

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ron Galley, Keath Davis, Pastor Bob Wilkie, Ethan Rubenstein, Josh Gorman, Ryan Naatz, Cherie Pierce, Aaron Shelton, Kathleen Hayek, Ted Hayek, Luis Familia, and Demitri Brunson

Supervisor Cetta presented a Proclamation to Ron Galley on behalf of the Town of Walton.

TOWN OF WALTON
Delaware County, New York

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ron Galley having served in the capacity as an employee of Radio Station WDLA; and

WHEREAS, having served this community for a period of 47 years; and

WHEREAS, Ron's voice was what we recognized when we tuned into WDLA for countless sporting events, natural disaster updates, The American Heart Association Heart Radiothon, news, birthday dedications, school closings, the Delaware County Fair, and of course the top 20 countdowns; and

WHEREAS, your dedication to our community has been and continues to be an inspiration for all that have heard your voice; and be it

PROCLAIMED, that the Town of Walton recognizes that your 47-year career as the "Voice of Walton and Delaware County" is Noteworthy; and, be it further

PROCLAIMED, that the Town Board of Walton, New York does hereby declare 11 December 2018 as Ron Galley Day in the Town of Walton.

Joseph M. Cetta, Supervisor

Ronda Williams, Town Clerk

Mr. Galley thanked the Board for the great work they do and acknowledged the difficult time they had with the passing of Supervisor Gregory. He went on to say "You couldn't have made a better choice with Joe Cetta as a replacement".

Mr. Galley also asked that the Board not give up communication with Town Square Media to get the programs back that the community wants.

RESOLUTION #121

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of November 5, 2018 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME:

Privilege of Floor:

Ryan Naatz of Watershed Ag. Council approached the Board with information on the programs the Watershed Ag. Council (WAC) offers and clarification on the Janice Bowker easement purchase.

Mr. Naatz first thanked the Board for allowing this open dialog to take place and mentioned that it provides an opportunity for use to work together. He also indicated that the recreation on conservation easements is under-utilized.

Mr. Naatz first described the four programs that WAC offer such as Agriculture, Forestry, Conservation Easement and Economic Vitalization Program. Pamphlets were provided to the Board.

Mr. Naatz explained how the conservation easements purchase of the Bowker property would allow for the owner to continue to use the property, but restrictions have been placed on development. Continuing with WAC is a land trust allowing for the property to be accessed at full market value and WAC would pay for anything that is different. The landowner and WAC would each receive a tax bill.

Councilwoman Wood expressed that she would rather see a program to keep working farms in business rather than invest in a farm that has gone out of business already.

Councilman Armstrong stated his concern that this program will continue to reduce developable land even more. Mr. Naatz stated there would be less cost with kids going to school, road development and repair and septic permits.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt commented that the agenda is limiting the use of the land, the concern is not for the farmers but the limited land use is forever.

A couple of residents asked questions of their own personal interest to Mr. Naatz.

Kathleen Hayek for the Walton Art Walk provided the Board with a description and map of the attended route for a two-day art display event to be held in July 2019. Mrs. Hayek estimated approximately 35 artists will be participating.

RESOLUTION #122

USE OF FACILITIES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting permission of the use of Veterans Plaza in July of 2019 for the purpose of an Art Festival. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Town of Walton
Monthly Assessor's Report
November 2018

- Attended the monthly meeting of the Delaware County Assessors' Association in Delhi.
- 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 completing valuation updates for properties that are in significant disrepair and those having pending code issues that will impact 2019 roll assessments.
- Compiled a 480a Forest Tax Exemption account history for a property owner's legal counsel.
- Completed field inspections on parcels at the request of the property owners who questioned the accuracy of reassessment data or valuation. Several commercial rental parcels and residential parcels were inspected and current data gathered for assessment updates.
- Completed a data submission for the New York State Department of Taxation *Income Verification Program* for participating property owners.
- Mailed numerous tax exemption change notices for property ownership changes that were updated.
- The Delaware County RPS Data System, which has been down for two months, was restored on November 26. The process of catching up on the significant backlog of data system work has begun with data gathering assistance from The Code Enforcement Officer.

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

DOG CONTROL OFFICER REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Town of Walton Dog Control Officer
129 North Street
Walton, New York 13956

Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints Received	9	
Dogs Seized	5	
Returned to Owner	2	
Humane Society	3	
Dangerous Dog Cases	1	
Tickets Issued	4	
Total Redemption Fees		1 for \$10.00
Vehicle Mileage	150	

With the addition of November’s past due licenses and progress made on the past due list total stands at 53 past due licenses.

CEO REPORT:

Reported that the Water Street project is progressing nicely. A culvert will be placed under Water Street from Veterans Plaza this week that will help remove the water more quickly off of the green space area.

Reported that Delhi Telephone has started the installation of their hub on Miller Avenue.

Reported that he and the Assessor have been working closely together in an effort of getting caught up since the RPS system was down for so long.

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

Monthly Summary Report
Month of November 2018

Building Permits Issued	8
Building Inspections Completed	33
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	10
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	2

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Reported that some of the material from the Water Street project could be used for the purpose of widening roads or along the shoulder of roads. Currently, they are waiting on more property owner permission to be able to place material.

Reported that the stormwater draft report is done and now trying to put into priority. He questioned the Board if they would like the company to present to the Board in the future. The Board was in agreement.

Reported that the fleet had a tough week with breakdowns, but all are now up and running again.

Reported that he had received a bid of \$10.00 for the used tires on Auctions International. The Highway Committee did not feel they would get a better offer and agreed to accept the bid.

RESOLUTION #123

SALE OF USED SURPLUS TIRES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to accept the bid of \$10.00 for the sale of used tires. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that during his travels with FEMA, they discovered areas of stream bank erosion. Superintendent Geidel questioned how much would the Board like him to remedy with FEMA? Supervisor Cetta suggested the Highway Committee get with him and go over the areas of concern and report back.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

I provided the Board with my financial reports.

I attended the NYS Town Clerk Regional Meeting on December 2-3, 2018 in Binghamton. The training was with the NYS Comptrollers Office. The training provided information as to what the Comptrollers office is currently coming across in their audits and what they will be looking for, it was very informative.

I have submitted the final documentation for the backhoe grant and just waiting for DASNY to sign off. It should not be long after that when we can expect a check.

In May of this year, as you are aware, the Board approved the tax collector to accept partial tax payments. On April 12, 2018, the law was amended to include paragraph (e) so that prior to the town collecting partial payments, it must obtain written approval of the chief executive officer of the county or the county director of real property tax service if the county prepares the towns tax bills. I have requested such permission and provided a little history and explained the benefit to our residents to Madam Chairman Tina Mole’. Unfortunately, we have been denied permission, as we still have the county print our tax bills. I apologize to the tax payers, as I feel and I’m sure the Board is in agreement; this certainly would have helped many of our residents. Upon the Boards request, I will be happy to obtain quotes to have our tax bills printed by an outside company to avoid this in the future.

Much discussion took place about partial payments and how the Town will proceed in the future. The Board was in agreement to give the County the year requested to prepare for partial payments but Supervisor Cetta stated he will let the County know they are on notice, that the town will be doing this.

RESOLUTION #124

AMEND RESOLUTION #70 OF 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood to amend Resolution #70 to change the start of the partial collection day from January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Armstrong, Cetta, Govern, Rodriguez-Betancourt and Wood – Yea, 0 -nays. Motion carried.

I will advertise the Organizational Meeting for January 3, 2019 at 6:00 -pm, please bring your policy books with you as we will be reviewing our policies as required.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Provided the Board with his financial reports.

Correspondence:

Provided community information on the date and time of the Christmas dinner.

Read a thank you letter from the Delaware County Historical Society for the annual appropriation.

APPOINTMENT:

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood to appoint Richard Doig to the Board of Assessment Review from 9/1/18 – 9/30/23. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that Sprint has removed the temporary cell tower and are currently waiting for an update as to whether or not they will be joining the permanent tower.

Reported that Attorney Walas has reviewed and approved a Crown Castle amendment lease with T-Mobile for infrastructure updates.

RESOLUTION #125

T-MOBILE AMENDMENT TO LEASE

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the cell tower amendment lease with T-Mobile and grant Supervisor Cetta permission to sign agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that he would like to support the Cornell Cooperative Extension Program and all the services they provide to our children and community. A \$500.00 appropriation was agreed upon starting in 2019.

RESOLUTION #126

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENTION MEMBERSHIP

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving a Cornell Cooperative Extension Membership for the 2019 fiscal year. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta informed that Board and provided copies of the laws and resolutions on designation of snowmobile roads: He stated that in 1970, the Town Board approved an ordinance allowing for all roads in the Town of Walton to be used by snowmobiles on the inside or outside banks of the roadway. In January of 1993, the Board passed a resolution instruction the Highway Superintendent to remove all snowmobile signs and prohibit the use of snowmobiles on all town roads.

It is Supervisor Cetta's recommendation to rescind the January 20, 1993 resolution to once again allow for snowmobile use of town roads as allowed in the 1970 ordinance.

Supervisor Cetta introduced Cheri Pierce and asked that she speak on behalf of the Hamden Hill Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club. Mrs. Pierce explained the economical benefits to the area, but unfortunately the Village of Walton is losing out on this benefit because snowmobilers are unable to get here and unable to obtain fuel for their snowmobiles. Mrs. Pierce explained that the Village of Walton is currently considering to allow for snowmobiles to travel into the village to get fuel and stating with the use of town roads would allow for people to come from all over.

Councilwoman Wood questioned if signs had to be placed? I informed the Board that the law states that signs would have to be placed. Mrs. Pierce indicated that the snowmobile club could take care of that.

RESOLUTION #127

RESCIND THE JANUARY 20, 1993 RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to rescind the January 20, 1993 and allow for snowmobiles to use Town of Walton roads as stated in the 1970 ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that he met with Keath Davis and Graydon Dutcher about the potential purchase of the Breakey Motors property. Supervisor Cetta expressed the concern of contaminated soil and should the Town be responsible for that, would be an unjust expense to the tax payers. Graydon Dutcher from Soil and Water is willing to survey the material and how much would need to be removed to get down to the flood plain to be in compliance with the LFA. Supervisor Cetta stated the worse-case scenario to have a contractor remove the building and slab and obtain an estimate of the amount of material would need to be removed if all was to be contaminated.

Shelly Johnson-Bennett the Director of the Delaware County Planning Department approached the Board to explain the hold up between the DEP and CWC with the completion of the purchase of the Breakey Motors property. Mrs. Johnson-Bennett explained that within the MOA, the city can not purchase property with structures on them. However, the CWC can purchase and relocate business or homes. The current situation needs to be agreed upon between the DEP and CWC. The DEP can-not purchase property known to be contaminated and not knowing who will assume responsibility of the clean-up of the property.

Councilman Govern stated this was an important site to help reduce flooding according to the LFA Plan and yet, he did not want the clean up to become a tax payer expense.

Mrs. Johnson-Bennett stated the ideal situation would be to have a back to back contract. One to purchase and one to take care of the containments.

Supervisor Cetta stated there will be a need for a special meeting to close out the year to end financials. December 27, 2018 at 6:00 was agreed upon.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #128

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	#270-307	\$37,660.84
General OV Fund B	#23	\$ 3,705.42
General Hwy DA	#118-130	\$47,396.73
OV Hwy DB	#51-55	\$26,163.85

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #129

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Entered 8:24 p.m.

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

Out 8:55 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk