govern</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Insurance</b>	<b>Wood/Govern</b>
<b>Legal &amp; Ordinance</b>	<b>Govern/Wood</b>
<b>Land Use &amp; Village Liaison</b>	<b>Rodriguez/Wood</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Govern/Armstrong</b>
<b>Union Negotiations</b>	<b>Cetta/Armstrong</b>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>Cetta/Armstrong</b>
<b>Technology</b>	<b>Wood/Rodriguez</b>
<b>Emergency Disaster</b>	<b>Cetta/Govern</b>
<b>Historical</b>	<b>Rodriguez/Armstrong</b>

**11. Approval of Abstracts:**

**Executive Session:**

March 2023

Assessor's Report to Walton Town Board

There were 173 phone calls and numerous emails and office visits between 2/28 and 3/8 to enroll property owners into exemptions.

We added around 65 Enhanced Star exemptions to the property records, and still have to process the 55 senior exemption applications. Which will be added to the property records as soon as the amended 467 law is completed and the computer property record database is updated with the new values.

There were also 93 agriculture exemptions, 86 forest exemptions, and 13 senior partial renewals processed.

The equalization rate for 2023 is reduced to 77% from 85% due to increases in real estate market values. Some towns have dropped further than that and some not as much. The effect on the apportionment of County tax cannot be known until taxing jurisdictions budgets are determined, new assessments are made, and all towns have received a final equalization rate.

People who had incomplete information or filed too late to be included in the STAR exemption for this year were mailed an RP-425-GC form. That is a late for good cause application for STAR. I have never seen a request for granting the late application turned down, if the property is in fact eligible for the exemption. The form can be easily found online by searching for RP-425-GC. Your assessor should also be able to supply this form. Be sure to get the instructions RP-425-GC-I also which have the mailing address to send the application to. Do not turn this form into your local assessor.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted  
March 8, 2023

**Town of Walton  
Code Enforcement Office  
Jonathan R Henderson**

**Monthly Summary Report  
Month of February 2023**

<b>Building Permits Issued</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Building Inspections Completed</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Fire Inspections Completed</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Notices of Violation Issued</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Tickets Issued</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Certificates Issued</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Complaints Received</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Floodplain Development Permits Issued</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CO Searches</b>	<b>0</b>

**Martin J. Way, Jr.**  
**Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton**  
**129 North Street Walton,**  
**New York 13856**  
**February 2023**  
**Dog Control Activity Summary**

<b>Complaints</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Dogs Seized</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Returned to Owner</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Humane Society</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dangerous Dogs</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Tickets Issued</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Redemption Fees</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Help Requested</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mileage</b>	<b>52 Miles</b>

**TOWN OF WALTON**  
**FEMA COORDINATOR REPORT**

**DR-4397**

**March 13, 2023**

Project #83441, PW#00265, "Woodlawn Road Integral Support Failure", has had some movement since my last report. NYS Homeland Security has informed us that FEMA has responded to a request they made. Homeland Security notified us on March 1, 2023:

"I am writing to inform you that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) agrees with the final payment request for this project in the amount of \$161,040.42."

Rayana Gonzales  
Deputy Commissioner for Disaster Recovery Programs  
Alternate Governor's Authorized Representative

On February 21, 2023, FEMA notified NYS Homeland Security:

"In a request dated January 3, 2023, you recommend FEMA close the project identified above. FEMA approves your request and will close PW 265, as written. The Recipient and Sub recipient certified the project is complete and accounted for a total project cost of \$161,040.42. My team reviewed your request, and determined it meets FEMA's regulatory and policy requirements. FEMA will close this PW in the system of record, where more detailed information associated with this action is available for review."

Carlton Yedinak  
Section Chief Region 2  
Public Assistance

This should mean the "check is in the mail". The \$161,040.42 amount is broken down as Federal share of \$120,780.32, the State share of \$20,130.05 and the local share of \$20,130.05. The expected reimbursement amount from Federal and State is \$140,910.37.

The only Project not closed out is Project #151549, PW#00462, "Management Costs". This is a category "Z" projects and could not be closed out until all others are officially closed out. All category "C" projects are now closed out. I hope PW#00462 moves to "closed out" soon. Currently PW#00462 is obligated for \$20,119.04. Our actual documented amount is \$27,057.08. This is 100% Federal reimbursement. Time will tell.

# TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

TOWN OF WALTON, NEW YORK  
TO THE SUPERVISOR:

FEBRUARY 2023

Pursuant to Section 27, Subd. 1 of the Town Law, I hereby make the following statement of all the fees and money received by me in connection with my office during the month above stated, excepting only such fees and monies the application and payment of which are otherwise provided for by law.

## RECEIPTS

	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,465,858.42</b>
DA2665	SALE OF HWY EQUIPMENT	
A2401	INTEREST FROM NBDC	\$22.67
A2545	MARRIAGE LICENSES	
A2545	MARRIAGE, DEATH, BIRTH CERTIFICATES	\$20.00
A2545	GENEOLOGY	
B2555	BUILDING PERMITS	\$475.00
A1255	MISC. FEES	\$1.00
A2544	DOG LICENSES	\$585.00
	PETTY CASH FROM TAXES	
A1010-1090	REAL PROPERTY TAX	\$273,610.05
A2665	SURPLUS ITEMS	
A1090	REAL PROPERTY PENALTIES	\$1,492.82
DB2545	HWY. DEPARTMENT	\$300.00
DA2655	HWY. SLUICE	
A2545	DECALS	
A1170	FRANCHISE	
B2770	ZONING/PLANNING	\$50.00
B2110	ZBA FEES	
B2115	PLANNING FEES	
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$276,556.54</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,742,414.96</b>

## DISBURSEMENTS

	DECALS	\$399.44
	TOWN CLERK FEES/INTEREST TO SUPERVISOR	\$768.58
	53% OF DOG LICENSE TO SUPERVISOR	\$456.00
	TOWN TAX REVENUES TO SUPERVISOR	\$19.80
	AMOUNT PAID TO DEPT. OF AG. & MARKET	\$87.00
	AMOUNT PAID TO COUNTY FOR DOG FEES	
	AMOUNT PAID TO STATE HEALTH FOR MARRIAGE	
	TOWN TAX TO COUNTY TREASURER	\$1,464,045.20
	NSF CHECKS & BANK FEES	
	REFUNDS	
	OTHER (POST OFFICE)	
	<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$1,465,776.00</b>
	<b>NET BALANCE</b>	<b>\$276,638.96</b>
	<b>BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>\$276,654.10</b>
	LESS OUT STANDING CHECKS	\$15.14
	(+) OUTSTANDING DEPOSITS	
	<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$276,638.96</b>

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF DELAWARE, TOWN OF WALTON  
Ronda Williams, being duly sworn, says that she is the Town Clerk/Tax Collector for the Town of Walton, that the foregoing is a full and true statement during the month above stated, excepting only such fees the application and payment of which is otherwise provided for by law.

  
TOWN CLERK

# DRAFT Amendment

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Walton (hereinafter the "Town") on December 12, 2016 approved to offer a Real Property Tax Exemption for residents 65 and older in the Town effectively protecting the most vulnerable of this Town's citizens;

WHEREAS, the Town has since determined the current exemption is inadequate and therefore, wish to increase the current income levels by 20%

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 \$13,900 or less	50% exemption
Income more than \$13,900 but less than \$14,900	45% exemption
Income more than \$14,900 but less than \$15,900	40% exemption
Income more than \$15,900 but less than \$16,900	35% exemption
Income more than \$16,900 but less than \$17,800	30% exemption
Income more than \$17,800 but less than \$18,700	25% exemption
Income more than \$18,700 but less than \$19,600	20% exemption
Income more than \$19,600	NO exemption

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Public Hearing was held on \_\_\_\_\_ for anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the proposed resolution.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

	Aye	Nay
Supervisor Cetta	_____	_____
Board Member Armstrong	_____	_____
Board Member Rodriguez-Bentancourt	_____	_____
Board Member Govern	_____	_____
Board Member Wood	_____	_____

**Resolution of the Town of Walton Supporting the  
December 2022 Revised FAD**

WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2022 the New York State Department of Health (DOH) released for comment a draft Revised Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) as part of the mid-term review of the 2017 FAD; and

WHEREAS, the West of Hudson Communities (including, but not limited to, the Coalition of Watershed Towns, Delaware, Greene, and Schoharie Counties, the Towns of Windham, Ashland, Lexington, Prattsville, Jewett, Olive, Shandaken, Conesville, Gilboa, Roxbury, Middletown, Andes, Bovina, Stamford, Kortright, Tompkins, Harpersfield, Walton, Delhi,) submitted comments/Board resolutions to DOH (the “West of Hudson Communities Comments”) which focused upon (1) the need to end the core land acquisition program as recognize in the 2020 findings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) of its study of the watershed protection program; (2) the need to revise the Streamside Acquisition Program (SAP) to require local governments consent for participation in the program; (3) support for a community based streamside protection program in which the land owners are compensated for stewardship; (4) a requirement that the Conservation Easement granted by the City to NYSDEC for all fee acquisitions be modified to incorporate the requirements and the objectives of the 1997 Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”); and (5) assure greater compliance by New York City with its MOA obligations as exemplified by the 2022 dispute regarding the acceptance of septage waste at City-owned wastewater treatment plants and a sustainable contract administration process and

WHEREAS, in December 2022 DOH issued the final Revised FAD (together with a Comment/Response Document) which directly incorporated and responded to the West of Hudson Comments and specifically stated as follows:

- (1) “NYSDOH agrees that strategic, well-reasoned acquisition of water quality protective parcels should be the focus of the LAP, while allowing future community growth to occur in a manner that is consistent with the existing character and planning goals of each of the Watershed communities.”
- (2) “NYSDOH agrees that changes to core LAP are necessary in the West of Hudson watershed, as guided by the recommendations of the NASEM expert panel. The program should be focused on the most sensitive areas for water quality protection, including floodplains, riparian areas, wetlands, and steep slopes. NYSDOH agrees that both the Long-Term Land Acquisition Plan and the successor Water Supply Permit should be shaped by the NASEM Expert Panel recommendations and stakeholder input.”
- (3) “The reduction in LAP solicitation goal from 300,000 acres to 200,000 acres through 2024 is based on recommendations of the NASEM Expert Panel as well as stakeholder input. Solicitation beyond 2024 is contingent upon re-issuance of a WSP authorizing continuation of the LAP beyond 2025.”



- (4) NYSDOH understands that there are several areas of interest that stakeholders have regarding the current and future implementation of SAP. NYSDOH encourages stakeholders to engage in productive discussions with the City and CCCD to integrate common-sense program modifications **which will position SAP to operate with wide-spread municipal support in the future.** To encourage the resolution of these issues, the Revised 2017 FAD now includes a requirement for a dedicated SAP workgroup and a specific reporting requirement on the workgroup's recommendations. While the determination for the expansion of the Pilot SAP to the remainder of the WOH watershed has not yet been made by NYSDEC, as described in Special Condition 29 paragraph (f), NYSDOH notes that paragraph (f) states that "Such written determination shall include addressing NYCDEP recommendations."
- (5) "Under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), administered by the US Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and the Watershed Agricultural Council, farmers can receive annual rental payments in exchange for removing environmentally-sensitive land from production and installing conservation practices like vegetated streamside buffers, exclusion fencing, and animal crossings. These rental agreements usually run for 10-15 years, unlike watershed conservation easements which run in perpetuity. The commentors are suggesting a similar program be explored as an option for owners of non-agricultural land. **This potential program should be explored in the context of the streamside acquisition workgroup**"
- (6) "NYSDOH and the City acknowledge the existing conservation easement language may need to be revised in light of some recent conflicts with public benefit projects. The City agrees to work with the communities to explore potential language changes to future conservation easements which would allow for such activities to take place. The Revised 2017 FAD has been updated to reflect this new activity"
- (7) NYSDOH supports the recreational use of protected land in the Catskill/Delaware Watershed where such use does not threaten to have an adverse impact on NYC water quality. Paragraph 72 of the 1997 Memorandum of Agreement included mountain bicycling as a recreational activity not likely to be allowed on City land. The City has opened over 135,000 acres of watershed lands to other recreational opportunities, where it can be demonstrated that recreational use will not harm water quality. **The City may consider requests to open specific City-owned parcels to connect existing or planned trail networks where municipal and organizational partners have the capacity to effectively steward the activities and ensure no threats to water quality.**"

**NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Walton hereby thanks the Department of Health for carefully considering the comments of the West of Hudson Communities and incorporating those comments in the Revised FAD and accepts the Revised FAD as a reasonable compromise to assure the continued protection of New York City's water supply while recognizing the needs of the watershed communities; and

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Walton is committed to continuing to work with the other watershed stakeholders to develop a revised LAP and SAP that is consistent with the MOA, the NASEM findings, the Revised FAD and the evolving needs of the watershed communities.

## Town Supervisors Monthly Statement To Town of Walton Board Members

Pursuant to Section 52 of the Town Law, the following is a statement of monies received and disbursed by the Town Supervisor during the month of FEBRUARY 2023.

Fund	General Townwide (A)	General Outside (B)	Highway Townwide (DA)	Highway Outside (DB)	Good Neighbor (H)	Risk Retention (H)	Disaster Recovery (H)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
<b>Balances First of Month</b>							
Savings	\$ 922,944.56	\$ 122,624.75	\$ 1,113,149.66	\$ 1,199,791.47	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>WAYNE BANK</b>							
Checking	\$ 1,729.08	\$ 53.79	\$ 1,641.77	\$ 158.47			
<b>TAXES/Penalty</b>							
Interest	\$ 53.91	\$ 4.69	\$ 41.62	\$ 45.82			
Justice Fines	\$ 2,739.00						
Town Clerk Report	\$ 143.56						
Dog Licenses	\$ 456.00						
Building Permits		\$ 275.00					
CHIPS							
REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 1,035.00	\$ 7,311.00				
CELL TOWER RENTAL	\$ 5,872.45						
PLANNING/ZONING FEE		\$ 50.00					
FRANCHISE							
NYS AID							
DRIVEWAY PERMIT					\$ 300.00		
MORTGAGE TAX							
HYDRO SEEDER							
FEMA							
Interest on Checking	\$ 0.74		\$ 0.28	\$ 0.10			
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 9,265.66</b>	<b>\$ 1,364.69</b>	<b>\$ 7,352.90</b>	<b>\$ 345.92</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

