

TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 8, 2024

6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Rusty and Sharon Way, Tracy Williams, Ryan Jacques, Michael Jacques, Katherine Bridges, Mr. and Mrs. John Jacques and Gladys Jaques.

FLOOR TIME:

Supervisor Cetta ask Gladys Jaques to approach the Board to be recognized for her retirement after 22 years of service at Deputy Town Clerk.

A plaque was presented to Gladys by myself and Supervisor Cetta.

RESOLUTION #58

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Govern approving the minutes of March 4, 2024 as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

ASSESSOR REPORT:

April 2025

Assessor's Report to Town Board

I am getting properties under construction sketched and assessed for the May 1 tentative roll. Exemptions are also being finished up.

Other work includes making sure sales information is correct and up to date. Sales are still up in value, but at this time of year not as many properties are selling.

I have been working with KLW to provide access to the town property records and schedule the beginning stages of the reassessment.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted

Penny Haddad, Assessor

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Town of Walton
Code Enforcement Office
Garrett Newbauer

Monthly Summary Report
Month of March 2024

Building Permits Issued	4
Building Inspections Completed	21
Fire Inspections Completed	1
Notices of Violation Issued	0
Tickets Issued	0
Certificates Issued	3
Complaints Received	1
Floodplain Development	
Permits Issued	0
CO Searches	0

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

Martin J. Way, Jr.
Dog Control Officer, Town of Walton
129 North Street Walton,
New York 13856
March 2024
Dog Control Activity Summary

Complaints	13
Dogs Seized	1
Returned to Owner	0
Humane Society	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Tickets Issued	6
Total Redemption Fees	\$0.00
Assistance, Police	1
Mileage	61 Miles

He thanked the Board for passing the Article 7 Law, explaining that it has kept the town from being responsible for the \$4,000 bill incurred at the Delhi Humane Society when the Village took possession of two dogs in the Village of Walton.

Discussion took place over the request for the Dog Control Officer to handle cat issues. He explained that there are no laws in the Town or Village for control of cats.

Supervisor Cetta stated he appreciated Martin's passion for the job.

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: 4/8 /2024
RE: REPORT

Reported they have received a shared service agreement from the Town of Tompkins

Reported that they are cutting, clearing and brushing roadsides.

Reported that he has used ½ of the sand from an average winter. Salt requests need to be in by the end of April. There is a requirement to order at least 1000 yards and must take 70% of the order.

Reported he has received a quote for oil prices and they have gone down.

Councilwoman Wood questioned if the town could clean up the tornado damage on South River Road. It was determined that this damage is on private property and not in the towns right of way.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:

Financial Reports have been provided

Reported that I am 86% collected. Of the taxes collected, 136 payments have been made online totaling \$174,287.16. Second notices have been mailed out. Residents only have until April 30, 2024 to pay at the town level before unpaid taxes are returned to the County, where an additional 5% will be added.

I submitted a grant under Congressman Marc Molinaro for a proposed salt shed in the amount of \$250,000. Hopefully we will receive good news, as Jeff would have the ability to buy in bulk and save money as well as the ability to mix the material before the bad weather.

RESOLUTION #59

USE OF FACILITY

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Armstrong to approve The American Legion Auxiliary use of Veterans Plaza on May 5, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a Walkathon. All in favor, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Reported he was appointing Graydon Dutcher to the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition (UDRTC).

Reported that he will be meeting with a sign company tomorrow to review the towns options on refurbishing the sign located next to the bridge, on Bridge Street.

Reported that he made contact with the DEC and they are not willing to pay for an easement now, but will revisit it later down the road.

Supervisor Cetta stated he will need permission to sign and execute the agreement of the transfer of the former Breakey Motors property from the CWC to the Town of Walton.

RESOLUTION #60

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Wood granting Supervisor Cetta permission to sign the property transfer agreement between the CWC and the Town of Walton for the former Breakey Motor's property. All in favor, motion carried.

Reported that Leo's Lawn Care will start in early spring to establish a flower bed garden at Veterans Plaza.

Reported that a code violation had been issued to a resident on Marvin Hollow Road. The matter is being working on and improving.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilwoman Wood informed the Board that the Facebook page has been set up and everyone has been invited to follow. The page can be found at Walton, NY Town Board.

Councilwoman Wood informed the Board that she has been working with Jessica Vecchione and together have come up with equipment needed to record the board meetings. She requested the Board allow her to make the necessary purchases.

RESOLUTION #61

PURCHASE MEETING RECORDING EQUIPMNET

A motion was made by Councilman Govern, seconded by Armstrong to grant Councilwoman Wood permission to purchase meeting recording equipment not to exceed \$1,500.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Rodriguez-Betancourt brought attention to the current New York State Squatters Rights law. He is concerned that snowbirds can be vulnerable to someone breaking into their home while they are away and claim squatter rights. He stated this can be a nightmare to have them removed and wondered if the Town could establish a taskforce.

Attorney Walas stated that would not be legal. Councilman Armstrong state the property owners need to have some responsibility and set up their own protections. Supervisor Cetta stated the following ways that a homeowner can establish ways to protect themselves from squatters:

Make sure your property is secure

Hire a property manager
Purchase and install security and camera systems
Call law enforcement if you suspect something.

After further discussion it was decided the Board would take steps to educate residents as well as contacting the County Sheriff's Office to place on their Facebook page and writing letters to elected officials to have the laws changed so that squatters have no rights.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

RESOLUTION #62

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	#47-85	\$22,134.26
General OV B	#3-4	\$607.50
General HWY DA	#32-38	\$10,053.55
OV HWY DB	#8-10	\$17,870.94

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION #63

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Entered 7:20 p.m.

Out 7:40 p.m.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk