

TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 9, 2018

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 and Stephen Dutcher

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Condon- Village of Walton, Bruce Dolph

Supervisor Gregory requested Donald O’Connell step forward to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for the years of service on the Town of Walton’s Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. O’Connell has served since March 28, 1994 and was stepping down.

**RESOLUTION #54                      APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of March 12, 2018 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME:

None Request

CEO/DOG CONTROL REPORT:

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

**Dog Control Activity Summary**

Complaints Received	1
Dogs Seized	0
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	0
Dangerous Dog Cases	0
Tickets Issued	0
Total Redemption Fees	\$0.00
Vehicle Mileage	9

Informed the Board that he will be attending a solar training on April 13, 2018 as well as a conference in Rochester April 23-25, 2018, this expense will be split between the Village and Town of Walton as well as the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation.

Informed the Board that he has completed an Emergency Management Plan Document to be used as a guidance in the event of an emergency situation. He stated that this is Phase I of our CRS requirements and will start working with Delaware County Soil and Water on Phase II that will consist of a Flood Emergency Management Plan.

**RESOLUTION #55**

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN GUIDANCE BOOK**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to accept the Emergency Management Plan Document as a guidance in the event of an emergency situation. The document that will be stored in red notebooks and will be placed in the Code Enforcement and Supervisors Offices as well as at the Fire Hall and Village of Walton. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Gregory questioned if there was anything new to report on Flood Commission? Flood Plain Manager Dutcher stated there was not.

Reported that he has made some progress on the delinquent dog report but waiting for tickets to be taken care of by the Court before issuing more.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:**

Superintendent Geidel reported that he has applied for the stream grant for Pines Brook Road and was informed the Town of Walton is number 5 of 14, indicating a good chance of being funded.

Reported that after re-advertising the tractor and boom mower on Auctions International, it has received a bid offer of \$12,300.

**RESOLUTION #56**

**SALE OF 2001 CASE TRACTOR AND BOOM MOWER**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to accept the bid of \$12,300 for the sale of a 2001 Case tractor and boom mower. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that \$22,831.70 has been received from FEMA. This payment was for Storm Stella and represents the 75% of the total cost. He informed the Board that he was not confident we would receive the State share of 25%.

Reported that he had been contacted by NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services requesting \$17,751.46 for a de-obligation of disaster 1993 DR NY. He informed the Board that we knew they had over payed us but it has been six years later that they finally corrected the PW and requested a refund.

**RESOLUTION #57**

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY NYS DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DHSES)**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by govern granting Supervisor Gregory to submit payment to DHSES for the de-obligation of funds from DR 1993 PW 666 in the amount of \$17,751.46. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that he will once again request the help of a summer mower. Supervisor Gregory asked what the requirements were?

Superintendent Geidel stated they must be 18 years old but would be ideal for a retired individual experienced with working a boom mower.

Reported that all seasonal roads are now re-opened.

Councilman Armstrong stated that the Highway Committee will be looking for a waste oil burner for the other side of the garage.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

Reported that I am 85% collected and still have an outstanding amount of \$622,181.89. My last day of collection here at the Town will be on April 30<sup>th</sup>, after which all unpaid taxes will be turned over to the County Treasurer.

To follow up with the contract for Entrust Energy who are offering a fixed rate on electric and natural gas supply charges. I submitted the requested information to everyone and clearly if we had been locked in at the proposed rates, there would be a savings to the Town.

**RESOLUTION #58**

**ENTRUST ENERGY AGREEMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodrigues-Betancourt granting Supervisor Gregory permission to enter into an energy savings contract with Entrust Energy for our natural gas and electric supply. All in favor, motion carried.

I am seeking permission to work with the Town Attorney to draft a resolution on collecting future partial tax payments during collection time. I have a few copies of other Town's resolutions and have spoke with towns that collect partial payments and many have stated it is a benefit to the tax payers and not a problem to do. I feel this will be a nice service to our tax payers.

**RESOLUTION #59**

**USE OF ATTORNEY SERVICE**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood granting the Town Clerk/Collector to work with the Town's Attorney to establish a resolution granting the Town Clerk/Collector to collect partial tax payments as allowed by Section 928-a of the Real Property Tax Law. All in favor, motion carried.

We have been audited on our CDBG Funds and everything went well. They will be submitting a report shortly. A couple of things that were addressed was some of our policies will need updated verbiage to meet ADA and other compliances. They would also like for the Town to turn over the deposited wire funds within five business days but due to Town Law § 118 (2) this is not an item that would allow for Payment without prior audit. I called the State Comptroller's Offices and they stated it would be acceptable to them if the Town Attorney prepared a Resolution granting the Supervisor permission to make these payments prior to audit as long as they are included in the next month's abstracts.

Spoke about the retention requirements for items placed on the Town of Walton's website, YouTube, and other social media sites. I explained that the MU-1 does not cover social media but it is

recommended that documents that are used to upload to social media follow the MU-1 Retention.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

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

- Spent one day in Delhi with the Delaware County Director of Real Property Tax Services and his staff to address outstanding Roll issues.
- Completed field inspections for several of the new buildings, property improvements and demolished buildings that have been reported by The Town of Walton Code Enforcement Officer. Updated valuation postings for 2018 Roll have now been completed.
- Responded to numerous Property Assessment and Tax Billing questions from parcel owners regarding their new reassessment roll valuation.
- Completed field inspections on five parcels at the request of the property owners who questioned the accuracy of reassessment data or valuation.
- Provided Grievance/Complaint forms and instructions to four property owners and reviewed the process with them.
- Posted several new Agriculture Assessment/Exemptions to RPS.
- Completed administrative work on the 2018 exemption renewal documentation for STAR Enhanced, Forest 480A, and Agriculture Exemptions. All notices were mailed.
- Completed the tax exempt nonprofit organization posting process for a large Town of Walton Parcel transitioning to the Wholly Exempt Status.
- Completed all Mobile Home Parks STAR exemption calculations and updates were posted for the 2018 Roll.

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Gregory requested permission to apply for a \$20,000 CWC Local Technical Assistance Program grant. The grant funds would be used to hire a consultant to help the Town of Walton upgrade our comprehensive plan.

**RESOLUTION #60**

**CWC LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodrigues-Betancourt granting Supervisor Gregory permission to apply for a grant to hire a consultant to provide assistance to the Town of Walton in upgrading its comprehensive plan. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that he is still waiting for the final connection to the tower for Verizon.

Requested permission to attend and seek reimbursement for a NYS Association of Town Finance School on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

**RESOLUTION #61**

**PERMISSION TO ATTEND FINANCE SCHOOL**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting Supervisor Gregory to attend a NYS Association of Towns Finance School on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May, 4, 2018 and to be reimbursed for travel and expenses. Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay, 1 abstained, motion carried.

Reported that the Board of Supervisors have petitioned the State DOT to upgrade the conditions of Route 10 in Delaware County.

Reported that he is working with the DEP on two additional boat launches; one near the cell tower and one at Beerston. The goal would be to have these two launches large enough to accommodate fire department rescue boats as well as allowing for a fire truck to drive down to the river for a direct water source. He informed the Board that the one near the cell tower could be done on our own but the Beerston location would need cooperation from the NYCDEP.

Reported that he was approached by the Chamber of Commerce to place two flower barrels on Veterans Plaza. The Board agreed to assume responsibility for planting flowers in the pots.

Councilwoman Wood stated the Legion has invited the Board to a meeting on March 17, 2018 for the purpose of discussing the Memorial Day parade and moving the monument from in front of the Castle to Veterans Plaza.

Supervisor Gregory informed the Board that the grant for the bowling alley was not awarded. He assumed the Village will continue to seek other funding.

Supervisor Gregory presented a resolution to the Board requesting the Town participate in an Alternate Land Acquisition Pilot Program.

**RESOLUTION NO 62**

**TITLE: ALTERNATE LAND ACQUISITION PILOT PROGRAM IN THE TOWN OF WALTON, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware County mapping evaluation of the Town of Walton found that only 2907.42 acres of vacant land remained available for future development, and

**WHEREAS**, this 2907.42 acres equates to only 5.33% of the total land mass in the watershed or roughly 6% of the total land throughout the township, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Walton, in its July 20, 2017 response to the New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program 2017 Town Level Assessments, called for a permanent moratorium on the land acquisition program in the town and called for the land acquisition funds be dedicated to flood mitigation initiatives in Walton and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Walton, in its August 28, 2017 comment on the New York City Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) document, again called for a permanent moratorium on the land acquisition program in the town and called the land acquisition funds be dedicated to flood mitigation initiatives in Walton and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Walton, in its March 19, 2018 response to the New York City's Watershed Agricultural Council's proposed Deed of Conservation Easement for 1040 acres of property owned by the Rasmussen Family Real Estate Trust, (a land mass larger than the village of Walton) recognized that easement would reduce the amount of developable land in Walton and thus further erode the economic viability of the community, and

**WHEREAS**, the Land Trust Working Group led by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC/DEP) is exploring yet another land acquisition program through the Watershed Agricultural Council's (WAC) Farms in Transition, and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Walton Town Board renews its call for a permanent moratorium to be placed on NYC land acquisition in the Town of Walton and that the land acquisition funds instead be dedicated to flood mitigation initiatives in Walton and.

**BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED** by the Walton Town Board fully supports the development of a Delaware County Alternate Land Acquisition Program and

**BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED** by the Walton Town Board fully supports the Town's participation in a PILOT program for said Alternate Land Acquisition Program.

**RESOLUTION #62**

**TITLE: ALTERNATE LAND ACQUISITION PILOT PROGRAM IN THE TOWN OF WALTON, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood approving a resolution to fully supports the development of a Delaware County Alternate Land Acquisition Program and fully supports the Town's participation in a PILOT program for said Alternate Land Acquisition Program. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Gregory reported that he had received a list of properties that will be foreclosed on by the County Treasurer.

COUNTY UPDATE:

Supervisor Gregory reported that the vote to place the DPW building on the McFarlan property was defeated. He explained that the hybrid options are still on the table.

Reported that the Mental Health Committee will be seeking another appraisal company as the company that the County typically uses had already done one for the seller.

Reported that the meeting that was held at the Fire Hall on March 28, 2018 went very well and was well attended. He stated Mark Tuthill did a nice job running the meeting. Councilwoman Wood questioned if the Fancher Avenue property is out? Supervisor Gregory stated it was not out but the Delaware Street has a lot of benefits and received a very favorable response.

Councilman Govern stated that the video of the meeting was very informative and stated with Fancher Avenue being classified as a wetland does not make sense to place the facility there.

Further discussion took place concerning the need for two locations for the DPW Facilities. Supervisor Gregory explained the reason was that the DPW would leave a couple of plow trucks in Delhi to save the travel distance from Hamden to the other side of the County. Councilwoman Wood expressed that it would seem a second building would cost a lot more than the travel time for two vehicles.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Nothing to report

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION #63**

**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	#59-76-	-	\$10,137.04
General Hwy DA	#37-48		\$24,659.34
OV Hwy DB	#5-6		\$ 6,793.46

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #64**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing Contract Negotiations and contractual matter concerning a particular employee. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:00 p.m.

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

Out 7:35 p.m.

As a result of executive session, it was agreed to forward a contract to the Court Clerk for signature.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk