

TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 9, 2019
6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: Stephen Dutcher

OTHERS PRESENT: Kent Terehunian, Pastor Robert Wilkie, Sharon & Martin Way

FLOOR TIME:

Kent Terehunian of the Walton Ministerial requested permission to set a live nativity at Veterans Plaza on December 22, 2019.

RESOLUTION #132 USE OF FACILITIES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to approve the Walton Ministerial on December 21st and December 22nd to display a live nativity at Veterans Plaza. All in favor, motion carried

RESOLUTION #133 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of November 4, 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 November 2019

Building Permits Issued	6
Building Inspections Completed	23
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	5
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	2

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

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

Complaints	6
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	2
Total Redemption Fees	0
Help Requested	0
 Mileage	 68 Miles

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Walton Town Board Report/Assessor December
2019

ONGOING WORK:

- Reviewed and filed real estate listings. There were 89 listed properties in the Town and Village of Walton. That seems about average to me based on the Town size.
- Mailed sales verification letters. Field review of arms-length sales. Made updates and changes to sale property records and had them retransmitted to State.

NEW WORK:

Reviewed Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) easement process for mapping and assessment. Received an easement sale in the mail today, which will be apportioned and placed on the 2020 roll.

Attended a meeting of Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) in Margaretville on Monday, November 18. We each received packets that broke down the County’s towns as to percentage of value attributed to the watershed land. The process for assisting towns that are in litigation over watershed assessments was reviewed.

Began review of forest exemption values. Reviewed Article 5 Title 4-A of Real Property Tax Law:

ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION OF WATERSHED CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS ACQUIRED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION PURPOSES

- Made a **SOLD PROPERTIES** binder for use by people interested in market values. So far there are only a few properties in it, but as each month goes by more and more sales will be added to the binder.
- Exemption renewals for agricultural and senior exemptions were mailed by the County. They are starting to come back in and being processed and filed. The deadline is March 1.

- Generated values illustrating an approximate \$10,000 value difference between flood-plain and non-flood plain properties in the Village.

OLD BUSINESS:

- See Attached: I propose we designate Grievance Day to be the Wednesday following the Fourth Tuesday in May.
- I polled the Board of Assessment Review on Wednesday vs. Friday and there was 1 no preference, 1 preference for Wednesday, and 1 slight preference for Friday. I also prefer Wednesday. And it was mentioned to me that Wednesday would accommodate those wishing to travel on the holiday weekend.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I request payment 2020 New York State Assessor’s Association Dues in the amount of \$110.00. I will submit the invoice to Ronda.
- Richard Doig may be unable to serve on the BAR because of a conflict serving on the Village Board as well. That leaves only three members. The Board may want to appoint one or two more members to the BAR to be sure there will be a quorum present on Grievance Day.
- There has been a new Delaware County Director of Real Property Tax Services appointed. She is Sherri Falcone, from Worcester. She is Assessor in towns in Otsego County, was also Assistant Director of Real Property Tax Services there, and is appointed here for a full-time 6-year term.
- Thank you to Ronda, who drops everything to cheerfully answer questions and find information! She is great. And to Walt for keeping the Town van in running condition. I am enjoying my time very much here in Walton.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Reported that he has secured another vehicle from Federal Surplus. This is a 1994 Chevy 4-wheel drive for \$500.00.

Reported that approximately \$71,000 has been received from FEMA and we are currently waiting for other projects to be approved and NYS moneys as well.

Requested to add Richard DuMond as one additional wingman at a rate of \$12.00/hour.

RESOLUTION #134

HIRE OF WINGMAN

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood approving Richard DuMond as a wingman at a rate of \$12.00 per hour. All in favor, motion carried.

Superintendent Geidel once again brought up the topic on access permits and the enforcement of. Following a lengthy discussion, Councilpersons Armstrong and Wood will review our current laws.

Discussion took place on the need for a Town of Walton credit card. Supervisor Cetta will contact the bank to see what they may be able to offer.

Reported that he had received several complaints about a few roads not being plowed one afternoon. He believes this was due to a mis-communication and has addressed the situation. He provided the Town Attorney a letter for review.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Provided Financial Reports

Reported that the Town's tax levy limit had been audited by the State Comptroller's Office and they reported "no findings".

Reported that I have collected a total of \$1,280 in dog late fees. We still have 31 dogs past due and I explained to the Board that they should consider doing another dog enumeration. The previous enumeration brought in over 200 dogs and currently the late fees would cover the cost of the mailings. The Board was in agreement.

I requested the Board choose a date for the year end vouchers. The Board was in agreement to Monday, December 30, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

I requested the Board choose a date for the Organizational Meeting. The Board was in agreement to Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Reported that the CWC has granted yet another extension to the awarded contractor to remove the Breakey Motors building until mid-January.

Reported that he has received a thank you letter from the Delaware County Historical Association for the annual appropriation.

Reported that the DOT has made contact with him on the property along the Delaware River that would expand the walking trail on Water Street. Supervisor Cetta expressed the Town's continued interest and he was assured they will continue to work on this request.

Thanked everyone that participated in the Christmas Parade.

COUNTY:

Reported that the Board of Supervisors supported a resolution to oppose the Governors new Bail Reform Law.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood reported that she has meet with John Hubner of Hubner Electric about installing a light in the Veterans Plaza pavilion along with additional electric outlets for use around the plaza.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #135

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	#217-263	\$29,420.19
General OV B	#28-30	\$13,052.17
General Hwy DA	#126-137	\$37,894.88
General OV Hwy DB	#46-50	\$240,298.33

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #136

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Entered 7:35 p.m.

Motion by Wood, seconded by Armstrong to close executive session. All in favor, motion carried.

Out 8:53 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk