

The regular meeting of the Walton Village Board was held on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, 21 North Street, Walton.

Present: Mayor Edward Snow, Sr. Attorney: David Merzig  
Trustees: Eric Ball Clerk: Jody L. Brown  
Stephen Condon  
Eric Northrup  
Beth O'Brien

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

Rev. Larry Light from the New Hope Church led the invocation.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: TAX LEVY LIMIT** Trustee O'Brien made a motion to open a Public Hearing for Local Law 2025-1, Override the Tax Levy Limit. Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously. Mayor Snow explained that this is an annual law for the Village to use as a budget tool to exceed the NYS tax cap, which is only 1.02% this year. Mary Phraner, 40 Union St., asked if the public hearing was advertised. The legal notice was run in *The Reporter* on February 13<sup>th</sup> for both public hearings. Trustee Ball made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously. Trustee Ball made a motion to approve Local Law 2025-1 as submitted. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

**EXCESSIVE NOISE** Trustee Ball made a motion to open a Public Hearing for Local Law 2025-2 entitled Excessive Noise. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously. Mayor Snow read the proposed law. Mary Doig, 7 Cherry St., asked if this would include tractor trailers late at night. Katherine Bridges, 88 Griswold St., likes this. Holley Reynolds, Lactalis, asked if there were business restrictions. Bjorn Eilertsen, 44 Townsend St., how will this be enforced if there are no police and asked if another clause could be added for excessive calling. Mary Phraner, 40 Union St., said that it will be a waste of time and she doesn't feel it is needed. Trustee Northrup doesn't like that only one complainant is needed. He asked Chief Haqq if it will help the police. Chief Haqq said yes, they do need a tool to help. Trustee Ball stated that a local law could always be amended if it doesn't work. Trustee Northrup made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously. Trustee Ball made a motion to table it. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC INPUT** Anthony Possemato, 3 Guild Ave., could the police direct traffic on Stockton and Bridge so it doesn't back up after school releases and the traffic lights don't help. Maxine Locherer, 17 Howell St., thanked Chief Haqq for coming to their property and offering suggests for security. Vickie North, 70 North St., asked about the condition of the 172-174 Delaware St. with the garbage and failing fence. Dick Doig, 7 Cherry St., asked again about stormwater problem on Cherry St. and Guild Ave. Mayor Snow stated that an agreement was sent from Attorney Merzig to Empire's attorney in January regarding the installation of a drainage pipe and there has been no response. Katherine Bridges, 88 Griswold St., stated that wetlands must conform to regulations. Margaret Possemato, 3 Guild Ave., could the Village plant trees to block the factory on William St. from the view of the residents on Cherry St. and Guild Ave. It is private property so the Village cannot plant trees.

**RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** Charles Bailey, Housing Director, Delaware Opportunities stated pursuant to changes in the regulations of the HUD rental assistance program, an updated Administrative Plan was presented to the Board. The NSPIRE inspection standard have been adopted and expanded the service options to include a pathway to homeownership for rental participants. After review, Trustee Northrup made a motion to approve the updated Administrative Plan that was presented. Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously.

**ABSTRACTS:** The audit committee reviewed the abstracts and recommended approval as follows:  
The General Fund Abstract in the sum of \$35,606.56 was presented to the Board.  
The Water Fund Abstract in the sum of \$6,812.86 was presented to the Board.  
The Sewer Fund Abstract in the sum of \$196,293.94 was presented to the Board.  
The Water Project Fund Abstract in the sum of \$500.00 was presented to the Board.  
The Well Capital Project Fund Abstract in the sum of \$0.00 was presented to the Board.  
The Clarifier Project Fund Abstract in the sum of \$4,746.03 was presented to the Board.  
After review, Trustee Ball made a motion to approve the abstracts as submitted. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**CEDARWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL** Shane Boice, Cedarwood Environmental, submitted a report to the Board for February 2025.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** Zach Haverly, Code Enforcement Official, submitted a report to the Board for February 2025.

**COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM** Zach Haverly has been working closely with the Delaware County Soil and Water for assistance to comply with the rules and regulations of the Community Rating System. This program helps the community receive reductions on flood insurance. After review, Trustee Ball made a motion to pass a resolution regarding the developing and instituting outreach projects to communicate the risk and mitigation strategies associated with flooding through the Walton Flood Commission. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously. Copy attached.

**DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS** Butch Smith, Superintendent D.P.W. submitted a report to the Board for February 2025.

**THEATER AIR CONDITIONER** Butch Smith recommended an air conditioner replacement. After review, Trustee Northrup made a motion to authorize the purchase and installation of a new air conditioning unit for the Theater at a cost of \$7,483.00 from budget line A1620.401. Trustee Condon seconded. Carried unanimously.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** Tahir Haqq, Chief of Police, submitted a written report to the Board for February 2025.

**HAWK CLEANING SERVICES** Chief Haqq recommended hiring Hawk Cleaning Service to clean at the PD. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to hire Hawk Cleaning Service to clean the PD at a cost of \$85 per week. Trustee Condon seconded. Carried unanimously.

**TRAINING** Chief Haqq recommended training for Investigator Mitchell. Trustee Condon made a motion to authorize Kate Mitchell to attend Basic Juvenile Police Officers Course March 10-14 at the Westchester County Police Academy at a cost of \$350, Drug Interdiction and Conducting the Complete

Traffic Stop March 24 & 25 in Bath at no cost, and Crimes Against Children Seminar April 28 – May 2 in Albany at no cost. Trustee O’Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

**DELAWARE  
ENGINEERING**

Bill Brown, Delaware Engineering, submitted a report to the Board for February 2025.

**TRUSTEE  
REPORTS**

Trustee O’Brien thanked Holly Reynolds and a group from Lactalis for helping with the ice rink.

**BUDGET  
HEARING**

Mayor Snow suggested that a Budget Hearing be set. Trustee Condon made a motion to hold a Budget Hearing on the 2025-2026 proposed budget on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously.

**WATER RATE  
INCREASES**

The proposed water rate increases were submitted to the Board. Trustee Ball made a motion to hold a public hearing on March 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Trustee Condon seconded. Carried unanimously.

**VILLAGE  
ELECTION**

The Board needs pass a 2025 Election Resolution stating who is running for each office along with the date and time of the election. Trustee Ball made a motion to pass the Election Resolution for the 2025 Village Election. Trustee O’Brien seconded. Carried unanimously. Copy attached.

**2024-2025  
BUDGET  
AMENDMENTS**

The Clerk submitted budget amendments to the Board. After review, Trustee Ball made a motion to amend the 2024-2025 budget as submitted. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

**2025-2026  
LEVY**

Trustee Ball made a motion to authorize the Clerk to send out Levy letters to all properties owners owing outstanding invoices for property maintenance and water/sewer bills per Village Code. Trustee Condon seconded. Carried unanimously.

**2023-2024  
AUDIT REPORT**

The Clerk submitted the 2023-2024 audit report to the Board. Trustee O’Brien made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the audit report as submitted. Trustee Ball seconded. Carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Snow adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

**NEXT  
MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, 21 North Street.

Jody L. Brown, Clerk-Treasurer