

TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2023

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:

Rusty and Sharon Way, Mary Carlson, GG Stankiewicz, Toni Leslie Stankiewicz, Kim Van Atta, Gordon Hough, Mara Little, Ty Little, Anthony Bech., Kathleen and Ted Hayek.

FLOOR TIME:

Mara Little of John Lockwood Road, Walton presented a LGBTQ June 2023 Pride Month Proclamation to the Town Board. Mara stated this proclamation is to recognize this community and to tell the homophobic and transphobic that the Town of Walton is committed to stand up with and support the LGBTQ+ community.

Supervisor Cetta thanked Ms. Little for coming and presenting this to the board, but stated the Town did not want to open the door for everyone to come forward and present proclamations and provided an example that if the Proud Boys came and wanted to present a proclamation, where do we draw the line?

Councilwoman Wood stated she felt the Equality Month Proclamation that was adopted last year covered everyone.

Ms. Little stated she loved the equality proclamation but wanted to specifically identify LGBTQ.

Councilman Armstrong stated a proclamation was not going to change people's minds.

Supervisor Cetta stated you are doing more for your cause right now in front of the local paper than the Town Board adopting a proclamation.

Kathleen Hayek a Walton resident addressed the Board stating "You all have stated how brave Mara is, now you need to be brave and pass this proclamation tonight."

RESOLUTION #57

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Govern seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of April 10, 2023 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

No report provided

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Jonathan R. Henderson

Monthly Summary Report
Month of April 2023

Building Permits Issued	6
Building Inspections Completed	14
Fire Inspections Completed	1
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	2
Complaints Received	1
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	5

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

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

Complaints	6
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	9
Total Redemption Fees	\$0.00
Assistance, Police	2

Mileage 52 Miles

Dog Control Officer Way reported that the new catch pole has arrived.

FEMA COORDINATOR:

Reported no update

SUPERINTENDENT OF HWY. REPORT:

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

- ✓ We have picked up the new Ram 5500 that was ordered in October. Currently looking for prices on a flatbed.
- ✓ We have purchased just shy of 765 tons of salt to refill our building.
- ✓ The crew has been cutting brush, sweeping roads, getting the fleet ready for summer operations and working in the gravel bank.
- ✓ Reported that he has received bids on the 2008 Chevy truck in the amount of \$860.00 and one for the 2003 International truck in the amount of \$5,000. He recommends accepting the bid for the 2008 chevy but to reject the \$5,000 bid for the 2003 International.

RESOLUTION #58

ACCEPT BIDS FOR SURPLUS VEHICLES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to accept the bid of \$860.00 for the 2008 surpluses Chevy truck #6 and to reject the \$5,000.00 for the 2003 International truck #20. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Wood questioned if the town received much tree damage due to the recent storm. Superintendent Offnick stated no.

Councilman Armstrong stated the town is currently looking for a new or used broom. They would like to replace the current one as it stirs up so much dust and causes a hazard.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Provided Financial Reports

Reported that I have collected 91% of the total tax levy and I am \$3,919,730.89 collected of the total warrant. I am returning \$400,866.30 (251 tax bills) to the County Treasurer as uncollected taxes at this time.

Reported that I attended several informative classes at the New York State Town Clerk's Association conference. One that I attended was Cannabis Management within your Community presented by the NYS Office of Cannabis Management. I left this session with a sense of uneasiness. It was discussed that cannabis was made legal in NYS as a revenue source, but it did not seem to have the means to manage illegal shops or security of illegal sales or addiction problems at the time of this class. The black market is still prevalent because they do not what to turn money over to the State when they use to keep all of it. One woman stated her

grandson was able to purchase products in Ithaca, New York at an approved NYS Licensed Cannabis Dispensary store at age 17 without being asked for identification. It was also discussed that it is still illegal to deposit funds into the banks as it is still federally illegal. There was a concern of large amounts of cash being housed in these shops. Another concern was that while Juul was required to pull several products because their flavors appeared to market children, when asked why cannabis products can be dispensed as gummies, the presenter stated their gummies are a darker color and packaged differently.

My take away is that although this is a revenue source for NYS, parents need to be very careful with the products being dispensed and how easily they can fall into the wrong hands and to know the signs of overconsumption. NYS Office of Cannabis campaign logo is “Start Low & Go Slow” with the key word Start as encouragement” Unlike the various alcohol campaigns – “Drink responsible” “Don’t Drink and Drive” “Buzz Driving is Drunk Driving”. I worry we don’t locally have the law enforcement to enforce this newly legalized drug.

RESOLUTION #59

USE OF FACILITY

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood granting the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County for the purpose of holding a Farmers’ Market place every Friday starting July 7th – September 29, 2023 from 9:30 – 2:30 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #60

USE OF FACILITY

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt granting the Walton Lion Club use of Veterans Plaza on May 27 & May 28, 2023. for the purpose of holding a flower sale from 9:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

I suggested to the Board that we revisit the Short-Term Rental regulations, as these rentals are causing concerns in other parts of the State with fire codes and occupancy safety. Supervisor Cetta stated he would reach out to the Delaware County Planning Department for help. Councilwomen Wood stated we need to be proactive.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Reported that the DOT has appointed James Rusak as the Regional Director for our area.

Reported that the DEP reported their intent to release water from the Cannonsville Reservoir to 70% of capacity. This will allow for the continued repair for the bypass tunnel.

Reported that the Meredith Dairy Fest has requested money to support the event. Supervisor Cetta questioned whether or not the Town could donate. Councilman Armstrong stated this needs to be taking into consideration at budget time. This request was tabled.

Supervisor Cetta brought back the use of ATVs on town roads, Councilman Armstrong questioned the towns legality to register

the ATV's. Supervisor Cetta stated he would reach back out to the Town of Stamford who has adopted a local law allowing this use for clarification.

Supervisor Cetta reported that Memorial Day will be celebrated on May 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. with the parade line up at the WCS Bus Garage at 9:30 for those that want to participate.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood questioned how the Baptist Church generator project was coming along? Supervisor Cetta stated he will need to go back out to bid as not one bid was received during the last request.

Councilwoman Wood stated she is still trying to work out something for Melissa Steinbacher to record the meetings. Councilman Govern stated he felt the town should go with the Owl Unit and be done with it.

Supervisor Cetta thanked the Village and Town crew that helped pour the slab under the pavilion at Veterans Plaza. He also thanked the Girl Scout Troop that planted the flowers along the sidewalk – they look very nice.

Dog Control Officer Way reported to the Board that he has provided Attorney Walas with a proposed local law to allow for him to take possession of a dog when the owner has been taken into custody by law enforcement. Attorney Walas will bring back to the Board.

Councilman Armstrong at this time asked if two members of the LGBTQ+ group would sit down with two board members to discuss a compromise to the proclamation after the meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #61

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

General Fund A	#63-76	\$9,713.02
General OV B	#-	\$
General HWY DA	#42-47	\$117,214.96
OV HWY DB	#7-10	\$12,072.99

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk