

TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 2, 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 & Sharon Way, Lillian Browne – The Reporter

FLOOR TIME:

None requested.

RESOLUTION #100

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Govern seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt approving the minutes of September 11, 2023 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

Supervisor Cetta informed the Board that the RFP has been completed and is ready for advertisement.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned why did the assessor not keep the assessment at 100%? Supervisor Cetta explained that there were a number of factors that contributed to our rate dropping from 100% to 77%. He mentioned one being that our assessor only works 20 hours a week and this type of work cannot be done in that time frame.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt and Councilman Armstrong were concerned the cost of a townwide reevaluation will not produce a great enough impact to the assessed valuation or address the situation of maintaining 100% assessing.

Supervisor Cetta stated that NYS suggests budgeting for a townwide revaluation at least every 4 years and confirmed if the Board does not like what the RFP's come in at that they have the right to reject them.

Discussion took place for an additional option of hiring a part-time assistant to the assessor. Supervisor Cetta stated he would have the Assessor compile information and bring back to the Board.

RESOLUITON #101

ADVERTISE FOR RFP FOR TOWNWIDE RE-EVALUATION

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to advertise for RFPs for the purpose of seeking a company to conduct a townwide reevaluation. Aye: Armstrong, Govern, Wood, Cetta. Nay: Rodriguez-Betancourt. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Garrett Newbauer

Monthly Summary Report
August/September 2023

Building Permits Issued	12
Building Inspections Completed	8
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	2

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

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

Complaints	6
Dogs Seized	0
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	0
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	6
Total Redemption Fees	0
Assistance	2
Mileage	4 Miles

FEMA COORDINATOR:

No report – projects have been closed out.

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: 10/2 /2023
RE: REPORT

- ✓ The crew has been doing ditch and shoulder work, mowing and working on the fleet.
- ✓ We have a couple of trucks that will need repairs from outside sources before our winter operations begin.
- ✓ We also plan to get electric to the storage building while the stone pile is depleted.

Councilman Govern congratulated Superintendent Offnick on a good job with sealing the Town Roads. He stated, he felt Vestal Asphalt has done a better job than what has been done with other companies in the past.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Will provid Financial Reports upon there completion

I presented the preliminary budget to the Board. I explained that the Board will need to set up a budget workshop. Supervisor Cetta suggested October 16th at 6:00 p.m. and should another one be needed it can be scheduled at that time. The Public Hearing will be scheduled for November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION #102

SPECIAL MEETING FOR A BUDGET WORKSHOP

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern to schedule a Special Town Board meeting for October 16, 2023 at 7:00p.m. for the purpose of a budget workshop and any other business that comes before the board. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #103

PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood to approve a Public Hearing on November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of those wishing to speak in favor or against the 2024 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Walton. All in favor, motion carried.

I presented to the Board the following resolution for the purpose of implementing a rental fee of \$25.00 per use for Veteran Plaza and More Park to become effective January 1, 2024.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned who would be responsible if someone were to get hurt on the plaza during a rental. Councilwoman Wood and Town Attorney Walas pointed out the waivers and requirements on the application.

USE OF FACILITIES POLICY

A motion was made by Councilperson Govern, seconded by Wood to adopt the use of facilities policy as amended.

Resolution#104

WHEREAS, the Town of Walton implemented a Use of Facilities Policy as on June 12, 2007 and required a \$50.00 use deposit from any interested parties or organizations for the use of Veteran’s Plaza and More Park; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Walton has seen an increase in the use and maintenance of Veteran’s Plaza and More Park; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Walton wishes to offset the cost of increased maintenance by implementing a rental fee of \$25.00 per use from all interested parties or organizations for Veterans Plaza and More Park; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Walton hereby amends the Use of Facilities Policy and will no longer require a \$50 deposit, but will charge a rental fee of \$25.00 per use from any interested parties or organizations for Veterans Plaza and More Park;

I presented the proposed Local Law #1 of 2023, a Local Law named Impoundment of dogs for Safe Keeping.

**RESOLUTION No. 105
INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW
NO. 1 OF 2023**

ANIMALS: IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS FOR SAFE KEEPING

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Walton, Delaware County, New York, held at 129 North Street, Walton, NY 13856, on the 2nd day of October, 2023, there were:

- Supervisor Joseph Cetta
- Councilman Kevin Armstrong
- Councilman Leonard Govern
- Councilwoman Patricia Wood
- Councilman Luis Rodrigue-Betancourt

Councilperson Armstrong offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that an introductory Local Law entitled

**“LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2023
IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS FOR SAFE KEEPING”**

is hereby introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Walton, Delaware County, New York pursuant to authority under the New York State Constitution, the provisions of § 10 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law, § 10 of the New York State Statute of Local Governments, and the New York State Town Law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law be laid upon the desk of each member of the Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hold a public hearing on said proposed local law at 129 North Street, Walton, NY 13856 at 6:00 pm on November 13, 2023;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the Town of Walton of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto;

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor or his designee is authorized to take any other action required under law in furtherance of this resolution and passage of the proposed local law.

On a motion by Councilperson Armstrong, seconded by Govern, the resolution was adopted on a roll call vote, the results which follow:

Supervisor Joseph Cetta	Aye/ Nay
Councilman Kevin Armstrong	Aye/ Nay
Councilman Leonard Govern	Aye/ Nay
Councilwoman Patricia Wood	Aye/ Nay
Councilman Luis Rodrigue-Betancourt	Aye/ Nay

Adopted this 2nd day of October 2023.

RESOLUTION #106 USE OF FACILITIES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern to approve the request for the Use of Facilities for a Pray the Rosary on October 14, 2023 from noon to 1:00 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt continued to question liability of use of Veterans Plaza. Councilman Govern stated, “we have to use some common sense sometime.”

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

No report

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman presented the following to the Board for approval.

Dedication

We want to celebrate George Ostrowski with a presentation of a marker in Vet's Plaza near the Christmas tree to honor all the years George spent spreading Christmas cheer with his wife Penny.

A whole generation of Walton's children were excited to hear "Merry Christmas Walton!" at the school, churches, library and Christmas parade. He was the only "real" St. Nick they all knew. And they were convinced he was real because of his beard and his commitment to the persona.

Not only did George commit himself to Christmas, but also to our local veteran's by serving at the Vet's Club, again with Penny, and teaching veteran's how to get all their benefits. He also served on the honor guard for parades and funerals.

In memory of George Ostrowski

In recognition of all the Christmas joy he brought to a generation of Walton's children, and his work with our local veterans.

Walton Chamber of Commerce

RESOLUTION #107

DEDICATION PLAQUE

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Rodriguez-Betancourt authorizing the Walton Chamber of Commerce to place a plaque at Veterans Plaza dedicated to George Ostrowski. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Wood questioned Supervisor Cetta on the status of the Host Community Agreement. Supervisor Cetta state he has not discussed the issue and did not feel he would have support. Councilman Armstrong stated that was a costly attorney fee for nothing. Councilman Govern felt our previous predecessor left us with an issue.

Councilwoman Wood questioned what can we do about the IDA selling the property to someone that plans to build a cannabis grow facility? She stated that the location is not ideal and has concerns of the amount of water that will be used. Supervisor Cetta stated he asked Glenn Nealis Director of Economic/Industrial Development to hold an informational meeting to inform the public. Mr. Nealis has not responded to these requests.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt questioned if the Village gave permission to construct a grow facility and why did the IDA not sell to local buyers? Supervisor Cetta stated this is why I wanted Mr. Nealis to come and address these questions to the public.

Councilwoman Wood suggested sending a letter to all residents informing them of what is coming. Councilman Armstrong stated he did not like the idea of the town telling the village how to run their business. Councilman Govern suggested that Supervisor Cetta send a letter to the mayor asking that the Village inform the residents of what is coming. After discussion, it was agreed that Supervisor Cetta would send a letter to the mayor stating the Towns opposition.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #108

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

General Fund A	#157-164	\$5,406.46
General OV B	#15-	\$
General HWY DA	#72-79	\$14,163.55
OV HWY DB	#39-44	\$238,894.04

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #109

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Govern to enter into executive session for a matter relating to a particular employee. All in favor, motion carried.

Entered 7:25 p.m.

Closed executive session at 8:00 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk