

TOWN BOARD MEETING  
Public Hearing  
October 4, 2021  
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Way, Rusty Way, Pastor Robert Wilkie, Walter Geidel

Supervisor Cetta called the Public Hearing to order for persons wishing to speak in favor or against the Town of Walton applying for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for housing rehabilitation for single- family, owner- occupied homeowners.

With no comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:03

TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 4, 2021  
6:04 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Way, Rusty Way, Pastor Robert Wilkie, Walter Geidel

FLOOR TIME:

None requested

**RESOLUTION #118**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of September 13, 2021 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton  
Code Enforcement Office  
Stephen L. Dutcher

**Monthly Summary Report**

Month of September 2021

Building Permits Issued

14

Building Inspections Completed	33
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	3

Reported that he helped coordinate a dive along with Bjorn Eilertsen and James Phraner on the Delaware River near the boat launch area for the purpose of cleaning up metal debris. Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questions who covers the insurance if there was an accident or one become injured. CEO Dutcher stated the permit was under the Soil and Water Conservation and assumed it would be under their insurance.

He queried the Board to see if there was interest in holding another tire clean up for Walton residents once again. The Board was in agreement of holding another clean-up day.

**RESOLUTION #119**

**APPROVAL TO HOLD TIRE CLEAN UP DAY**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the rental of two dumpsters for the purpose of collecting used tires from Town of Walton residents. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion took place on a plan to place a covered bridge at the boat launch for the purpose of joining the village and town properties. The bridge would be placed over the overflow drainage ditch allowing for residents to access and or join the future placement of a Riverwalk. Discussion continued with other future ideas of placing a caboose and providing a tourist attraction to bring people to the area.

Councilwoman Wood mentioned having a wood sign donated to Veterans Plaza as well. The Board was in agreement to bring these and other ideas with more detail back to next month's meeting.

**DOG CONTROL REPORT:**

Martin J. Way, Jr.  
 Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton  
 129 North Street Walton,  
 New York 13856  
 September 2021

**Dog Control Activity Summary**

Complaints	3
Dogs Seized	0
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	0
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	0
Total Redemption Fees	0
Help Requested	0

Mileage 7 Miles

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor's Report to Walton Town Board  
October 2021

**ONGOING WORK:**

- collecting data, updating sales, property records and assessments, and monitoring real estate listings

**PROPERTY TAX CREDIT LOOKUP (NY.GOV)**

- Property owners who would like to see the checks they have been issued by the State for property tax relief since 2017 may access the online tool at the following link:

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/credit-lookup.htm>

You need information including past year's income tax forms and your social security number to access the tool.

**REAL ESTATE LISTINGS**

- Real estate listings and sales have slowed down. That is pretty typical for this time of year. There are still increased listings from a few years ago.

**DELAWARE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER**

- Representatives attended the Delaware County Assessor's Association meeting in September and talked to us about the process for creating soil-type worksheets and maps for use in the agriculture assessment program.

**Jessica Moore**

Program Technician

Delaware County Soil and Water

44 West Street, Suite 1

Walton, NY 13856

(607) 865-7161 ext. 228

[jessica-moore@dcswwcd.org](mailto:jessica-moore@dcswwcd.org)

**Jay Czerniak**

Program Technician

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44 West Street, Suite 1

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[jay-czerniak@dcswwcd.org](mailto:jay-czerniak@dcswwcd.org)

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

- A representative from the DEC will attend the October meeting of the Assessor's Association to talk about the 480-a Forest Exemption program. In the 2021 Assessment Roll there are 85 parcels with forest exemptions in Walton.

**SOLAR VALUATION MODEL**

- A second and third version of the State-mandated solar valuation model have been released for a trial period. Assessments on solar projects must be recalculated every year according to changes based on economics made in the model.

**FEMA COORDINATOR:**

Nothing new to report

**SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:**

Reported that they scheduled to seal the new pavement on Beers Brook on Thursday, weather permitting.

Reported that the department has completed the stream projects that were scheduled for this season. He added that 4 sites still need to be completed, but have not been obligated yet.

Informed the Board that the new loader from Milton Cat still is not available; however, they have provided us with a machine to use while we wait for the arrival of the new one.

Reported that he is currently still looking for a mechanic.

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:**

Provided available Financial Reports

**RESOLUTION #120**

**USE OF FACILITY**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood granting Walton Chamber of Commerce use of the Veterans Plaza on October 9<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of a Harvest Fest and permission to waive the fee. All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #121**

**USE OF FACILITY**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting St. John the Baptist Church permission to use Veterans Plaza on October 16, 2021 for the purpose of a prayer rally and permission to waive the fee. All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #122**

**USE OF FACILITY**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern granting Larry Light permission to use Veterans Plaza on September 25, 2022 for the purpose of a Walk for Hunger event. All in favor, motion carried.

I presented the 2022 Tentative Budget to the Board for review. I provided a couple highlights; the budget has increased by 6.40% or \$130,092 and the tax levy has increased by 1.98% or \$25,640. This budget will include 2.50% salary increases along with the creation of a part-time laborer position. The Board would like time to review the tentative budget and hold a budget workshop.

**RESOLUTION #123**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood to approve holding a budget workshop/special meeting on October 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that we have received information from the Public Service Commission to study the availability, reliability, and cost of high-speed internet and broadband services in New York State. This information has also been placed on our website.

Reported that information has been received from the Town of Walton's Health Reimbursement Account informing of a "Outbreak Period". This "Outbreak Period" would delete or replace with a Temporary Tolling of Certain Timeframes effective March 1, 2020 to March 16, 2021.

Reported that the first Quarterly report for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds was due on October 31, 2021 but has since been extended to April 2022.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

**RESOLUTION #124**      Small Cities CDBG Program

Authorizing the filing of an application for single purpose Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021 at a duly called meeting of the Town Board, a quorum being present and voting:

Offered by: Councilwoman Wood and seconded by: Rodriguez-Betancourt

**WHEREAS**, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1977, as amended authorizes making federal grant funds to eligible units of government for the purpose of carrying out programs developed so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which will benefit low- and moderate-income families or prevent or eliminate slums or blights; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Walton has been invited by the NY State Office of Community Renewal to submit an application for funding for an eligible project or activities which meet the community needs of the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Walton deems it to be necessary and in the public interest to apply for a single purpose grant program under the NY State Small Cities Community Development program to pursue certain ongoing community development activities relating to housing rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1977, as amended, and the New York State Office of Community Renewal require the municipality to give certain assurances with respect to the acceptance of community development funds,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town of Walton as follows:

**SECTION I** The filing of an application by the Town of Walton for Small Cities CDBG funds in the amount of \$500,000 and the same be hereby approved.

**SECTION II** The Town Supervisor, as Chief Executive Office, is hereby authorized and directed to:

- a) File said application with the New York State Office of Community Renewal: and
- b) Serve as the authorized representative of the Town of Walton in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

**SECTION III** The Governor of New York, the Secretary of HUD, and all other interested parties be and are hereby assured of full compliance by the Town of Walton with assurances attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**SECTION IV** That upon approval of the Small Cities CDBG funding application, the Town Supervisor be and is hereby authorized and empowered on behalf of the Town of Walton to execute same.

**SECTION V** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

This resolution was put to a vote by roll call and resulted as follows:

Town Supervisor,	Joseph Cetta	voting aye
Town Board Member,	Kevin Armstrong	voting aye
Town Board Member,	Luis Rodriguez-Bentancourt	voting aye
Town Board Member	Leonard Govern	voting aye
Town Board Member	Patricia Wood	voting aye

This resolution was declared to be duly adopted by the members of the Town Board of the Town of Walton, NY.

Informed the Board of a NYC Land Acquisition Project #9617 for 187.30 acres on County Highway 22 with property #231.-1-12. Supervisor Cetta will turn this request over to the Delaware County Planning Department to coordinate a response identifying additional recreation uses.

Reported that the Delaware County Department of Health has announced that the County is 50.8% vaccinated while Walton is 49% vaccinated. Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt commented that it is important for people to know that being vaccinated does not mean you will not get the virus, but you will not get as sick and be hospitalized. He added that if you do get sick, it's important to contact your health provider early to possibly receive the benefits of regeneron.

Discussion took place about allowing for UTV/ATV usage on these parcels that the DEP has purchased through this program. Councilman Armstrong provided information on the successful event that was held by the Trout Creek Fire Department stating that this is the type of activity that the State and local communities could benefit from. Councilman Armstrong stated there should be an incentive for allowing the use of property for trails to bring tourism to our area and DMV should want to allow for the registration of these machines to generate revenue. Supervisor Cetta stated he would contact other areas to obtain details as to how they allow for usage of UTV's on town roads.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilman Govern questioned Supervisor Cetta if he was able to obtain information on the Counties plans for providing EMS services. Supervisor Cetta stated they are planning to provide 2 ambulances and 1 fly car in the Stamford area. The Board was concerned over this as this service would not help the Walton area and should not have to contribute for a service that would not likely be utilized by Walton residents. Discussion took place about the current committee needing to continue looking for a solution to EMS services.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION #125**

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

General Fund A	#166-176-	\$12,860.12
General OV B	#-	\$
General Hwy DA	#87-93-	\$172,264.11
OV HWY DB	#33-38	\$71,517.90

Councilman Govern questioned why the Fire Department is not included in the pilot agreement for the solar project? Supervisor Cetta suggested splitting the towns portion to provide the amount of the lost revenue that would have been received from taxes. Supervisor Cetta will look into this and bring back to the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #126**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rodriguez-Betancourt seconded by Armstrong to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing a matter relating to potential litigation. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:25 p.m.

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

Out 8:05 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk