The regular meeting of the Walton Village Board was held on Tuesday, May 5, 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, absent	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.

INNVOCATION Rev. Christine Lindberg of the 1st United Methodist Church led the invocation.

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT A resignation letter was received from Trustee Doig. Trustee Northrup made a motion to accept the resignation of Trustee Doig with regret. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously. The Mayor recommended appointing Stephen Condon to fill the vacant Trustee seat. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to appoint Stephen Condon to fill the vacated seat until the end of the term, April 5, 2027. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 45 A presentation was given by Boy Scout Troop 45 for the Citizenship in the Community badge.

CLERK APPRECIATION DAY Trustee O'Dell thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for all the work they do.

PUBLIC INPUT Jennifer Davis, 29 St. John St., National Day of Prayer breakfast at New Hope Church May 7th starting at 7:15 a.m.

Dean Frazier, 13 Fancher Ave., concerned about commercial truck traffic on Fancher Ave. for safety and diminishing the quiet neighborhood character. He has started documenting how many trucks, etc. The Mayor is already looking into residential districts and the wording to encompass local deliveries, garbage trucks, contractors, etc.

Lorraine Takahashi, 23 East Brook St., raised concern about the blind corner at the intersection of Fitch St. and East Brook St. and riding kids on bikes. Traffic needs to enter the Village at a lower speed.

Sharon Brennon, 135 Stockton Ave. and Jahred Skelton, 133 Stockton Ave. were inquiring about the parking lot in front of their properties. The Mayor answered that the property is a NYS DOT right-of-way up to the sidewalk. There are two options both involve seeking a permit from NYS. The cost to the property owners would be $100 and they would be required to provide proof of insurance coverage to NYS. If the Village would seek the permit, the fee could be waived but then the Village would have to get insurance to cover it. The Mayor will set up a meeting with the owners.

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

The General Fund Abstract in the sum of $31,737.31 was presented to the Board.
The Water Fund Abstract in the sum of $6,659.31 was presented to the Board.
The Sewer Fund Abstract in the sum of $212,438.71 was presented to the Board.
The Clarifier Project Fund Abstract in the sum of $1700.00 was presented to the Board.
The Pool Project Fund Abstract in the sum of $15,091.32 was presented to the Board.
The Well Project Fund Abstract in the sum of $15,000.00 was presented to the Board.

After review, Trustee Northrup made a motion to approve the abstracts as submitted. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Trustees Northrup, O'Brien, and O'Dell voting yes and Trustee Condon abstained. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

THEATER The Walton Theatre Preservation Association, Jim Rice, has quotes coming for the Theater front step bluestone replacement.

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

BRUSH AND LEAVES PICK-UP POLICY A new brush policy was submitted to the Board for review. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to accept the new brush policy for the Dept. of Public Works to pick up brush on the Friday closest to the 1st of the month and the 15 of the month with brush being cut to a maximum of 4' in length and bundled, leaves and other debris to be placed in paper bags, both under 50 pounds. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

WATER CONFERENCE Butch Smith requested to attend the spring water conference. After review, Trustee O'Dell made a motion to authorize Ernest Smith, Jr., Matthew Myer and Jon Hoffman to attend the spring water conference in Sidney on June 11, 2026 at a cost of $50 per person for water continuing education credits. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

LOCATOR Butch Smith requested a new locator. After review, Trustee Condon made a motion to purchase a wire/pipe locator from USA BlueBook for $5,752.76. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Carried unanimously.

TIRE SPIN BALANCER Butch Smith requested ordering a new spin balancer. After discussion, Trustee Condon made a motion to authorize the purchase of a tire spin balancer from D&D at a cost of $9,800 which Includes set-up and training. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

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

2026-2027 ENGINEERING CONTRACT The 2026-2027 engineering agreement was submitted to the Board. After review, Trustee O'Dell made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the 2026-2027 engineering agreement with Delaware Engineering for $2,275 which is the same cost since 2009. Trustee Condon seconded. Carried unanimously.

POOL PROJECT Bill Brown requested a change order for the pool project. After discussion, Trustee O'Dell made a motion to approve change order #1 with Tweedie Construction for $17,800 to excavate and install flowable fill on the back side of existing gutter around the pool perimeter to support and seal the gutter. Trustee Condon second. Carried unanimously.

Bill Brown recommended paying pay request #2. Trustee Condon made a motion to authorize payment of $108,727.65 to Tweedie Construction for work completed to date. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Carried unanimously. Delaware Engineering will submit to DASNY.

Bill Brown requested a second change order to the project. After discussion, Trustee Condon made a motion to replace a section of the fencing around the pool at an additional cost of $11,865 to Oneonta Fence. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

CEDARWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL Shane Boice, Cedarwood Environmental, submitted a report to the Board for April 2026.

MOTOR FOR SLUDGE PUMPS Shane Boice, requested the purchase of a motor. After review, Trustee Condon made a motion to authorize the purchase of a motor for the sludge pumps from Taggart Electric for $1,433 from budget lines G8130.415 & G8130.515, 80% Village, 20% NYC DEP. Trustee O'Dell seconded. Carried unanimously.

CODE ENFORCEMENT Trustee Northrup made a motion to hire Corey Steffen as an assistant Code Enforcement Official part-time at a rate of $20 per hour effective May 11, 2026. Trustee Condon seconded. Carried unanimously.

PARKS & RECREATION Brian Sprague, Parks & Recreation Director, read a report to the Board for April 2026.

SEASONAL HIRES Brian Sprague recommended two people to hire for summer. After review, Trustee Condon made a motion to hire Kurt Ellerson for lawn maintenance at $16.25 per hour effective May 6th and Caragh O'Connor as a WSI lifeguard at a rate of $16.25 per hour effective May 26, 2026. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT The Mayor stated that Corey Northrup, 69 Mead St., is willing to open his property to the ATV's so they could access the Village property so they could get to the Country Store. This would open to Village to more liability and the question was asked about maintenance of the "trail" as well.

LOCAL LAWS SET PUBLIC HEARINGS The Mayor submitted draft local laws regarding the fees in the Village Code and vacant store fronts. The local law for fees and fines is to streamline the process to set them by Board resolution instead of local law amendments. The local law for vacant store fronts would help to prevent prolonged vacancy, ensure properties are safe, secure, and visually maintained, promote active use and revitalization of the Village's business district and support ongoing downtown investment efforts. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to hold public hearings on the draft local laws on June 2, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Trustee Condon seconded. Carried unanimously.

SPECIAL MEETING The Clerk requested a special meeting to approve the May abstract before fiscal year end. Trustee Northrup made a motion to hold a special meeting on May 28th at 9:00 a.m. Trustee Condon seconded. Carried unanimously.

RELEASE AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT The Clerk submitted two resolutions and releases from the foreclosure sale. After review, Trustee Northrup made a motion to pass the resolutions for 16 Griswold St. and 46 Mead St. and to authorize the Mayor to sign the release and settlement agreements. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.

WATER AND SEWER FEE SCHEDULE The Mayor submitted a new fee schedule for review. Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the new water and sewer fee schedule as submitted. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously. Copy attached.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE	Leonard Rutherford submitted a letter to the Board for the Memorial Day Parade. After review, Trustee Condon made a motion to authorize the Clerk to submitted an application to NYS DOT for a parade permit for Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.
CHALK ART DAY	A letter was submitted to the Board from Walton Central School. After review, Trustee O'Dell made a motion to close North St. on June 10th (rain date of June 11th) for Chalk Art Day. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.
SWIM GRANT	The Mayor mentioned that there is another SWIM Grant available. After review, Trustee Northrup made a motion to explore another SWIM Grant. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Carried unanimously.
EXECUTIVE SESSION	Trustee Condon made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:39 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 7:34 p.m. Trustee Northrup seconded. Carried unanimously.
ADJOURN	Mayor Eilertsen adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.
NEXT MEETING	The next regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, 21 North Street.

Jody L. Brown, Clerk-Treasurer