

The regular meeting of the Walton Village Board was held on Monday, September 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, 21 North Street, Walton.

Present:	Mayor Edward Snow, Sr.	Attorney:	David Merzig, not required to attend
Trustees:	Eric Ball	Clerk:	Jody L. Brown
	Richard Doig		
	Nathan Jamieson		
	Steven Sehen		

Mayor Snow called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rev. Robert Wilke of the Plymouth Church led the invocation.

**PUBLIC
HEARING**

The Village Planning Board completed a site plan review on 20 Griswold St. for a conditional use to run a kayak rental business at this location and recommended sending it to the Village Board for approval. Trustee Jamieson made a motion to open a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding a Conditional Use for 20 Griswold St. for a Kayak/Canoe rental business. Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously.

Frank Myers, 22 Griswold St., strongly opposes this business being run in a residential District. He doesn't like the noise (bump, bump, bump) of the plastic kayaks, he feels that the additional traffic would impede emergency vehicles, he doesn't like that business is being conducted outside, and he is concerned about current code violations.

Trustee Sehen and Mayor Snow asked Mr. Myers to stay on the topic of the Public Hearing, which is the conditional use for the kayak rental business.

Erika Myers, 22 Griswold St., submitted her written opinion to the Board. She also feels that the backyard lighting for the business is pointed directly at their house. Mrs. Myers feels that the rental business doesn't comply with a minor home occupation because the business is conducted outside. She again alleged that there a current code violations.

Trustee Ball read a letter received from Eleanor Anbari, 17 Griswold St., stating she has not experienced any issues with the rental business such as noise or excessive traffic. Ms. Anbari would like to see that storage of the kayaks remain in the backyard. She also would suggest that the use be specific to the kayak rental only and it be discontinued if they should stop the business.

Trustee Doig asked the Backus' about the backyard lighting. Zack Backus stated that the lighting isn't for the rental business just has outside lighting for his back porch and property.

Katie Backus stated that they are feeling harassed by the Myer's. The former Code Enforcement Official didn't follow up on this issue. They have applied for the Conditional Use to be compliant with Village Code.

Barbara MacDonald, The Reporter, asked if the business was there when the Myers' moved here. Mrs. Myers said they purchased the house in January so they didn't know there was a business next door. Katie Backus stated that they have run the business at that location for five years.

Mayor Snow feels that setting date and time of operation, kayaks in the rear of the property, and a small, temporary sign is suitable.

Trustee Sehen asked the Myers' what they were asking for and they replied they didn't want the business next door. They feel if should move to the main street.

Trustee Ball respects the work of the Planning Board and suggests seasonal hours of 8 a.m. to dark, Memorial Day – Labor day, storage in back and a small, seasonal sign.

Trustee Sehen made a motion to close the public hearing. Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously. The Board completed section II of the Short Environmental Assessment Form. Trustee Jamieson made a motion that the Board determined that the Conditional Use at 20 Griswold St. as a negative declaration. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.

Trustee Sehen made a motion to grant the conditional use for the Backus', 20 Griswold St. to run a seasonal kayak/canoe rental business from their property, 20 Griswold St., from Memorial Day to Labor Day stipulating the hours be from 8:00 a.m. to dark and have a small sign posted only during the season and storage of kayaks in the backyard and with the understanding that the conditional use is only for the property while the Backus' own it. Trustee Ball seconded. Trustee Ball, Trustee Jamieson, and Trustee Sehen voting yes, Trustee Doig voted no. Motion carried. Code Enforcement will follow-up with the property owners.

ABSTRACTS: The audit committee reviewed the abstracts and recommended approval as follows:
The General Fund Abstract in the sum of \$160,113.05 was presented to the Board.
The Water Fund Abstract in the sum of \$12,284.79 was presented to the Board.
The Sewer Fund Abstract in the sum of \$139,718.88 was presented to the Board.
The Trust & Agency Abstract in the sum of \$1,738.20 was presented to the Board.
After review, Trustee Doig made a motion to approve the abstracts as submitted. Trustee Jamieson seconded. Carried unanimously.

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS Butch Smith, DPW Superintendent, submitted a report to the Board for August 2021. The well rehabilitation for Curry #4 found oil leaking from the motor and erosion on a pipe. All has been repaired and rehab is complete.

WATER TRAINING Matt Myer to attend on-line training. Trustee Jamieson made a motion to authorize Matt Myer to participate in a 10 hour, on-line water training through Sun Cost Learning System for Rural Water Assoc. to complete continuing education credits for his water license at the cost of \$250.00 from budget line F8310.400. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.

CODE ENFORCEMENT Josh Morgan, Code Enforcement Official, submitted a report to the Board for August 2021. Training going well. Two more weeks of on-line training courses. Certification should be complete by end of October. There are a couple of properties with failure to remedy violations that have court dates.

CEDARWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL Jason Craig, Cedarwood Environmental, submitted a report to the Board for August 2021. There are no purchase requests this month. Kraft spills caused a turbidity violation in August. During a routine generator test resulted in a disconnect failure on one blower and Taggart Electric was called to evaluate the damage. The replacement parts will be \$7,000 and once parts are installed the motor to the blower will be evaluated. A claim was submitted to the insurance company.

DELAWARE ENGINEERING Bill Brown, Delaware Engineering, submitted a report to the Board for August 2021.

THIRD BROOK BRIDGE PROJECT DESIGN An application was submitted to the Catskill Watershed Corp. seeking funding for a design to replacement a culvert on Delaware St. C.W.C has awarded the Village funding for this design but is requiring requests for proposals to solicit companies to do the design. After discussion, Trustee Doig made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Catskill Watershed to provided funding for design costs for a new structure at 3rd Brook and Delaware Street and to authorize Clerk to submit a legal notice in the newspaper to request proposals for professional services related to the 3rd Brook Bridge Project. Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT	Chief D’Addezio submitted a report for August 2021. Trustee Doig mentioned that Officer Seamans has returned to work after being struck by a vehicle while directing traffic on Delaware St.
TRUSTEE REPORTS	<p>Trustee Jamieson – Summer programs are done for the season and pool is closed. The Walton Lions Club held a fund raiser in honor of Candy Russell, Laps for Lifeguards, that raised \$2,370 to assist with the cost of lifeguard certification.</p> <p>Live music will return to the Theater on September 18th, Lauren Jelencovich will perform at 7:30 p.m. Manhattan Shorts will also be performing this fall. Show information can be found on the Theater’s Facebook page.</p> <p>Trustee Ball – The results of the cannabis retail sales survey: 20 undecided, 129 opposed, 210 in favor. The Village is only able to opt-out of the retail sales, not cultivation, possession or use. Eric read data from a couple different research paper that states there is minor effects of legalization. The biggest plus is the potential for revenue from the sales tax, 75% of the local share. Trustee Doig says that cannabis is legal in New York State now and medical marijuana has been legal with a prescription. One problem is there is no test available yet for D.U. I. Mayor Snow has spoken with people in the community and several have prescriptions now and must travel to pick them up. One benefit would be knowing that it wouldn’t be laced with Fentanyl or something else. Trustee Ball made a motion to take no action on opting out of retail cannabis sales. Trustee Jameison seconded. Carried unanimously.</p>
MAYOR’S REPORT	Mayor Snow has received complaints about political signs being removed from residents’ yards. It is a crime to remove a sign from someone’s yard.
USDA BOND REFINANCE	The Village was notified of a refinancing opportunity on our USDA Bond for the 2013 Water Project with the balance of \$2,925,000, maturity date June 1, 2049. The information was submitted to the Board and the Mayor has spoken with Bond Counsel and Fiscal Advisors. The potential savings per year for the Water Fund is substantial. An estimated savings on interest next year is \$8,000 and approximately \$12,000 the following year. Trustee Doig made a motion to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the documents required to start the refinancing process of the USDA Bond for the 2013 Water Project. Trustee Jamieson seconded. Carried unanimously.
KRAFT SPILLS	The Mayor brought up the additional cost the Wastewater Treatment Plant incurs when the Kraft Heinz plant has spills. There have been several over the last couple months with the interruption in electricity. Trustee Ball made a motion to authorize the Mayor to send a letter and invoice to Mark Henderson, manager of the Walton Kraft plant explaining the added costs and an invoice. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.
FIRSTTIME HOMEBUYER W4-87	A request was received from Delaware Opportunities. After review, Trustee Jamieson made a motion to approve W4- 87 in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the Community Development Block Grant Ownership Program Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously.
EXECUTIVE SESSION	<p>Trustee Jamieson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel at 7:53 p.m. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.</p> <p>Trustee Ball made a motion to close Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. Trustee Jamieson seconded. Carried unanimously.</p>
RECREATION DIRECTOR	Trustee Doig made a motion to set the hours for the Recreation Director to 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. seasonally while the swimming pool is in operation. Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously.

ADJOURN Mayor Snow adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT The next regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021
MEETING at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, 21 North Street.

Jody L. Brown, Clerk-Treasurer