

TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 13, 2022

6:00 P.M.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon and Rusty Way, Christian Vitek, Stacey Green, Bill Seneschal, Becky and Taylor Townsend, Duane Martin – The Reporter, Bill Taylor, Kim and Bill Gregory, Many Carlson, Eric Ball, Jon Henderson, Loraine Davila, Ron Richards, Kathleen Hayek, Lewis Jones

FLOOR TIME:

Stacey Green from the Delaware County Public Health Department approached the Board and presented on the increase in lead cases in Delaware County. Ms. Green explained that the Town of Walton currently has 5 active cases.

Ms. Green contributes the increase cases with people being home during the pandemic and having time to complete renovation projects. Lead sources stem from homes built/painted prior to 1978. Lead is most harmful to small children, babies and to pregnant women.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned if there was a connection between rental homes and the active cases? Ms. Green stated that there is a connection. Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt stated, it was a shame of the awareness that we have and to let rental properties to continue without having lead mitigation.

Ms. Green left pamphlets for the public and recommended having your children, even older children tested for lead.

Christian Vitek approached the Board and presented and suggested the Board adopt a Proclamation declaring June 2022 as Pride Month in the Town of Walton. Mr. Vitek went on to provide his education experience and stated he is a proud gay man and wants to insure everyone is included in the community. Mr. Vitek felt that every single person has a place in our community and they look to leaders.

Councilwoman Wood thanked Mr. Vitek for bringing this forward, but had wished he had done this in May.

Supervisor Cetta agreed and stated, it was his opinion to forward this to council for review and bring it back to next month's meeting. He was concerned this would set a precedence.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned why the word "queer" was used in the proposed proclamation, feeling it had a negative reaction. Mr. Vitek stated that he recognizes it has a malice, but the LGBTQ+ community had reclaimed the word "queer" and stated, "This is why progress is so beautiful".

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt stated he did not feel anyone here is a homophobic as such and that Walton is very accepting to everyone. Explaining he is Puerto Rican and married to a black woman and has a gay child and no one in Walton has ever treated them differently.

Trustee Eric Ball approached the Board, stating the proclamation is not accepting fault, it was an opportunity for people to be rectified. Councilwoman Wood questioned Trustee Ball if the Village had sent the proposed proclamation to their attorney first? Trustee Ball stated they had

- Delaware County Real Property Tax Services
<http://www.co.delaware.ny.us/departments/tax/tax.htm>

- **2022 Homeowner Property Tax Rebate checks**

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

Some checks have already been mailed. There is no need to apply, this is an automatic rebate.

Town of Walton

School district name	Tax Class	2022 Enhanced STAR recipients	2022 Basic STAR recipients			
			2020 income: \$0 to \$75,000	2020 income: \$75,000.01 to \$150,000	2020 income: \$150,000.01 to \$200,000	2020 income: \$200,000.01 to \$250,000
Downsville		\$396.66	\$448.25	\$316.25	\$181.50	Not eligible
Franklin		\$553.74	\$682.97	\$481.85	\$276.54	Not eligible
Sidney		\$675.84	\$724.34	\$511.04	\$293.29	Not eligible
Walton		\$515.46	\$585.17	\$412.85	\$236.94	Not eligible

- **Real Property Tax legislation** passed Assembly and Senate and is awaiting the Governor’s signature:

BILL NUMBER: S4471A

SPONSOR: MANNION

An act to amend the general municipal law and the public authorities law, in relation to certain notifications regarding agreements requiring payments in lieu of taxes

BILL NUMBER: S3256

SPONSOR: COMRIE

An act to amend the general municipal law and the public authorities law, in relation to requiring notice and confirmation of such notice by affected local taxing jurisdictions and school districts prior to approval of projects by industrial development agencies

BILL NUMBER: S8942

SPONSOR: HARCKHAM

An act to amend chapter 317 of the laws of 2020 relating to establishing the real property tax exemption task force, and providing for its powers and duties, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

BILL NUMBER: S3085A

SPONSOR: STEWART-COUSINS

An act to amend the real property tax law, in relation to increasing the amount of income property owners may earn for the purpose of eligibility for the property tax exemption for persons sixty-five years of age or over and for persons with disabilities and limited income

BILL NUMBER: S8570

SPONSOR: GOUNARDES

An act to amend the real property tax law, in relation to required notice of tax exemptions for senior citizens

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

This bill would require municipalities where real property tax exemptions may exist to notify eligible senior citizens of the tax exemptions they may be eligible to receive.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Section 1 amends the Real Property Tax Law, Section 467, Subdivision 4 to require a second copy of the exemption, notice to be sent thirty days before the filing deadline. Section 2 sets the effective date.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Jonathan R Henderson

Monthly Summary Report
Month of April 2022

Building Permits Issued	4
Building Inspections Completed	7
Fire Inspections Completed	1
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	0
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	4

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street
Walton, New York 13856
May 2022
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	7
Dogs Seized	2
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	2

Dangerous Dog Cases	0
Assistance	1
Tickets Issued	12
Total Redemption Fees	0

Mileage 127 Miles

Councilman Govern questioned if DCO Way has assisted the Town of Franklin. DCO Way stated he had because they can never get a hold of her.

FEMA COORDINATOR:

TOWN OF WALTON
FEMA COORDINATOR REPORT
JUNE 13, 2022

Project# 151549, PW#00462, “Management Costs”, had some more movement. The Project moved from “Pending FEMA Final Review” to “Recipient Review” to “Applicant Review” to “Pending DIU EMMIE Final Record Upload”, all of which are signed off on, and is now listed as “Applicant Signed Project” and the “Project is ready for Award”.

Project # 83449, PW #00078, Integral Road Support Washout on Houck Mt. & Wakeman Brook, has moved from “Pending Final FEMA Review” to “Pending Recipient Final Review”.

Project #83441, PW#00265, Woodlawn Road Integral Support Failure has not moved and is still pending FEMA Final Review.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

Reported that they have completed the ditch and shoulder work for the roads that we plan to seal this season.

Reported that he hopes to make the grader patch in the next week or so, weather permitting.

Reported that the seasonal help has begun mowing the roadsides.

Reported that an employee will be retiring and will need to advertise for that position or a combination position of MEO/mechanic. The Town Clerk read the resignation letter from James Groat.

RESOLUTION #73

MEO RESIGNATION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to accept the resignation of employee James Groat effective July 29,2022. All in favor, motion carried.

Superintendent Offnick informed that Board that he was told at last week’s Highway School that several towns do not have mechanics and subcontract that service out. He spoke to one town that due to retirements, will not have a highway department left. Mr. Groat has 24 years of service with the Town and many of our other employees have just as long.

Councilman Armstrong stated that with the hiring of a laborer, he recommends bringing our long- time seasonal employee up to the same hourly rate while doing the same duties.

RESOLUTION #74

INCREASE SEASONAL LABORER SALARY

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to increase Richard Doig hourly salary to match that of the current Union Labor employee of \$18.57/hour while performing the same duties. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Walton hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Name	SOCIAL	NYSLRS ID	TITLE	CURRENT TERM	STANDARD WORK DAY	RECORD OF ACTIVITIES
Elected Officials						
Jeffrey Offnick			Highway Superintendent	1/1/2022-12/31/2023	8	23.40
Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt			Council Member	1/1/2022-12/31/2025	6	1
Appointed Officials						
Jonathan Henderson			Code Officer	1/1/2022-12/31/2022	6	
Kristin Beers			Court Clerk	1/1/2022-12/31/2022	6	
Carly R. Walas			Attorney	1/1/2022-12/31/2023	6	1

On this 13 day of June, 2022 Date enacted: June 13, 2022
(Signature of clerk)

I, Ronda Williams, clerk of the governing board of the Town of Walton, of the State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board, at a legally convened meeting held on the 13 day of June, 2022 on file as part of the minutes of
I further certify that the full board, consists of 5 members, and that 5 of such members were present at such meeting and that 5 of such members voted in favor of the above resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the

(Name of Employer)

RESOLUTION #75

STANDARD WORK DAY REPORTING RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the 2022 Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #76

USE OF FACILITY

A motion was made by Councilman Govern seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting the Cornell Cooperative Extension use of the Veterans Plaza on every Friday starting July-September for the purpose of a Farmers Market All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood granting Laura Green use of the Veterans Plaza on July 16, 2022 for an outreach/music All in favor, motion carried.

I reported to the Board that the dog enumeration so far has brought in 91 new dog licenses. The additional \$5.00 enumeration fee started on June 1, 2022 and will run through August 31, 2022.

Provided financial reports.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta explained the occurrence with dedicating the bridge in honor of Lieutenant Stephen H. Doane. He informed the Board that the State sign may not be done in time for the July 22, 2022 ceremony, therefore, the dedication of the memorial plaque and sign will be observed at Veterans Plaza.

Supervisor Cetta presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #77

TO DEDICATE A MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT STEPHEN H. DOANE TO BE PLACE AT VETERANS' PLAZA

WHEREAS, Stephen H. Doane was born 13 October 1947 and a resident of Walton, New York and a graduate of Walton Central School;

WHEREAS, In March of 1969, while serving in the Republic of Vietnam as a platoon leader, his company engaged in a tactical operation, abruptly contacted an enemy force concealed in protected bunkers and trenches. Three of his leading soldiers were pinned down by enemy crossfire and one was seriously wounded. After efforts of one platoon to rescue these men had failed, it became obvious that only a small group could successfully move close enough to destroy the enemy position and rescue the trapped soldiers. Lieutenant Doane although fully aware of the danger of such an action, crawled to the nearest enemy bunker and silenced it. He was wounded but continued to advance to a second enemy bunker. As he prepared to throw a grenade, he was again wounded. Undaunted, he deliberately pulled the pin on the grenade and lunged with it into the enemy bunker, destroying this final obstacle. Lieutenant Doane's supreme act enabled his company to rescue the trapped men without further casualties. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by this officer were an inspiration to his men and are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Stephen H. Doane from Walton, New York was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Lieutenant Doane is the only Medal of Honor recipient from Delaware County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Walton will place a memorial plaque in his honor at Veterans Plaza on July 22, 2022. By doing so, would be a lasting tribute to his memory and a permanent token of his service to the Country he loved;

Upon motion by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt

Roll Call:

Councilman Armstrong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Councilman Govern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Councilman Rodrigues-Betancourt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Councilwoman Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Supervisor Cetta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay

Reported that he received a letter from the Walton Central School informing the Town that they have rescinded a previously adopted May 1, 2018 resolution, which approved a “multi-jurisdictional cooperation agreement” which authorized the Town of Walton to enter Host Community Agreements as lead agency for solar arrays put into place within the Town of Walton’s limits for all PILOT agreements entered on or after June 7, 2022.

Reported that Town Clerk Ronda Williams applied for a Tourism Grant through Economic Development for the purpose of celebrating our 225th Anniversary. The amount of the grant awarded is \$1,500.00. He thanked the Tourism committee for considering the application and taking it to vote at their next scheduled meeting.

Presented the annual agreement between the Village and Town of Walton for recreational services at Austin Lincoln Park to the residents of the Village and Town without charge.

RESOLUTION #78

ANNUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE AND TOWN OF WALTON FOR RECREATIONAL SERVICES FOR CONTRACT YEAR 2022-2023

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern authorizing Supervisor Cetta to enter into an agreement with the Village of Walton for recreational services at Austin Lincoln Park. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion took place about the newly placed veterans banners that line Delaware Street. The Board thank the Woman’s Auxiliary and Kevin Armstrong and Kevin O’Brien for the help in placing them.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood reported that she purchased two trees for Veterans Plaza that she is seeking reimbursement for.

I reported that the 225th Anniversary Committee held another meeting on June 9th. We are wrapping up the final plans and will be advertising soon for the day’s events. We look forward to working with the Antique Tractor Association, 4-H groups as well as the Walton Community Band.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #79

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	#75-94	\$19,840.25
General OV B	#7-9	\$32,820.01
General Hwy DA	#53-59	\$ 5,330.90
OV HWY DB	#11-15	\$12,248.67

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #80

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood to enter into executive session for the purpose of a particular personnel. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:20 p.m.

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

Out 8:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk