

TOWN BOARD MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MAY 13, 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: Supt. Walt Geidel

OTHERS PRESENT: Lillian Browne – The Reporter, Martin Way, Sharon Way, Gale Sheridan, Tara Vitti, Kathleen Hayek, Ted Hayek, Dave Cornwell, and Mayor Steve Condon

Supervisor Cetta opened the Public Hearing for anyone wishing to speak in favor or against Local Law 1 of 2019 “To Amend the Dangerous Dog Regulations and Protections Law of 2 of 2002” and “Local Law 2 of 2019 To Amend the Town of Walton’s Zoning Laws to Regulate Solar Energy”.

Resident Kathleen Hayek question what the changes where to the dog law, indicating that she had nothing to compare it to. I informed Mrs. Hayek that there were many changes and she was more than welcome to the Local Law 2 or 2002 if she had asked. Attorney Walas stated that this law was more in line with the NYS Ag and Markets law and would allow for the Town Court to have more authority. Dog Control Officer Martin Way spoke of some of the changes in the law. Councilman Govern explained that it was her responsibility to research the changes.

Planning Board Chairman Gale Sheridan explained the purpose of Local Law 2 of 2019 and Lillian Browne questioned what the fee would be for a permit. It was explained that the permit fee is not addressed in this local law. However, it is addressed in the building permit fee schedule.

Resident Ted Hayek offered information on NYS exemption for solar energy.

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to close the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

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**RESOLUTION #67**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of April 8, 2019 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**FLOOR TIME:**

Tara Vitti of the Walton Chamber of Commerce approached the Board to discuss the bike racks that will be purchased through a grant that the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce has applied for. Ms. Vitti stated she would first seek approval to move forward with the bike racks and would also like to meet with the Facilities Committee to help pick out a design as well as a location for the racks.

**RESOLUTION #68**

**APPROVAL OF DONATED BIKE RACKS**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to accept a donation of two bike racks from the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. It is further agreed that the Town of Walton Highway Department will install the bike racks in a location agreed upon by the Facilities Committee and the Walton Chamber of Commerce will be responsible for the maintenance of the bike racks. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta suggested Ms. Vitti meet with Councilpersons Rodriguez-Betancourt, Wood and the Flood Plain Manager to work out the details.

Kathleen Hayek informed the Board that the Walton Art Walk will now become a one-day event on Saturday with the rain date on Sunday.

Discussion took place over hanging a banner across Delaware Street. Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt stated he would reach out to Wayne Bank.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

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

**Monthly Summary Report**  
Month of April 2019

Building Permits Issued	5
Building Inspections Completed	20
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	0
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	1
CO Searches	2

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.  
*Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton*  
129 North Street Walton,  
New York 13856  
April 2019

Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	6
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	1
Humane Society	0
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	1
Total Redemption Fees	\$ 10.00
Help Requested	1      Sherriff's Office
Mileage	57 Miles

ASSESSOR REPORT:

**Town of Walton**  
**Monthly Assessor's Report**  
**April 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.
- Prepared the required annual Tentative Assessment Roll and Board of Assessment Review Grievance Day Legal Notice and submitted the posting to The Reporter for a May 1<sup>st</sup> publication.
- Provided Grievance/Complaint forms and instructions to several property owners and reviewed the process with them.
- Began preparation for the 2019 Board of Assessment Review Grievance Day appointments.
- Prepared and submitted the Mobile Home Parks STAR Exemption Data Forms for 2019 reporting to the New York State Department of Tax and Finance.
- Work continued on the STAR Enhanced Income Verification Program (IVP) which was included as part of the renewal requirement for 2019. Exceptions in the accuracy of data entry for forms sent to the New York State Department of Tax and Finance for posting are being addressed.
- 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

Supervisor Cetta read a resignation letter from Assessor Fran Zujovic effective July 7, 2019. The Board thanked Mr. Zujovic for his hard work, dedication and organizational skills. "He will be hard to replace" stated Supervisor Cetta.

**RESOLUTION #69**

**ASSESSOR RESIGNATION**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to accept Assessor Francis Zujovic resignation effective July 7, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

In the absence of Superintendent Geidel, Councilman Armstrong read his report.

Reported that the Storm Water Grant: CWC has reviewed the report and returned to me. They would consider funding projects if identified in an LFA.

Reported that heavy rain from April 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> caused some damage. Several sluice pipes overtopped and we had some shoulder damage. Approx. 10 roads effected. No roads were closed and repairs were complete within a few days, Armstrong Road to Loomis and into Northfield. Northfield weather station reported 2.53” and someone in Loomis area had 4.5”.

Reported that the request from a Homeowner on Seward Road that wanted the Town to maintain more of the roadway, that the Highway Committee was in agreement that this was not in the best interest of the Town and have denied the request.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Provided my financial reports to the Board.

I attended the New York State Town Clerk’s Conference last week and have once again been appointed to NYS Regional 3 Director. I over see Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties.

Reported that I am 90% collected and have settled with the Delaware County Treasure returning 311 bills totaling \$424,119.55.

Panko Electric is here to start the installation of the LED lighting at the Town Hall and the Highway garage. The estimated electrical savings for the Town Hall is \$1,981.23/year and the Highway garage’s estimated savings is \$4,283.17/ year.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

**RESOLUTION #70**

**LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2019**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve Local Law 1 of 2019. A law to amend the Dangerous Dog Regulation’s and Protections Law of 2 of 2002. Roll Call Vote: 5 Yea- Armstrong, Govern, Rodriguez-Betancourt, Wood and Supervisor Cetta. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #71**

**LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2019**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve Local Law 2 of 2019. A law to amend the town of Walton’s Zoning Laws to Regulate Solar Energy. Roll Call Vote: 5 Yea- Armstrong, Govern, Rodriguez-Betancourt, Wood and Supervisor Cetta. 0 Nay. Motion carried

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that it was necessary to appoint two members to the Board of Assessment Review since the election of Mayor, Steve Condon can no longer serve on the Board. The Assessor had also recommended adding an additional member so that there would always be a quorum in the event one was not available.

**RESOLUTION #72**

**APPOINT BAR MEMBER**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to appoint Robert Locherer to the Board of Assessment Review from 5/13/19-9/30/21. All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #73**

**APPOINT BAR MEMBER**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to appoint Stephen Wood to the Board of Assessment Review from 5/13/19-9/30/24. All in favor, motion carried.

Informed the Board that it is recommended that the Walton Planning Board become the Lead Agency for a SEQR review on the proposed solar project and include a request for a decommissioning process in the comment section of the form.

**RESOLUTION #74**

**LEAD AGENCY FOR SEQR REVIEW ON PROPOSED SOLAR PROJECT**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve the Walton Planning Board to become the Lead Agency for the SEQR review on the proposed Lodestar Energy solar project and include a request for to include a decommissioning process with a bond as well as a Pilot Agreement for tax purposes in their application. All in favor, motion carried.

Requested permission to provide the Walton Central School with a letter of support for their grant request to flood proof the Townsend Elementary School.

**RESOLUTION #75**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT TO WCS**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong granting approval for Supervisor Cetta to submit a letter of support to the Walton Central School in their efforts to seek funding from the Catskill Watershed Council for flood mitigation dollars to formalize a design and to construct the flood proofing of the Townsend Elementary School building. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that the Memorial Day parade will take place on May 27, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Reported that the Dog Control Officer received a “Satisfactory” inspection report from NYS Ag and Markets.

Reported that Mr. Ron Bates from Chipmunk Hollow Road requested a discussion take place about his drainage concern. Supervisor Cetta stated he would meet with the Highway Superintendent upon his return.

COUNTY:

Reported on a Mobile Child Advocacy Center

COMMITTEE REPORT:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION #76**

**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	#74-93 -	\$10,738.04
General OV B	#5-6	\$ 839.01
General Hwy DA	#56-68	\$7,573.67
General OV Hwy DB	#6-15	\$85,904.40

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #77**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to enter into executive session for the purpose of a disciplinary action of a particular employee and contract negotiations, all in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:25 p.m.

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

Out 9:05 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk