

TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2023
6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: Luis Rodriguez-Betancourt

OTHERS PRESENT: Rusty and Sharon Way, Mel Steinbrecher – The Reporter,
Kathleen Hayek,

FLOOR TIME:

None Requested

RESOLUTION #36 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of January 3, 2023 and January, 9, 2023 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Jonathan R. Henderson

Monthly Summary Report
Month of December 2022

Building Permits Issued	4
Building Inspections Completed	9
Fire Inspections Completed	0
Notices of Violation Issued	1
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	2
Complaints Received	0
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	2

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street Walton,
New York 13856
January 2023
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	8
Dogs Seized	2
Returned to Owner	1
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	8
Total Redemption Fees	\$10.00
Assistance, Police	1
 Mileage	 72 Miles

ASSESSOR REPORT:

February 2023 Assessor's Report to Walton Town Board

I've had a good response so far to the Public Notice Postcard that was mailed. I've had dozens of phone calls and mailed out several applications.

A common question from people is "Does this I mean I have to renew my Star exemption? ", and the answer is no, this is a different exemption. The Star income limit is over 90,000 dollars and this senior partial income limit is 27,700 dollars... basically all-inclusive income, whereas Star is based on income tax calculations with deductions included, etc.

An equalization rate is typically established by February 17th; however, we haven't been given the information from the State yet as to their findings about the full market values in the Town. I believe no one in the County has received their values yet. That said, I do expect a reduction in the rate this year, probably at least 5% or more, due to continue increased real estate market sales prices.

The format of our senior partial exemption income levels needs to be updated to conform with the parameters of the RPTL 467 law. The best way is to keep the same maximum income level, then adjust the levels below that to coincide with the increments mandated by State law.

DRAFT Amendment

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 the current exemption is inadequate and therefore, wish 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 within the Town of Walton owned by one or more person, as their primary residence, each of who is 65 years of age or over, or real property within the Town of Walton owned by a husband and wife, as their primary residence, one who is 65 years of age or over,

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 \$13,900 or less	50% exemption
Income more than \$13,900 but less than \$14,900	45% exemption
Income more than \$14,900 but less than \$15,900	40% exemption
Income more than \$15,900 but less than \$16,900	35% exemption
Income more than \$16,900 but less than \$17,800	30% exemption
Income more than \$17,800 but less than \$18,700	25% exemption
Income more than \$18,700 but less than \$19,600	20% exemption
Income more than \$19,600	NO exemption

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Public Hearing was held on _____ 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 _____, seconded by _____.

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

FEMA COORDINATOR:

Nothing new to report. Supervisor Cetta commented that we are just waiting on the last payment for Woodlawn Road.

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: 2/13/2023
RE: REPORT

Reported that they have received a shared services agreement from the Town of Deposit.

Reported the Fleet has been holding up with ongoing maintenance to every truck.

Reported they have spread approximately 1563 cu. Yds. of sand/salt mix.

Discuss proposed vehicle replacement policy draft presented.

Town of Walton

Equipment Replacement Policy

1.0 **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the Town Highway Department has the vehicles and equipment to meet the needs and requirements of maintaining the town infrastructure. It is the responsibility of the elected Highway Superintendent to manage the municipalities fleet of vehicles and equipment. The Town Board, through the highway committee and the Highway Superintendent will work together to determine the vehicle and equipment needs of the town; determine when vehicles and equipment should be replaced; develop vehicle and equipment specifications; and acquire and dispose of vehicles and equipment as is in the best interests of the town's citizens. It is expected that the town board will adapt as necessary to meet the changing needs of its residents, and changes in the automotive and related equipment industries.

2.0 **ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED:**

This policy shall apply to all vehicles of the Town of Walton and all Highway Department Equipment.

3.0 **POLICY:**

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE TOWN OF WALTON TO ENFORCE ALL GUIDELINES DICTATED IN THIS POLICY REGARDING MAINTENANCE, REPLACEMENT AND SPECIFICATIONS OF ALL VEHICLES AND HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT.

4.0 **OBJECTIVES:**

The primary objective of the municipality is to control the overall cost of acquisition, operation and maintenance of the vehicles and equipment used to deliver services to our taxpayers and residents. Maintenance of the town's network of highways is one of the most important functions of Walton town government. It is also one of the town's largest expenses. To ensure that tax dollars are expended in the most efficient way the following policy is implemented.

5.0 **ACQUISITION:**

The town will follow the adopted Procurement Policy.

6.0 **REPLACEMENT:**

Replacement of current equipment and acquisition of additional equipment shall be determined based on evaluation of all relevant factors; age, maintenance cost, overall condition, downtime, availability of parts, and availability of funding for replacement. The Town Board's Highway Committee shall meet monthly with the Highway Superintendent to accomplish this goal. The Highway Committee and the Highway Superintendent shall make their recommendations to the full board in a timely manner. It shall be the responsibility of the Town Board to accurately budget so that these goals can be obtained.

RESOLUTION #37

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT POLICY

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to adopted an Equipment Replacement Policy as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye- Armstrong, Govern, Wood and Supervisor Cetta, Nay-None, Absent- Rodriguez-Betancourt. Motion Carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Provided Financial Reports

Reported that the 2022 Annual Financial Report has been filed and is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office.

Reported that we have collected \$3,372,978.80 (78%) thus far which include 43 partial tax payments, this was compared to 75% in 2022 at this time and only 21 partial tax payments.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta asked the Reporter to note the importance of residents marking their property with their 911 numbers. He stated during a recent EMS call, it was difficult to find the house because it was not marked and time can be of the essence in a medical emergency.

Announced that Code Enforcement Officer Jon Henderson has filed the CRS Report and is currently working on his Flood Plain Manager Certification.

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board of a community group that is raising funds to replace the Chamber of Commerce Christmas lights. He asked the Board if they would consider donating to this cause.

Councilwoman Wood stated they have met their current goal and are considering purchasing additional lights at an estimated cost of \$100.00 per pole for the bridge to enhance the ceremony to name the bridge after Stephen H. Doane.

Councilman Govern offered to match a donation equal to that of the Chamber of Commerce’s donation up to \$500.00.

RESOLUTION# 38

MATCHING DONATION TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to make a matching donation up to \$500.00 to the Chamber of Commerce for the purchase of bridge pole decorations. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta read a letter received by Independent Auditor Brian Pickard of the conducted audit of the cash accounts for town offices for the year ending December 31, 2022 for Town Clerk, Tax collector and Justice Court. He thanked me for my hard work and that of the Boards for their thorough review.

RESOLUTION #39

TOWN CLERK/JUSTICE CASH AUDIT

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood to accept the 2022 Cash Account Audit Report submitted by Brian Pickard CPA for town offices of Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Justice Court. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #40

TRANSFER OF ARPA FUNDS TO GENERAL FUND

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood authorizing a prorated transfer from December 2022 of funds from the ARPA Account to the General Fund to cover project expenditures of \$79,579.09. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #41

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TAX EXEMPTION FOR PERSON 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Armstrong to hold a public hearing on March 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of amending Tax Exemption for Person 65 Years of Age or Over. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget Amendments December 2022			
General-A	Account	Increase	Decrease
Town Board, CE	1010.4		116
Justices, CE	1110.4		6,205
Supervisor, Equip	1220.2		160
Supervisor, CE	1220.4		1,315
Attorney, CE	1420.4		17,300
Elections, CE	1450.4		7,460
Central Data, CE	1680.4		175
Dog Control, CE	3510.4		160
Superintendent, Equip	5010.2		25
Superintendent, Equip	5010.4		1,674
Celebrations	7550.4		1,710
Judgment and Claims, CE	1950.4		8,000
Contingency	1990.4		500
Elections, Reimbursement	2215		7,035
State Retirement	9010.8		13,020
Disability	9055.8		1,264

		<u>29,819</u>	<u>29,819</u>
General-B	Account	Increase	Decrease
Safety Inspections, PS	3620.1	400	
Retirement	9010.8		400
		<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
Highway - DA	Account	Increase	Decrease
Machinery, CE	5131.4	1,155	
Snow Removal, PS	5142.1		1,155
		<u>1,155</u>	<u>1,155</u>
Transfer from ARPA Account		Reduce accounts	Transfer
ARPA Funds			79,579
Buildings, CE	1620.4	6,401	
Garage CE	5132.4	71,732	
Celebrations	7550.4	1,447	
		<u>79,579</u>	<u>79,579</u>

RESOLUTION #42

2022 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern approving the 2022 budget amendments as submitted to close out the 2022 Fiscal year. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Cetta addressed Sheffield Estates property currently owned by the IDA. He reminded the Board that the IDA was to report to the Board with a plan for the use of the property. After further communication, the IDA reported that they are working with a specific company that would house a marijuana facility on this parcel. Supervisor Cetta stated he was not in favor of this and asked to meet with Glenn Nealis to discuss further. He stated our main goal is to get this parcel back on the tax roll as quickly as possible.

Councilman Govern stated he watched the IDA’s January meeting and informed the Board of the IDA’s intention to extend the current driveway to St. John Street adding an additional egress. He felt the best thing for this property and the community is to sell to a private developer and reminded the Board of the IDA’s development of the Industrial Park over 40 years ago and pointed out there are still vacant parcels.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilman Govern reported he is still working on the revised Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Armstrong stated the Highway Committee is in early discussions of an additional salt storage building.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #43

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	#13-34	\$62,266.98
General OV B	#2-4	\$807.04
General HWY DA	#3-17	\$39,841.46
OV HWY DB	#2-	\$10,122.65

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk