

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 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 **15th 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, Planning Board Member Rich Barnhart, Court Clerk & ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell, 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 in memory of Butch Freer, and the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 1, 2024, and the Special Meeting held on February 7, 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Local Law #1 – Authorizing Best Value Purchasing

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Ronk. There were no comments or questions from the audience. See Public Hearing minutes.

Local Law #2 – Partial Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Service Workers.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:06 p.m. by Supervisor Ronk. Mr. Jim Tremper, representing Walker Valley Fire Company thanked the Town Board for considering this tax exemption. See Public Hearing minutes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one was present to address the Town Board.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Projects

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the Stein Road project is underway. The stream work portion of the project is completed. The Engineer has advised to halt work while a surveyor was called.

The drainage issue on River Glen Road will be fixed by the Town.

Truck Purchase

Highway Superintendent Blazeski distributed handouts with quotes for an F350 pick-up truck with a plow. Mr. Blazeski explained that he would like to purchase this truck, give his truck to the foreman and rotate the trucks in a cycle that will retain resale value. Following a discussion Supervisor Ronk requested that Mr. Blazeski come back at the next meeting with specifics on pricing.

Employees

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he and Councilman DeWitt interviewed several candidates for the vacant HEM position. They are recommending that Matthew Hansen be hired for the position. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to hire Matthew Hansen with a start date of February 26, 2024.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski requested consideration of finding a Planning Board Secretary to take the weight off of the current Highway Clerk.

Grants

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he met with Millennium Strategies and discussed various projects suitable for grants.

POLICE CHIEF

No report.

TOWN LIASION REPORTS

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

Discussed under Highway Superintendent.

LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY**Road Patrol**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received positive feedback about recent police officer enforcement. Mr. Ronk explained that this enforcement reduces the number of complaints the Town Board gets and in addition keeps the public safe. Chief Marlatt advised the goal is to educate the public. Supervisor Ronk requested additional coverage on Strawridge and Reservoir Roads. Chief Marlatt stated he has asked the officers to patrol these roads along with Oregon Trail and others. He explained that with having fifty-eight miles of roads in our town becomes a challenge to cover all roads.

Public Safety Committee Appointments

Supervisor Ronk advised that at the next Town Board meeting on March 7th, he would like to start appointing this committee which will consist of fire, police and ambulance.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk reported that work for both the Clarifier project and the Pump Station Rehabilitation project will start in June.

PARKS

Councilman Danon reported that he has meetings scheduled with three playground equipment companies. Following those meetings, he will put together an order for the parks.

Supervisor Ronk reported that there was some vandalism at Garrison Park recently. A resident had reported the damage, and he was able to go over and clean it up. Councilman Danon encouraged residents to advise the Town Hall of any damage in the parks, that way it can be handled quickly.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**Drainage Issue**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Councilman Amthor brought forward a drainage issue on Third Street. He explained that the sidewalk is at grade with the roadway. At that time, Councilman Amthor had met with an engineer to discuss a catch basin as a possible solution.

Holiday Wreaths/Utility Poles

Supervisor Ronk thanked Vision of Wallkill President, Donna Barzcak, for taking an inventory of the utility poles where the sensors are not working. Central Hudson will be contacted to replace them.

RECREATION

Summer Camp

Councilman DeWitt discussed the hiring of the Camp Director at this time as there are things that need to be started at this time. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to hire Gillian Batchsingh as Director of the 2024 Summer Camp Program, at a rate of \$24.47 per hour.

VOTE: All AYE.

Pickleball Courts

Resident Richard Barnhart asked the Town Board to consider putting in a pickleball court at Garrison Park. Councilman DeWitt advised that it is part of the plan.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

Supervisor Ronk reported that he is working on the DEC report and permit for the Transfer Station. He advised that there is grant funding available and discussed some ideas such as a Repair Café. In addition, the Town will be able to earn some Climate Smart points.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Ronk advised that there will be an Executive Session with the Highway Superintendent at the end of the Regular Meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

BUILDINGS

Town Hall

Supervisor Ronk advised that next year the snow removal will need to be bid out so there is safe access to the Town Hall building.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

The IT person from Ulster County came to Town Hall and conducted a walk through to look at the existing technology currently in use. He will send his recommendations for possible improvements.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

Supervisor Ronk stated that the insurance policy is finalized. One of the conditions is the Town must do a structural Assessment of the Highway Garage. Mr. Ronk has a contract from MHE with a fee schedule

to conduct the structural report. The Insurance Company needs this performed within sixty days. Without this report there will be no coverage. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract, not to exceed \$4,000.00.

VOTE: ALL AYE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Building Department

Supervisor Ronk reported on the three software companies that have been considered by the Building Inspector. Muncibit comes at a \$50,000 up front cost with a \$12,000 per year license fee. The Bass program costs \$25,000 with a yearly fee of \$5,000. The current company Civic Gov, was contacted and lowered the contract to \$12,000. The existing contract is in effect until June of 2024.

Main Street

Supervisor Ronk reported that he, Councilman LoCicero and Councilman Danon walked around and spoke to residents in the area about making Main Street a one-way street from Wallkill Avenue to Church Street. Overall, residents were receptive. Flyers were left for residents who were not available. There will be a meeting on March 7th where concerns from residents can be heard. If there is a favorable response, the next step would be to contact the New York State Department of Transportation to start the process.

Pine Bush Ambulance

Supervisor Ronk advised that a Town Board member must be appointed to this board. Mr. Ronk also inquired with Jim Tremper if someone from Walker Valley Fire Company would be interested since they work so closely together. Mr. Tremper agreed to inquire with the fire company.

Interviews/Open Positions

Supervisor Ronk reported that interviews for Judge vacancy are scheduled. Interviews for Dog Control Officer and Boards will be scheduled shortly. Supervisor Ronk thanked all the applicants for showing their interest in serving.

Community Room

Councilman DeWitt inquired if the request to use the Community Room on Sundays was resolved. Supervisor Ronk stated it was not. The Town Board will need to table this request and draft a policy for use of the room.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Parker Award

Councilman Amthor reported that it is time to honor a resident with the Dick Parker Award. The Town Board honors a deserving person each quarter. Mr. Amthor requested the Board Members think of a deserving resident for this award and contact him.

United Sherpa Special Event Permit

The application for a Special Event Permit by Mr. L.T. Sherpa was reviewed by the Town Board. The celebration of the Lunar New Year will be held on April 14, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 186 River Road. Police Chief Marlatt stated they have not had any issues in the past when this event was held. A motion was made by Councilman Dewitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the Special Event as proposed in the application.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

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	4	127-172	\$ 116,566.07
HIGHWAY	4	57-67	\$ 69,574.21
WATER	4	16-21	\$ 7,176.56
SEWER	4	24-35	\$ 37,264.05
LIGHT	1	1	\$ 1,878.57
TRUST & AGENCY	3	12-16	\$ 2,823.20

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

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Supervisor Ronk advised that he has received the tax monies from the Tax Collector. He will be moving a large sum of the General Fund to NYCLASS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. The Executive Session started at 7:50 p.m. and ended at 8:34 p.m. A motion by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to enter back into the Regular Meeting.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk

LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2024

Minutes of a Public Hearing held by the Town Board, Town of SHAWANGUNK, County of Ulster, State of New York, at the Town Office Building, Wallkill, NY on the 15th day of February 2024 to consider a local law Authorizing Best Value Purchasing. The Public Hearing was opened at 7:02 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, Planning Board Member Rich Barnhart, Court Clerk & ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell, and several members of the public.

Supervisor Ken Ronk opened the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2024, **Authorizing Best Value Purchasing**. Mr. Ronk explained that this law allows for the Shawangunk Town Board to award purchase and service contracts subject to competitive bidding based on either lowest responsible bidder or best value. Supervisor Ronk read the law and distributed copies for any interested residents in attendance. Supervisor Ronk advised that the matter is not subject to SEQRA.

There were no comments or questions from the audience. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to close the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:47 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve Local Law #1 of 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Jane R. Rascoe,
Town Clerk

LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2024

Minutes of a Public Hearing held by the Town Board, Town of SHAWANGUNK, County of Ulster, State of New York, at the Town Office Building, Wallkill, NY on the 15th day of February 2024 to consider a local law allowing a Partial Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Service Workers. The Public Hearing was opened at 7:03 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, Planning Board Member Rich Barnhart, Court Clerk & ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell, and several members of the public.

Supervisor Ken Ronk opened the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2024, a Partial Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Service Workers. Mr. Ronk explained that this law allows for a ten percent exemption from Town taxes for qualified members of volunteer fire companies, fire departments, and volunteer ambulance services. Supervisor Ronk read the law and distributed copies for any interested residents in attendance. Supervisor Ronk advised that the matter is not subject to SEQRA.

Mr. James Tremper on behalf of the Walker Valley Fire Company, thanked the Town Board for considering this law. There were no other comments or questions from the audience. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to close the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve Local Law #2 of 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Jane R. Rascoe,
Town Clerk