

TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 8, 2019

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lillian Browne – The Reporter, Rita Re, Maxine Locherer, Bob Locherer, Pastor Robert Wilcox, Sean Leddy, Mary Kilmer, Makayla Lambrecht, and Steve Dutcher

RESOLUTION #61

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of March 11, 2019 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

FLOOR TIME:

Sean Leddy approached the Board with a draft plan for Solar Energy Law. Mr. Leddy explained that the law is broke down in three tiers. Tier 1 is for Roof-Mounted and Building -Integrated Solar Energy Systems. Tier 2 is for systems up to 25 kw AC of power. Tier 3 is for systems with a capacity above 25 kw AC of power.

Supervisor Cetta questioned if this will affect the assess values on property. Mr. Leddy explained that the Town of Walton entered into an Opt-Out Tax Exemption Pilot Agreement allowing for the Town to negotiate with the company for an In-Lieu of tax agreement.

Mr. Leddy explained that the next step is for the Board to review the proposed law and offer any changes necessary, then schedule a public hearing.

The Board was in agreement to review the proposed law with the Attorney and bring back to the May meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

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

Monthly Summary Report
Month of March 2019

Building Permits Issued	1
Building Inspections Completed	3
Fire Inspections Completed	1
Notices of Violation Issued	1
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	0
Complaints Received	1
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	3

Training – Attended floodproofing and elevation training in Mount Tremper on March 26 and 27.

Reported that the bids for the South Street project have been opened and awarded to Lefever Excavating in the amount of \$1.75 million.

Reported that the culvert has been backfilled across Water Street and that should be opened again soon. Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt once again expressed that he did not feel the culvert is adequate and has concerns it will plug up easily. Supervisor Cetta stated the culvert is purposely for the green space as a storm water drain for the immediate area and not intended for all the water on Delaware Street.

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street
Walton, New York 13856
March 2019
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	2
Dogs Seized	0
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	0
Dangerous Dog Cases	1
Tickets Issued	0
Total Redemption Fees	\$ 10.00

Mileage

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Town of Walton
Monthly Assessor's Report
March 2019

- Attended the monthly meeting of the Delaware County Assessors' Association in Delhi. Met with the Staff at the Delhi Office of Real Property Tax Services regarding Roll issues.
- Completed field inspections for several of the new buildings and property improvements that have been reported by The Town of Walton Code Enforcement Officer. Updated the required data entry in RPS.
- Completed work with the Code Enforcement Officer posting valuation updates for properties that are in significant disrepair and those having pending code issues that will be reflected 2019 roll assessments.
- The annual STAR exemption renewal process was completed with denial notifications prepared and mailed for those failing to submit renewals by the March 1st taxable status date.
- STAR Enhanced Income Verification Program (IVP) documents were included as part of the renewal requirement for 2019. Each form had to be verified for accuracy and faxed to the New York State Department of Tax and Finance.
- The annual exemption renewal documentation process for 2019 Agriculture Assessment and Forestry 480a exemptions was completed.
- Completed several 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.

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

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Reported that he is working on the 100- year culvert evaluation report as requested.

Superintendent Geidel questioned if the summer youth program information has been received yet. He would like to utilize two workers this year if possible. I informed Superintendent Geidel, that I would reach out to Lara Yambor to see when we can expect the information.

Requested permission to once again appoint two summer employees for the purpose of mowing along the side of the Town roads. He estimated 24 hours per week for approximately 13 weeks.

RESOLUTION #62

APPROVAL OF TWO SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve Richard Doig and Jerry Phoenix as seasonal employees for the purpose of mowing. Each employee will be used approximately 24 hours per week for 13 weeks at \$12.00/hour. All in favor, motion carried.

Dr. Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned if inmates could be utilized for this purpose? Supervisor Cetta stated he would have to ask the County Sheriff Department.

Superintendent Geidel made mention of the fact that the Governor has reduced the amount of CHIPS money and informed the Board that Pave NY reimbursement is only good for one more year.

Reported that he is inquiring about a snowblower on Federal Surplus.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

Reported that I am 85% collected and have mailed out the second notices as required by law.

Reported that we received notification of a share increase of \$287.27 per month from Crown Castle, this will provide an additional \$3,000 of revenue annually.

RESOLUTION#63

USE OF FACILITY

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting permission to Ashlei Brown for the purpose of a Pump-Ki-Nanza Vendor Event on September 28, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

I reached out to NYSEG about a 70% funding grant they offer to reduce energy bills by upgrading to energy-efficient lighting. If you will recall, back in 2011 we had done this for the Highway Garage. This time around, they will look at the lower level of the Town Hall as well as the Highway Garage because the lights

placed in the garage were T8 bulbs and not LED. I will let you know what the potential cost will be once I get the report.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Provide Financial Reports to the Board.

Reported that a request was received from Noah Aubin who would like to build a kiosk for his Boy Scout Eagle Project and place the kiosk at Veterans Plaza.

Discussion took place about whether or not the kiosk was needed since there is one within 100 feet of Veterans Plaza, as well as concern of placing too many objects in the green space. Councilwoman Wood spoke in favor of the project and stated it would tie into the proposed bike route and bike racks that the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce would like to purchase.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt and Armstrong suggested having Mr. Aubin submit his design to the Flood Plain Manager for consideration and Mr. Dutcher could bring back to the Board.

Lillian Browne, from the audience, requested permission from the Board for the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce to move forward with the application for funding of bike racks. Discussion took place concerning the proper location and design. Mrs. Browne stated the Chamber would purchase the bike racks and it would be up to the Town as to where they should be placed and the design desired.

RESOLUTION #64

APPROVAL GRANTED TO THE DELAWARE COUNTY CHAMBER

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting permission for the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce to move forward with their application to fund bike racks. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta asked Attorney Walas to provide a recap of the proposed law provided to the Board. Attorney Walas explained the proposed of Local Law #1 of 2019 and that this law is for the purpose of amending the Dangerous Dog Regulations and Protections Law of 2 of 2002. Our current law is not as stringent as the Ag and Markets law and therefore needs to be updated.

RESOLUTION #65

PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to schedule a Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law #1 of 2019 on May 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Cetta questioned if the Highway Committee has reviewed Mr. Moller's request concerning Seward Road? Councilman Armstrong and Superintendent Geidel stated in Mr. Geidel's absents, they have not and would bring it up at the next Highway Committee meeting.

Reported that part of the agreement had been signed therefore Mr. Davis must begin vacating the Breakey Motors property.

COUNTY:

Reported that the Behavioral Health Project is still in the design stage. He reported that he provided clarification to a concerned committee member on the flood elevation and that there was no need for the additional cost to place the mechanical on the second floor.

Reported that the Town of Walton has received permission for Madam Chairman Tina Mole’ for the Town of Walton to accept partial tax payments starting 1/1/2020. Supervisor Cetta and the Board thank me for bringing this forward and for being on the cutting edge of technology.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #66

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood approving the vouchers as presented for payment. All in favor, motion carried.

General Fund A	#56-73 -	\$15,764.40
General OV B	#	\$
General Hwy DA	#37-55	\$38,402.44
General OV Hwy DB	#4-5	\$23,057.79

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk