

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Minutes of a Regular Meeting held by the Town of Shawangunk Town Board, County of Ulster, State of New York, at the Town Office Building at 14 Central Avenue, Wallkill, NY on the **1st day of February 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joseph LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, and several members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Ronk led the Town Board in a moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 25, 2024.

VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Amthor, abstain, Supervisor Ronk, aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Mr. Gill Mackay regarding the use of the Community Room. Supervisor Ronk advised that this matter will be discussed under New Business.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mark Wilson

Mr. Mark Wilson spoke to the board about the lack of a noise ordinance in the town. Mr. Wilson stated that he has lived on Crittenden Street with his family for thirty-four years. He has had good relations with his neighbors until recently. Currently there are two neighbors who play loud music at all times and use the fact that there is no noise ordinance to their own advantage. When speaking to them, he was told that they do not care whether they are a good neighbor or not. Mr. Wilson stated that he has learned from the police that their hands are tied because of the lack of a noise ordinance. Mr. Wilson requested the Town Board revisit this issue and consider passing a noise ordinance. Supervisor Ronk will follow up on this and will be in touch with Mr. Wilson.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Truck Purchase

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the bid for the new truck will be published on March 7, 2024.

On-going

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that they have used a lot of material with the recent storms. Stein Road work began today.

Job Opening

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the job interviews started today. There were a total of eight applicants.

POLICE CHIEF

Policies

Chief Gerry Marlatt reported that policies will be completed by the end of February.

Grant

Chief Marlatt reported that he is awaiting the outcome of the \$185,000.00 Law Enforcement Grant he applied for.

Vehicles

Chief Marlatt reported that Officer Reynolds is waiting for a delivery date, they are waiting for parts.

Computers

The purchase order was sent out for the Patrol PC's. He reported that there will be a five-week waiting period for them to be installed.

Staff

Chief Marlatt reported that he is still waiting for Officer Edwards to come in and submit his letter of resignation.

Personnel

Chief Marlatt advised that there is a personnel matter that will be required to go into Executive Session with the Town Board. Supervisor Ronk advised that they will hold the Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting tonight.

TOWN LIASION REPORTS**LIASION TO HIGHWAY**

Supervisor Ken Ronk reported that the Insurance Company is in the process of advising of the deficiencies that need to be rectified following the visit from the Risk Assessment representative. The highway building that houses the trucks will need to be addressed. He is hoping that a grant will be helpful.

LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisor Ronk advised that vouchers need to be signed so the checks for the Fire Companies, Ambulance, Senior Citizens, Libraires, and Historical Society can be sent. Councilman Danon inquired if Wallkill Ambulance has gone to a paid service following the increase they received. Supervisor Ronk reported that there is a transition meeting being held next week that will address the staffing issue laws for volunteers. They are moving forward.

Supervisor Ronk reported that Pine Bush Ambulance has enough money to cover nights with the reserves for five years. Councilman DeWitt reported that he spoke to Town of Crawford Supervisor Carnes after a meeting where resignations were addressed.

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board needs to designate a board member to serve on the Board of Directors of Pine Bush Ambulance. He will find out when the meetings are and will request a volunteer. This can be revisited at the Town Board meeting on February 15th.

WATER & SEWER

No report.

PARKS**Inspection**

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Insurance Company has completed the Risk Assessment. The wooden playground equipment at Verkeerderkill Park needs to be replaced. The ground protection area needs to be expanded. The playground equipment at Garrison Park is in good condition and could be re-purposed. The ground protection area needs to be expanded.

Mowing

Councilman DeWitt reported that he has the specifications ready to go out to bid. The mowing contracts run from April 1st to November 1st. He would like to get the bids advertised early enough so

they can be opened on March 5th and awarded at the March 7th Town Board meeting. Mr. DeWitt reviewed the change for Area 1 on the Retention Pond specification sheet. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to put the mowing bids out at this time.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Garbage

Councilman DeWitt is recommending to remain with County Waste for the one-year extension. He discussed the prices and after a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to extend the contract with County Waste.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

Supervisor Ronk reported that the final invoice was submitted for payment. The project on First, Second and Third Streets is complete.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that a sidewalk grant application through the "Raise New York Program" would address the sidewalk issues at C.E. Penny Drive. He encouraged the Town to apply for the first round which would cover the administrative portion of the grant.

RECREATION

Supervisor Ronk reported that Dave Haldeman, Chairman of the EMC, is working with Open Space and Ulster County for a \$800,000.00 grant to connect Railroad Avenue to Birch Road. This would need the support of the Town. This would be the last connection to complete the trail from Walden to Buffalo.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

No report.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**Personnel Policy**

Supervisor Ronk discussed amending the Personnel Policy, Section 804, for Department Heads with forty years of service to be eligible. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve this amendment to the Personnel Policy.

VOTE: ALL AYE

Police

Supervisor Ronk advised that there will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel issue with the Police Chief.

BUILDINGS**Town Hall**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there has been an open purchase order to repair the lights in the Town Hall. The electrician has notified him that the parts are in and he would like to start the job early next week.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

Councilman LoCicero reported they are moving forward with the assessment of computers at Town Hall.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

Supervisor Ronk stated that the policy is up for renewal on February 10th. He is waiting for the items from the Risk Assessment, which is expected early next week. There is no meeting scheduled prior to the 10th. Mr. Ronk is seeking authorization from the Town Board members to sign the policy as long as the premium comes in under the expected 10% increase. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize Supervisor Ronk sign the contract up to 10% or \$110,000.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**Generator Maintenance Quotes**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received two quotes for the generators located at four locations. The current company, Gen Tech came in at \$1500.70 per visit, semiannually, or \$1720.00 if they come once a year. The second quote is from National Standby, for \$700.00 per year plus parts and 24-hour emergency service. Supervisor Ronk read the conditions of each contract. He reported that the Town has spent \$17,000.00 so far with Gen Tech. Supervisor Ronk is recommending the Town go with National Standby which has a local resident to do the service, the company is Westchester based.

Councilman DeWitt stated that he likes the all-inclusive contract. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to sign a contract for maintenance with National Standby.

Main Street

Supervisor Ronk reported that Councilman LoCicero is working on a flyer to the residents to gain input on making Main Street one way from Wallkill Avenue to Church Street. The flyers will be hand delivered by Board Members so they can talk directly to the residents. If the residents are in favor of this change, the Town Board can pass a Resolution in March to the New York State Department of Transportation.

NEW BUSINESS

Interviews/Open Positions

Supervisor Ronk reported that there are many residents that have expressed interest in the open positions. He is suggesting that interviews will need to be scheduled over a few evenings. Mr. Ronk is proposing to hold interviews for the Judge position and the Dog Control Officer on one night and the Planning Board, ZBA and Board of Assessment Review on another evening. He will look at the Board Members schedules and set a schedule. He hopes to be able to fill the positions at the February 15th Town Board meeting.

Community Room

Supervisor Ronk discussed the request for use of the Community Room on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for church services. There was a discussion on creating a policy for use of the room. Currently the Walker Valley Schoolhouse and the Community Room do not charge for non-profit organizations. Mr. Ronk will contact Mr. Mackay and advise that the request is being considered.

Introduction of Local Laws

Supervisor Ronk advised that Public Hearings will be held on February 15, 2024 for two local laws. Local Law #1 is "Authorizing Best Value Purchasing" and Local Law #2 is the "Partial Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Service Workers".

BUDGET TRANSFERS

No Budget Transfers.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	3	107-126	\$ 31,351.04
HIGHWAY	3	53-56	\$ 19,234.61

WATER	3	13-15	\$ 2,250.76
SEWER	3	20-23	\$ 10,298.68
DRAINAGE DISTRICTS	1	1	\$ 601.20
FIRE DISTRICTS	1	1-4	\$1,516,922.92
AMBULANCE DISTRICTS	1	1-2	\$ 277,665.00
SIDEWALKS	1	1	\$ 36,628.00
LIBRARY	1	1-2	\$ 512,893.00

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero that the claims be paid as audited.

VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into the Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. The Executive Session started at 7:42 p.m. and ended at 8:02 p.m. A motion by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to enter back into the Regular Meeting.

VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman LoCicero, Councilman Amthor, aye, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Amthor, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk