

TOWN BOARD MEETING  
Board Meeting  
November 8, 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

**ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Barbara MacDonald – Reporter, Lora Barringer, DJ Barringer, Wm. Wright, Jessica Gilmore, Rusty Way, Sharon Way, Walter Geidel.

Supervisor Cetta opened the Public Hearing for persons wishing to speak in favor or against the 2022 proposed budget. Supervisor Cetta informed the public that the proposed 2022 Preliminary Budget is up \$130,092.00 from 2021 and has a 1.98% tax levy increase that is well below the 4.40% allowed cap.

**RESOLUTION #123      CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to close the public hearing at 6:05 P.M. after no public comment was received. All in favor, motion carried.

**FLOOR TIME:**

Jessica Gilmore approached the Board with a request for use of Veterans Plaza for a candle light vigil. On November 12, 2021.

**RESOLUTION #124      USE OF FACILITY**

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood granting Jessica Gilmore permission to use Veterans Plaza on November 12, 2021 for the purpose of a candle light vigil. The Board was in agreement to waive the \$50.00 deposit. All in favor, motion carried.

Lora Barringer approached the Board to follow up on a letter she submitted concerning a dog tether law as well as how long a dog should be tied outside and weather alerts.

Supervisor Cetta stated it would be hard to enact new laws that we do not have the means to enforce. He recommended turning the request and information over to the committee and Dog Control Officer for review and recommendations.

**RESOLUTION #125      APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of October 8, 2021 and October 18, 2021 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor’s Report to Walton Town Board November 2021

ONGOING WORK: · collecting data, updating sales, property records and assessments, and monitoring real estate listings

SENIOR TAX EXEMPTION: There is the opportunity each year for taxing entities make changes regarding property tax exemptions. Please see accompanying information regarding the Senior Exemption.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: · Representatives from the DEC will attend the November (rescheduled from October) meeting of the Assessor’s Association to talk about the 480-a Forest Exemption program. Currently there are 85 parcels with forest exemptions in Walton.

SOLAR VALUATION MODEL · A 2022 final version of the State-mandated solar valuation model is finished. Assessments on solar projects must be recalculated every year according to changes in the model. The State has provided a form letter for use in requesting information from Solar developers for use in the valuation model.

Respectfully Submitted November 2021 Penny Haddad, Assessor

Assessor Haddad explained to the Board that they had the option of changing the current income guidelines for the Senior Exemption levels or leaving them as they are.

The Assessor provided 4 scenarios containing a range of income levels for the Boards consideration. After a discussion, the Board requested the assessor to provide additional information on scenario number 2 that includes an income level between \$15,000-22,500. Assessor Haddad will bring this information back to the Board at a later date.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton  
Code Enforcement Office  
Stephen L. Dutcher

**Monthly Summary Report**  
Month of October 2021

Building Permits Issued	6
Building Inspections Completed	32
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	8
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	6

Code Enforcement Officer Dutcher explained to the Board that he has finally received, through a FOIL request, a list of short-term rental properties within the Town of Walton. He will now review and address these properties as needed. He recommends that we follow up at the Zoning Board level to address this in our zoning regulations properly.

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

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

Complaints	5
Dogs Seized	2
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	2
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	8
Total Redemption Fees	0
Help Requested	0
Mileage	109 Miles

Dog Control Officer Way stated he currently has 8 tickets in the courts that have not been addressed due to failure to appear. He stated that some dogs are over 18 months past due and may not be currently vaccinated. After discussion, it was not clear as to why warrants have not been issued to the past due dog owners, but the Dog Control Officer has done everything that he could do at his level. Supervisor Cetta thanked him for his efforts.

FEMA COORDINATOR:

Reported the Beers Brook Project has been obligated and we should see payment soon. We still have two more PW’s that need to be obligated.

FEMA Coordinator reviewed a spreadsheet he provided to the Board of a breakdown of all projects from the 4397 Project.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Reported that the crew has been preparing the fleet for winter operations.

Reported that the reimbursement paperwork has been submitted for the CHIPS.

Reported that he is still working on hiring a mechanic.

Reported that he is currently seeking bids for a new dog control/code vehicle. The bids will be due on November 17, 2021.

**RESOLUTION#126**

**ACCEPT AUCTION BID AMOUNTS**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood to accept the bids received for the F150 Truck in the amount of \$750.00 and \$700.00 for the GMC Truck. All in favor, motion carried.

Requested permission to hire wing operator persons for the upcoming winter season. He is requesting the following individuals on an as needed basis, stating he may not need to utilize all of them, depending on the need and winter ahead.

Richard Doig  
Stephen Condon  
Steve Dutcher  
Kylee Wiggans

**RESOLUTION #127**

**HIRE OF SEASONAL EMPLOYEES**

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ approving the hiring of seasonal employees Richard Doig, Stephen Condon, Steve Dutcher and Kylee Wiggans on an as needed basis for the upcoming winter plowing season at a rate of \$14.00/hour.

**RESOLUTION #128**

**SURPLUS 2004 FORD VAN**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to surplus the 2004 Ford van that is no longer in use. All in favor, motion carried.

Provided the Inventory of Highway Machinery to the Town Clerk as required by Highway Law, Section 142(3).

**TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:**

Provided Financial Reports

Reported we have received the updated General Codes for the two local laws. These will be placed in the existing books and will be updated on line as well at [www.ecodes360.com](http://www.ecodes360.com)

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:**

Supervisor Cetta thanked the community for the overwhelming support with is re-election. “I’m humbled” He also thanked the Board for their support and providing the best governance.

**RESOLUTION #129**

**ADOPT 2022 BUDGET**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve and adopt the 2022 Budget. This budget will bring a 1.98% tax levy increase resulting in \$1,317,204.00 up from \$1,291,564.00 from 2021. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that Delaware County is 52.4% vaccinated, while Walton is 51.6%. He recommends everyone to get vaccinated and protect themselves. He stated, “I oppose mandates, but I do recommend contacting your health care provider and do what is best for you”.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt reported that regeneron is doing well and recommends those feeling ill to contact their health care provider as soon as possible for the best results. He also recommends having your antibody levels tested prior to obtaining your booster shot to see if there is a need.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

The ARPA Committee met this evening and have tossed around some ideas and will meet again on December 8, 2021.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

**RESOLUTION #130**

**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	# 176-224	\$23,307.68
General OV B	#10-18	\$952.32
General Hwy DA	#94-101	\$18,986.66
OV HWY DB	#39-44	\$80,151.95

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #131**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:35 p.m.

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

Out 8:15 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk