The regular meeting of the Walton Village Board was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, 21 North Street, Walton.

Present:	Mayor Bjorn Eilertsen	Attorney:	David Merzig, not required to attend
Trustees:	Richard Doig	Clerk:	Jody L. Brown
	Eric Northrup		
	Beth O'Brien		
	Virginia O'Dell		

Mayor Eilertsen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION RESULTS & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Eilertsen read the 2026 Village Election results and welcomed Virginia O'Dell to the Board and welcome Eric Northrup back. The Mayor read the list of appointments. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the Committee appointments as submitted. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously. Copy attached.

PUBLIC INPUT

Eric Noll, W.E.I.C., up-dated the Board on the plans for May 24th at Austin-Lincoln Park from noon to 5:00 p.m. Walton Fire Dept. to demonstrate various kid-friendly games and activities, 3 on 3 Basketball tournament, Little League Home Run Derby, and BBQ.

Dean Frazier, 13 Fancher Ave., asked about the process of amending or adding a Local Law. The Mayor stated that a draft is sent to the attorney, Board reviews it at a Board meeting, the Board would set a public hearing, then amend or pass. Mr. Frazier would like a stop sign added at the south end of Sewell Pl. and amending for truck traffic in residential areas. He also wondered if the Village Code addressed junk yards. Definition is in Chapter 260-7 and addressed in Article XI.

Lorrianne Takahashi, 23 East Brook Rd., would like to see an initiative to encourage property owners to maintain their properties and enforcement of current codes.

Shannon Ward, 49 North St., would like to paint the area in front of her driveway to deter people from parking in front of her driveway. Butch Smith told her she could paint up to the seam in the street.

Cory Steffan, 4 Maple St., has been removing skunks would like to trap them under a Village permit with the DEC. The Mayor will inquire about the permitting process as the Village doesn't currently have a permit.

Corey Northrup, 69 Mead St., would like to allow access for ATV's through his property to the Village property. The Village will need to reach out to the insurance carried and Village attorney before moving forward.

ABSTRACTS: The audit committee reviewed the abstracts and recommended approval as follows:

The General Fund Abstract in the sum of $51,054.17 was presented to the Board.
The Water Fund Abstract in the sum of $8,398.33 was presented to the Board.
The Sewer Fund Abstract in the sum of $219,141.75 was presented to the Board.
The Clarifier Project Fund Abstract in the sum of $1,720.00 was presented to the Board.

After review, Trustee Doig made a motion to approve the abstracts as submitted. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

PARKS & RECREATION Brian Sprague, Parks & Recreation Director, read a report to the Board for March 2026. The pool project is underway. The Village is accepting applications for summer employment for lawn mowers, arts & crafts leaders, and lifeguards.

POOL OPERATORS TRAINING Brian Sprague submitted a voucher for reimbursement for cost of lodging, meals, and travel for the Pool Operators Course in Binghamton in March. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to reimburse Brian Sprague for a total cost of $270.08 for costs incurred for training. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

THEATER The Walton Theatre Preservation Association installed a hand washing station in the concession Area. Jim Rice inquired about front step repair.

CELLAR STORAGE The W.T.P.A. submitted a letter releasing the Village of any responsibility for the items they are storing in the cellar of the Village Hall. Trustee Doig made a motion to allow storage in the cellar upon the receipt of a letter releasing the Village of any responsibility of damage or theft. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS Butch Smith, Superintendent D.P.W. submitted a report to the Board for March 2026.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Tahir Haqq, Chief of Police, submitted a written report to the Board for March 2026.

BASE RADIO PURCHASE Chief Haqq stated that the Police Station base radio is over 20 years old and difficult to get replacement parts for it. Trustee O'Dell made a motion to authorize the purchase of a new base radio for the Police Station from K.J.B.L for $1,146.52. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried

CHILD SAFETY SUMMIT Chief Haqq requested sending Officer Mitchell to training. Trustee Northrup made a motion to authorize Mitchell to attend Child Safety Summit in Binghamton on April 30th at a cost of $50. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Trustees Northrup, O'Brien, and O'Dell voting yes. Trustee Doig voting no. Motion carried.

DELAWARE ENGINEERING Bill Brown, Delaware Engineering, submitted a written report to the Board for March 2026.

POOL PROJECT Tweedie Construction submitted an invoice. After review, Trustee Doig made a motion to approve pay application #1 from Tweedie Construction for Pool Renovations in the amount of $29,764.69. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

SURVEYS Bill Brown submitted the quotes for the surveys. Trustee Northrup made a motion to authorize Regen Surveying to survey Cheery Street, White Rock Rd. and the Water St. parking lot at a cost of $14,400. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

CEDARWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL Shane Boice, Cedarwood Environmental, submitted a report to the Board for February 2026. Clarifier project is complete.

SERVICE CONTRACT Shane Boice recommended purchasing a service contract. After review, Trustee Northrup made a motion approved a service contract with W2o for CBUD influent pump service cost is $3,500 year from budget line G8130.534, 100% NYC DEP. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.

GENERATOR REPAIR — Shane Boice requested additional funding for the generator repair. After review, Trustee Doig made a motion approve an additional amount of $25,441.30 for the CAT generator repair for a total of $60,500.00 and $10, 648.97 for travel, labor, and coolant, 100% NYC DEP. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Carried unanimously.

AIR LIFTS — Shane Boice requested replacing the air lifts. After review, Trustee O'Dell made a motion to purchase 6ea air lifts from GP Jager, LLC in the amount of $10,970.50, 100% NYC DEP from budget line G8130.515. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT — Josh Morgan submitted a voucher for half the cost for lodging in Syracuse while at Code Training. Trustee Northrup made a motion to approve the reimbursement to Josh Morgan of $253.50 for his lodging while at training. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT — The Mayor mentioned that it is the Village's 175th anniversary!
The Mayor is working on updating the Village Local Laws.

PART-TIME 12 Hr. RULE — Trustee Doig made a motion to rescind the motion to mandate that part-time employees work at least 12 hours per month. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Carried unanimously.

PORCHFEST PARADE — Amanda Conklin submitted a parade route for a Porchfest Parade. After review, Trustee Northrup made a motion to approve the parade starting at 10:30 a.m. at the theater taking Gardiner Pl. to North St., turning onto Mead St. to Liberty St, crossing Delaware to Veteran's Plaza. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.

SIDEWALK SALE PERMITS — The Mayor submitted an application and fee structure for sidewalk sales. After review, Trustee Northrup made a motion to approve the application process and set the fees for sidewalk sales as: $75 for a season (Memorial Day to Labor Day), $15 for a weekend, and $10 for one day. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

UTILITY POLES — The Mayor has been working to get the double utility poles removed. After discussion, Trustee Northrup made a motion to authorize the Mayor to send letters to Spectrum, Frontier, Verizon, and Delhi telephone company regarding removing the poles with a deadline of June 1, 2026. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

CROSSWALK — Trustee Northrup made a motion to install a crosswalk across Townsend St. at the corner of Pine St. to the Village pool parking lot. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

UNPAID INVOICES — The Clerk submitted a list of unpaid invoices to the Board. The Mayor suggested removing three properties from the listing, 15 St. John St., 1 Howell St. and 56 Delaware St. Trustee O'Dell made a motion to levy the remaining balances the fore mentioned properties. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously. Trustee O'Dell made a motion to levy the unpaid invoices to the 2026-2027 Village tax. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously. Copy attached.

FORECLOSURE 2024 — The judge has finally signed the paperwork for the five foreclosure properties. Trustee O'Dell made a motion to sell 46 Mead St., 104 Delaware St., 86 North St., 16 Griswold St., and 12 High St. by sealed bid and to post a legal notice in *The Reporter,* advertise on Facebook and the Village website and open the bids on April 30th at 2:00 p.m. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.

Trustee O'Dell suggested that the Mayor send letters to the state Senators to encourage them to have Delaware County make the Villages whole.

FORECLOSURE ACTION 2025

Attorney Merzig needs Board approval to send out letters to properties with two or more years of past due tax and to start the foreclose process. Trustee O'Dell made a motion authorizing Attorney Merzig to send letters to property owners advising them of the amount of tax owed and that they are in danger of foreclosure if the tax is not paid by May 31, 2026 and to start the foreclosure process on June 1, 2026 for those properties remaining on the delinquent property list at that time. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.

DELAWARE OPPORTUNITIES CBDG GRANT

Charles Bailey, Delaware Opportunities, would like to apply for a grant on behalf of the Village for a community development block grant. After review, Trustee O'Dell made a motion to hold a public hearing on June 2nd at 5:00 p.m. to hear public opinion on applying for a C.D.B.G. grant for $400,000 to be administered by Delaware Opportunities. Trustee Doig seconded. Carried unanimously.

RIVERWALK GRANT FUNDING

The Clerk questioned where the money is coming from to pay surveyors and the legal notice. The Mayor will reach out to a few organizations to apply for more local grants. The total grant award is $220,261 with a local match of $90,000. A grant was secured from Catskill Watershed Corp. for $32,631 for the stormwater management at the site. The remaining balance is $57,369 to be split with the Town of Walton.

DOG CONTROL

The Mayor stated a law was needed for dog control. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to start the process for a local law to allow the Town Dog Control officer to work in the Village. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss PBA contract negotiations, Police Personnel, and Lactalis litigation. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to close Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Mayor Eilertsen adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, 21 North Street.

Jody L. Brown, Clerk-Treasurer