

TOWN BOARD MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
November 14, 2022  
6:00 P.M.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Father Bill Wright, Mayor Ed Snow, Trustee Eric Ball, Rusty and Sharon Way, Elizabeth DeFalco – The Reporter

Supervisor Cetta opened the public hearing for anyone wishing to speak in favor or against tax exemption for person 65 years of age or over or the 2023 Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Cetta turned the floor over to Assessor Penny Haddad. Ms. Haddad gave a brief recap of what the exemption is and the number of potential seniors that would benefit from the 20% increase in exemption level. She stated tax payers would see an increase of approximately \$1.56/100,000 of assessed value within the town and \$1.00/100,000 of assessed value within the village.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned the poverty levels and how to verify if someone is living with a senior, while Councilwoman Wood questioned the qualifications and if the current resolution should include siblings.

A question was asked about the proposed County law to include domestic partners. Assessor Haddad and Attorney Walas stated there are no provisions at the State level at this time.

After consultation with Attorney Walas, the resolution was revised to reflect the authority would be granted by Sec.467 of Real Property Tax Law.

Supervisor Cetta stated the Town Clerk's collects partial tax payments in a continued effort to help our seniors.

There were no comments or questions on the proposed 2023 Preliminary Budget. Supervisor

**RESOLUTION #116**

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to close the public hearings at 6:35 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

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FLOOR TIME:

None requested

**RESOLUTION #117**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 17, 2022 and November 7, 2022 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Assessor report was part of the Public Hearing

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Town of Walton  
Code Enforcement Office  
Jonathan R Henderson

**Monthly Summary Report**  
Month of October 2022

Building Permits Issued	3
Building Inspections Completed	32
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	7
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	1

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

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

Complaints	10
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	12
Total Redemption Fees	0
Assistance	0
Mileage	60 Miles

FEMA COORDINATOR:

TOWN OF WALTON  
FEMA COORDINATOR REPORT  
November 14, 2022

Since the last report: I submitted a quarterly progress report for Woodlawn Rd Project. I do not understand why since the project was 100% complete in 2019. The only logical reason I can come up with is Homeland Security has not told FEMA that it is completed. HS requested copies of cancelled checks for contractor work on that project also. I am hoping that will be the last piece of the puzzle for that project.

The Pines Brook. Project has been thru all of the reviews and was officially “closed out” by FEMA. That make 10 of the projects “closed out” with 3 more to go.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

TOWN OF WALTON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
25091 STATE HIGHWAY 10  
WALTON, NY 13856  
607-865-5120

TO: WALTON TOWN BOARD  
FROM: JEFF OFFNICK, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT  
DATE:  
RE: REPORT

- ✓ The spray foam insulation has been completed in both buildings. We plan to install interior tin next.
- ✓ The crew has been working on ditch and shoulder work.
- ✓ The new Ram 5500 is still on the production line, estimated delivery is January 2023
- ✓ Both of our new employees have started and seem to be doing well.

Superintendent Offnick added that he would like to promote Cody Somers from an MEO to and HEO effective immediately. He stated Cody is doing a very nice job, he has even taken it upon his self to obtain a Class A license.

**RESOLUTION #118      TO MOVE EMPLOYEE FROM MEO TO HEO POSITION**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood authorizing the promotion of Highway Employee Cody Somers from an MEO to and HEO position to become effective immediately. All in favor, motion carried.

Superintendent Offnick provided quotes for the dewatering pumps that will be purchased through Delaware County Soil and Water grant funding. He provides the following quotes:

Pumps Direct \$7,376.93  
Northern Tools \$7,915.83

McAdams \$7,671.00

Although Pumps Direct was the lowest quote, The Board was in agreement to award the purchase to a local business for the betterment of the tax payers in keeping the tax dollars local as well as for convenience in the event repairs or parts are needed.

**RESOLUTION #119**

**PURCHASE DEWATERING PUMPS**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to award the purchase of dewatering pumps to McAdams for \$7,671.00. All in favor, motion carried.

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:**

Financial reports will be forthcoming.

I approached the Board to purchase two camera/lights for the walk bridge and pavilion and to purchase two sets of candy cane holiday lighting for Veterans Plaza. I estimated the total cost to be less than \$500.00.

**RESOLUTION #120**

**PURCHASE OF SECURITY CAMERA/HOLIDAY LIGHTS**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood to purchase security camera/light and holiday lighting for Veterans Plaza not to exceed \$500.00. All in favor, motion carried.

I displayed the 2006 Flood picture notebooks donated by Beatrice Bennett.

I presented a display of all the Highway Superintendents to the Board and current Highway Superintendent Offnick dating back to 1797 to display at the Highway Garage. This was made possible from the extensive research that my Deputy Sharon Way had done and the frame was custom made by our own Dog Control Officer Rusty Way.

**RESOLUTION #121**

**USE OF FACILITY**

A motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt, seconded by Wood to approve the request for the use of Veterans Plaza on September 24, 2023 for the purpose of holding a Walk for Hunger. The Board also approved that the \$50.00 deposit will be carried over from this year's event to cover the 2023 event. All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #122**

**USE OF FACILITY**

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve the request for the use of Veterans Plaza on November 25, 2022 from the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of holding a Holiday Parade. All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #123**

**USE OF FACILITY**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern to approve the request for the use of Veterans Plaza on December 4, 2022 from the Walton Ministerial for the purpose of holding a Live Nativity. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

**RESOLUTION #124                      TAX EXEMPTION FOR PERSON 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER**

WHEREAS, the Town of Walton (hereinafter the “Town”) on December 12, 2016 approved to offer a Real Property Tax Exemption for residents 65 and older in the Town effectively protecting the most vulnerable of this Town’s citizens;

WHEREAS, the Town has since determined that a higher level of exemption would benefit our seniors. Therefore, as a goal to help seniors age in place, the Board wishes to increase the current income levels by 20%

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the authority granted by Sec. 467 of the Real Property Tax Law real property owners within the Town of Walton that meet the eligibility requirements in Real Property Tax Law 467, shall be exempt from Town tax levy according to the following schedule based on income of the owner or combined income of the owners of the property for the tax year immediately preceding the date of application:

Income \$12,700 or less	50% exemption
Income more than \$12,700 but less than \$13,900	45% exemption
Income more than \$13,900 but less than \$15,100	40% exemption
Income more than \$15,100 but less than \$16,300	35% exemption
Income more than \$16,300 but less than \$17,400	30% exemption
Income more than \$17,400 but less than \$18,500	25% exemption
Income more than \$18,500 but less than \$19,600	20% exemption
Income more than \$19,600	NO exemption

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Public Hearing was held on November 14, 2022 for anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the proposed resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all of the provisions of Sec. 467 of the Real Property Tax Law shall apply in the administration and interpretation of this resolution and such exemption shall not be granted unless the applicant qualified thereunder.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt.

	Aye	Nay
Supervisor Cetta	X	_____
Board Member Armstrong	X	_____
Board Member Rodriguez-Betancourt	X	_____
Board Member Govern	X	_____
Board Member Wood	X	_____

After further negotiations held on November 7, 2022, the Board has agreed to increase the salaries by an additional 1% from the Preliminary Budget. This increase will result in additional appropriations of \$14,201.00. With an additional use of fund balance, we are able to retain the tax levy increase of 3.59% (\$47,320.00)

**RESOLUTION #125                      MOVE THE 2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET TO THE 2023 BUDGET**

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to move the 2023 Preliminary Budget to the adopted 2023 Budget. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta thanked me for all the work I put into the budget.

Supervisor Cetta provided a letter from the Northfield Church requesting a sign be placed at the Columbia Society Cemetery. After discussion, the Board was in agreement not to act on the request.

Supervisor Cetta presented the proposed fee schedule from the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board was in agreement to hold a Public Hearing on the matter.

**RESOLUTION #126**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANNING/ZONING FEE SCHEDULE**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Armstrong to hold a Public Hearing on the January 9, 2023 in anticipation of a proposed local law on the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals fee schedule. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that he attended an Innovative Readiness Training briefing that was held at the Walton High School. This program will be held July and will provide medical and veterinarian services to the public at no cost. “This event will be good for our community.”

Informed the Board that he had received a LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) for our flood maps, they now have been updated.

Informed the Board that the Governor has signed the bill to have the bridge named after Lieutenant Stephen H. Doane.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Councilman Govern stated he has been working on the Emergency Disaster Plan and he and Supervisor Cetta will meet to update the officials listing. Supervisor Cetta stated he will look for a digital copy.

Councilwoman Wood thanked everyone that turned out for the Veterans Day Parade and invited the Board to participate in the parade on November 25, 2022.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**RESOLUTION #127**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

General Fund A	#206-254	\$63,183.19
OV General B	#11-20	\$3,257.21
General Hwy DA	#86-94	\$40,355.03
OV HWY DB	#38-42	\$27,041.86

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**RESOLUTION #128**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Entered 7:45 p.m.

Upon a motion from Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt to closed executive session at 8:10 pm.

As a result of executive session, the following resolution was offered.

**RESOLUTION #129**

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WALTON  
AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 317**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern to approved the Agreement between the Town of Walton and Teamsters Local Union 317 that shall be effective January 1, 2023 and shall remain in full force through December 31, 2026. Vote: Aye – Armstrong, Govern, Rodriguez-Bentancourt, Wood and Supervisor Cetta. Nay – 0. Motion carried.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams  
Town Clerk