

TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 10, 2020

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Patty Wood, Supervisor Joseph Cetta, Supt. Of Highway Jeff Offnick, Attorney Carly Walas and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

ABSENT: Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt

OTHERS PRESENT: Walter Geidel, Barb MacDonald- The Reporter

FLOOR TIME:

None Requested

RESOLUTION #92

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of July 13, 2020 and July 31, 2020 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

**Assessor's Report to Walton Town Board
2020**

August

2020-2021 TRAINING

- Real Property Tax Law for the Assessor, Part I and II
- Appraising in a Difficult Market

DATA COLLECTION

- Data collection and assessing have begun for the 2021 year.

MARKET AND SALES ANALYSIS

- Sales verification is complete except for transfers that come in before August 31st.

EXEMPTIONS

- 2020 STAR exemption values:
 - Basic 30,000
 - Enhanced 69,800
- 2021 STAR exemption applications will be published by September.
- The State is encouraging rolling over to the STAR Credit. The STAR Exemption savings is capped, but the STAR Credit may increase by up to 2% each year.
- Renounce your exemption and transfer to the credit or register for new STAR Credit online at www.tax.ny.gov or by calling 518-457-2036.
- New York State passed legislation and will require the removal of STAR exemptions from properties where property tax is not paid.

Respectfully Submitted for August 2020

Penny Haddad, Assessor

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

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

Monthly Summary Report
Month of July 2020

Building Permits Issued	2
Building Inspections Completed	6
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	0
Complaints Received	2
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	18

Spent second half of the month focused on preparing for CRS Cycle Verification scheduled for August 6th.

Completed a very high number of CO Searches this month. Real Estate is extremely active right now.

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street Walton,
New York 13856
July 2020
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	6
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	0
Total Redemption Fees	0
Help Requested	2
Mileage	42 Miles

Supervisor Cetta provided additional information to the Dog Control Officer's report - Supervisor Cetta stated that the Annual Shelter report came back as "Satisfactory"

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Reported that he spoke with Patrick from Northern Crushing again to try and figure out a schedule. Patrick stated he would get back to him but has not done so.

The Board questioned what their options would be with Attorney Walas should the current low bidder not carry out the awarded bid. It was the consensus of the Board to have Highway Superintendent reach out to the contractor once again.

Reported that he would like to replace the 2016 Ram 5500, the 2006 Kuhn mower next year and would like to start looking for a suitable replacement bucket truck. Supervisor Cetta suggested replacing the two vehicles in the parking lot with one vehicle that can be used between the Assessor, Code Enforcement and Dog Control Officer. Councilman Armstrong stated he was currently looking into a Ford Escape.

Reported that the crew has been continuing shoulder and ditch work along with some mowing, stating currently both mowers are up and running.

Reported that everyone seems healthy so far.

FEMA COORDINATOR:

Walter Geidel provided the Board with an update on the outstanding FEMA reimbursements. Mr. Geidel stated there are currently 3 projects that have not been obligated yet. These 3 projects are Woodlawn, Beers Brook, Baxter & Wakeman Brook Road.

Mr. Geidel stated he had inquired about the Administrative reimbursement, but since they have changed the way this is done, he is not sure if this will get obligated or not.

I informed the Board that we recently received a FEMA payment in the amount of \$18,806.34.

TOWN CLERK REPORT:

Provided the Financial Reports

Reported that we continue to take precautions of extra cleaning, contact tracing and continue to wear masks in an effort to do our part in slowing the spread of COVID 19.

Reported that the “Drop Box” is working nicely. It is providing an option for those that do not wish to come in by dropping their renewals or court documents into for processing during business hours.

Reported that we currently have 71 dog licenses past due, some as far back as 6/2019. Councilwoman Wood suggested increasing the \$10.00 late fee to a per monthly late fee and increasing the ticket fine amounts to be compatible with NYS. Attorney Walas will look into the matter.

Reported that I have received the annual Agreement with the Humane Society of Central Delaware County and the Dog Control Officer for the June 2020- June 2021.

RESOLUTION #93

HUMANE SOCIETY AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve the annual agreement for shelter services with the Humane Society of Central Delaware County from June 2020 – June 2021. All in favor, motion carried.

The State Archives have consolidated its local government records retention and disposition schedules and are now issuing a single, comprehensive retention schedule that will replace our current MU-1 Schedule.

RESOLUTION #94

ADOPT RETENTION AND DISPOSITION SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS (LGS-1)

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood approving the adoption of the revised State Archives Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1). All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Reported that the Town of Walton Justice has submitted a letter indication that he does not wish to seek re-election. Discussion took place to reduce the number of town justice from one to two.

Supervisor Cetta provided the Board with a recap of court cases in the Village and Town as a comparison, pointing out the Village of Walton only has one Judge.

Case Activity for the Town and Village of Walton Courts

Walton Town Court

<u>Year</u>	<u>PL</u>	<u>VTL</u>	<u>CIV</u>	<u>Misc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019	32	202	12	66	312
2018	47	275	34	90	446
2017	50	381	21	43	495
2016	65	289	21	49	424

Walton Village Court

<u>Year</u>	<u>PL</u>	<u>VTL</u>	<u>CIV</u>	<u>Misc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019	307	1055	40	18	1420
2018	286	999	41	19	1345
2017	225	1050	44	21	1340
2016	310	1043	41	14	1408

TOWN OF WALTON

RESOLUTION NO. 95 OF 2020

TITLE: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WALTON

TO REDUCE NUMBER OF TOWN JUSTICES FROM TWO TO ONE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Town Law §60-a (2), the Town Board of the Town of Walton (hereinafter "Town") has the authority to reduce the number of Town justices from two to one town justice;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Walton has determined that it would be in the best interest of the Town to reduce the number of town justices from two to one in that there is presently no need for two justices to handle the volume of matters in the Town Court of the Town of Walton;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph 2 of section 60-a of the Town Law of the State of New York as follows:

1. The number of town justices of the Town of Walton shall be reduced from two to one effective January 1, 2022, pursuant to a permissive referendum.
2. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of section 60-a of the Town Law, this Resolution shall not become operative or effective unless and until thirty days have elapsed after its adoption and no petition protesting against this resolution signed and authenticated as required by law has been filed with the Town Clerk of the Town of Walton, or if such petition is so filed, a proposition for approval of this Resolution has been submitted at the next general election or a special election for that purpose pursuant to said section and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the voters voting thereon.

RESOLUTION #95

**REDUCTION OF TOWN JUSTICE EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2022**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood to reduce the number to Town of Walton Justice from two to one to become effective January 1, 2022 subject to a permissive referendum. Vote: Yea Armstrong, Govern, Wood, Supervisor Cetta. Absent – Rodriguez-Betancourt

**Resolution Authorizing the Town Justice to Open and Maintain an Official Bank
Account for Town Court Purposes**

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Walton held on August 10, 2020, the following Resolution was duly adopted:

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes each Town Justice is required to maintain an official bank account in his/her name for the Town of Walton Town Court purposes, including but not limited to bail, fines, surcharges and restitution; and now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Acting Town Justice, Michael Ripa, is authorized to open a checking account at the Wayne Bank, located in the Town of Walton, using the taxpayer identification number of the Town of Walton for official Town Court purposes;

RESOLUTION #96

AUTHORIZING THE TOWN JUSTICE TO OPEN AND MAINTAIN AN OFFICIAL BANK ACCOUNT FOR TOWN COURT PURPOSES

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood approving Town Justice, Michael Ripa to open a checking account at the Wayne Bank. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that he received a letter from NYC requesting a land acquisition for property # 231.-1-3. He will send a letter requesting recreation activities.

Informed the Board that Planning Board Chairman Gale Sheridan would like to step down, along with the Planning Board Secretary. He will be looking for a Planning Board Secretary soon.

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that of all the residents in Delaware County, only 40% have completed their 2020 Census. He encourages everyone to please register.

County:

Reported that concrete will soon be poured at the Behavioral Health Clinic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman questioned why the water was not turned on at Veteran Plaza for the Farmers Market or the Chamber of Commerce events. Supervisor Cetta stated that no one had requested it. Following a discussion, Supervisor Cetta stated he will provide Councilwoman Wood with a key to be able to provide access to the water during scheduled events.

Councilwoman Wood stated she is currently waiting for Trimble Electric to provide a time line as to when the electric will be installed at the pavilion.

Councilwoman Wood requested permission to cut holes in the center of the picnic tables to allow for placement of umbrellas for shade. Discussion took place about placing trees at Veterans Plaza to provide shade during events.

Councilman Armstrong questioned the reason for the porta potty at the Chamber events. He stated, "I understand for an all-day event, but why for a two-hour event?" He did not agree with a porta potty being placed there for two to three weeks at a time. Councilwoman Wood explained that it was saving the Chamber of Commerce money to leave it there until there next event on the 22nd.

Councilwoman questioned if Supervisor Cetta had information on the crosswalk solar light to be placed on Delaware Street? Supervisor Cetta stated that would be a Village matter.

Councilwoman Wood questioned if a letter has been sent requesting businesses to come to the area? Supervisor Cetta stated he had not done so yet.

Supervisor Cetta provided an update on Delhi Telephone connections, stating they are approximately 18 months out for some areas.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #97

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	#144-160	\$5,623.59
General OV B	#9	\$25.40
General Hwy DA	#69-79	\$6,497.74
General Hwy DB	#24-28	\$9,699.53

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk