

TOWN BOARD MEETING

January 14, 2019

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt, Patty Wood, Supervisor Joseph Cetta, Attorney Carly Walas and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

ABSENT:

Hwy. Supt Walt Geidel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steven Dutcher, Keath Davis, Lillian Browne – the Reporter, River Reed, Owen Piper, Terrance Conant, Nathan Tweedie, Deacon Mike Freeman

FLOOR TIME:

Supervisor Cetta asked two students present if they would like to address the Board? The students did not have any concerns at this time.

Nathan Tweedie of Upper East Brook Road approached the Board with a proposed resolution that he and other members of his Libertarian Party will be distributing to other Delaware County Supervisors for support on Home Rule for Free New York (HRFNY)

Lillian Browne questioned if Supervisor Cetta would be the sponsor for the resolution at the County level? Supervisor Cetta stated he could not answer that now, as he had not even had a chance to read it and believed it would go before the legislative committee first.

Supervisor Cetta went on to inform the students that this is what democracy is all about; people bringing ideas and believes to their elected officials. “This is how we move forward.”

**RESOLUTION #28**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Armstrong approving the minutes of December 10<sup>th</sup>, December 27, 2018 & January 3, 2019 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

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

**Monthly Summary Report**  
Month of December 2018

Building Permits Issued	2 New, 2 Renewal
Building Inspections Completed	10
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	1
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	4

**2018 Annual Summary Report**

Building Permits Issued	73 + 11 Renewals
Building Inspections Completed	248
Fire Inspections Completed	1
Notices of Violation Issued	3
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	43
Complaints Received	3
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	2
CO Searches	32
Permit Revenue	\$7202.60
CO Search Revenue	<u>\$800.00</u>
Total	\$8002.60
Permit Valuation	\$1,418,730.00

2018 saw a continued downward trend in the number of permits issued. Overall permits were down 20 from last year. 2 new modular homes and 1 manufactured

home were built this year. 1 manufactured home was moved from one property to another on Beers Brook Rd so in all 3 homes were added to the tax role. One house was demolished on a property where a new home was constructed the previous year.

The adopted LFA for the West Branch and Tributaries continued to be implemented with several projects taking place. Most notably was the start of the Water Street Project in September. To date approximately 1/3 of the estimated 55,000 cubic yards of fill have been removed from the flood plain and the culvert connecting Veterans Plaza to the flood plain has been installed. It is expected that Water Street will reopen mid to late January as removal of the fill continues.

A home and barn located in the flood plain on Third Brook were demolished and removed utilizing funding from Catskill Watershed Corporation. This removal eliminated the possibility of these two dilapidated structures becoming debris jams downstream of their location.

It was a very wet summer and we ended up with one FEMA declared event, minor flooding on the fairgrounds during the fair and ponding on Delaware Street at Veteran’s Plaza. The town infrastructure suffered just a little damage, all of which was quickly repaired. FEMA review of the damages and repairs is pending.

The stream gauge initiative was a success with the gauge on East Brook being re-activated and a new gauge being installed on West Brook. Both were officially on line in January.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of Supervisor Gregory. Charlie’s enthusiasm to serve was infectious. He was a pleasure to work with, he will be missed.

Code Enforcement Officer Dutcher reported that he filed the 2018 State Report today.

He supplied the Board with the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Evaluation Report and gave a recap of this report. He estimated the plan will be updated in two years, as many projects have been completed in original plan.

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.  
Town of Walton Dog Control Officer  
129 North Street  
Walton, New York 13856  
December 2018

Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints Received	4
Dogs Seized	
Returned to Owner	0

Humane Society	0
Dangerous Dog Cases	0
Tickets Issued	0
Total Redemption Fees	0
Vehicle Mileage	255

ASSESSOR REPORT:

**Town of Walton**  
**Monthly Assessor's Report**  
**December 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.
- Continued work with the Code Enforcement Officer posting valuation updates for properties that are in significant disrepair and those having pending code issues that will impact 2019 roll assessments.
- Reviewed the preparation of annual Exemption Renewal Documents with the Delhi ORPTS Staff and signed off on their mailing.
- Began the annual exemption renewal process for STAR Enhanced, Agriculture Assessment, and Forestry 480a exemptions. Mailed out numerous second notices for incomplete document submissions for the new STAR Enhanced IVP Income Verification Program.
- Completed field inspections on parcels at the request of the property owners who questioned the accuracy of their assessment data or valuation. Several commercial rental parcels and residential parcels were inspected and current data gathered for assessment updates.
- Continue to work on catching up the backlog of data entry work resulting from the Delaware County RPS Data System outage.

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

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**JANUARY 14, 2019**

**The Storm Water Grant:** C&S is working on the final report and recommendations. Emma thought she should have it completed by the end of the month. I reviewed part of their draft and gave them some input.

**Fleet Status:** We are down at least 3 plow trucks at this time. I guess I would classify that as normal.

**Federal Surplus:** Have request in for a pickup w/ snowplow and a loader. Both units have Federal Agencies requesting them also and our chances are very slim. With the Government shut down, nothing is being signed for at this time.

**Backhoe:** Took delivery of the 2019 Cat 420F2 backhoe at the end of December. If you want to surplus the 2002 Case 580M backhoe that would be ok with me. The 2002 needs a front wheel bearing so it would not be entered into the auction right away.

**FEMA DR-4397 Update:** Have started the process of working with FEMA to exchange documentation of damages and reimbursement. Have been in a conference call to start the process. This part has in the past been a face to face meeting. I think the reason is FEMA is stretched thin in this area with the many other disaster declarations across the country.

**Year in Review:** I placed my annual Year in Review packet in each mailbox. If you have any questions, let me know and I will try to explain.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

Reported that I am 20% collected. I informed the Board that I had to return a partial payment today as the County did not grant me permission to accept partial payments this year. Supervisor Cetta state we will be informing the County of our intentions for next year.

Reported that we received the annual Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Colchester for shared plowing on Trout Brook Road and Wilson Hollow Road.

**RESOLUITON #29**

**INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting Supervisor Cetta permission to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Colchester for shared plowing on Trout Brook Road and Wilson Hollow Road as spelled out in agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta reported that Spectrum and Tribune have come to an agreement.

Supervisor Cetta read the results of the 2018 cash audit performed.

Supervisor Cetta presented the Delaware County Planning Departments Service Contract to the Board. The contract provides assistance to our Planning Department with a cost of \$3,500.00 for 1/1/19-12/31/19

**RESOLUTUION #30                      DELAWARE     COUNTY     PLANNING     SERVICES**  
**CONTRACT**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong granting Supervisor Cetta permission to enter into an agreement for services with the Delaware County Planning Board for the amount of \$3,500.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta read a report provided by the auditor stated the audit rendered assurance that all cash receipts and disbursements are properly recorded by the individuals in these departments and that all bail accounts and reports to the Department of Motor Vehicle are current.

**RESOLUTION #31                      AUDIT PERFORMED OF CASH ACCOUNTS FOR TOWN**  
**CLERK, TAX COLLECTOR AND TOWN JUSTICE**

A motion was made Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern accepting the cash audit of the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Justice Court as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta presented the following resolution in reference of the Keath Davis (Breakey Motor) property. Previously the Town of Walton was to take ownership of Keath Davis property after NYC purchased and reclaimed the property. The Catskill Watershed Corporation will now proceed with the acquisition, demolition and subsequent floodplain restoration then the Town of Walton will take ownership.

**RESOLUTION 32**  
**RESOLUTION TO REQUESTS THE CATSKILL WATERSHED CORPORATION TO PROCEED WITH THE ACQUISITION, DEMOLITION AND SUBSEQUENT FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT AS PER THE WALTON LFA AS PROJECT SPONSOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Walton is an active participant in the Walton Flood Commission; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Town of Walton has adopted the Walton West Branch Local Flood Analysis (LFA); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Walton has agreed to actively pursue mitigation projects that reduce flood impacts to life and property and improve water quality in the New York City Catskill Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the LFA identifies the removal of the commercial structures on 87 & 93 Delaware Street, Walton, Delaware County Tax Map numbers 273.7-6-9 and 273.7-6-8 as necessary to see the greatest flood reduction on Delaware Street and the Village of Walton business district; and

**WHEREAS**, Keath Davis, owner of the property is willing to relocate his business to a new parcel out of the special flood hazard area for purposes of implementing the flood mitigation strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Davis entered into contract for purchase and demolition of his property with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) as per the LFA; and

**WHEREAS**, that purchase has been put on hold by the NYC DEP; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Davis is unable to continue to wait for the NYC DEP program to resume; and

**WHEREAS**, this project is of great importance to the overall mitigation strategies for the Village of Walton business district; and

**WHEREAS**, the CWC has experienced staff and resources that are more conducive to completing this project;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town of Walton requests the Catskill Watershed Corporation proceed with the acquisition, demolition and subsequent floodplain restoration project as per the Walton LFA as Project Sponsor;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town of Walton agrees to take legal title of 87 & 93 Delaware Street, Walton, Delaware County Tax Map numbers 273.7-6-9 and 273.7-6-8 upon completion of all phases of the project, understanding title may be subject deed restrictions and easements, including a conservation easement.

**RESOLUTION #32**

**REQUESTS THE CATSKILL WATERSHED CORPORATION TO PROCEED WITH THE ACQUISITION, DEMOLITION AND SUBSEQUENT FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT AS PER THE WALTON LFA AS PROJECT SPONSOR**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong granting Supervisor Cetta permission to request Catskill Watershed Corporation to proceed with the acquisition, demolition and subsequent floodplain restoration project at the Breakey Motor property as per the Walton LFA. Vote: Armstrong, Govern, Rodriguez-Betancourt, Wood and Supervisor Cetta – Yea, 0 -Nays. Motion Carried.

Reported that Phase II of the Behavioral Health Project is still in the design phase.

Reported that Delaware County is looking to establish a Public Defenders Office and the money currently spent will be applied to this office instead.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt felt that this was only needed because of an increase in crime. Supervisor Cetta stated that everyone has a right to legal representation.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION #33**

**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	#1-17 -	\$ 6,846.28
General OV B	#1-	\$ 3,500.00
General Hwy DA	#1-11	\$28,526.83

COMMITTEE REPORT:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #34**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Entered 6:45 p.m.

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

Out 7:40 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk