

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 7, 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 **7th day of March 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, ZBA Member Ryan Reid, 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 DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 15, 2024, and the Minutes of the Public Hearings held on February 7, 2024.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received: Notice of Ulster County Agricultural Inclusion Districts on 2/23/24, Notice of Public Hearings from Town of Montgomery on 3/20/24, Letter from Town of Shawangunk Planning Board regarding wetland disturbance on 2/26/24.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Vision of Wallkill**

Donna Barzack and Julie Craner, representing the Vision of Wallkill Committee, spoke to the Town Board on the events planned for 2024. On April 27, 2024 there is the Town Wide Garage Sale. Mrs. Craner explained that Popp Park is used for people who wish to bring their items to the park. The Duck Derby is scheduled for May 11, 2024. Mrs. Craner reviewed the activities that will be held at Popp Park during the event. The weekly concerts at Popp Park will be held each Thursday starting July 11<sup>th</sup> and run through August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Barzack reported that this year there will be seven concerts, many are

sponsored by local businesses. The Vision of Wallkill is requesting insurance coverage for all of these events.

There were questions from the Town Board. Supervisor Ronk stated the Town is always happy to partner with Vision of Wallkill. The Town Board members thanked the group for all their work in the community. Mrs. Craner thanked the Board for their support and advised that the decorations on the doors and windows will be cleaned up shortly.

**Stein Road**

Mrs. Jackie Muskulus requested an update on the work on Stein Road. See report of Highway Superintendent.

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS**

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

**Stein Road**

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the Stein Road project is underway. Mrs. Muskulus inquired if she can see the engineer's report. Mr. Blazeski advised that there is no report, they took a different, less expensive avenue with the plan. He reported that the excavation portion and blocks are complete. He is working on getting both engineers to meet tomorrow so they can move up to the top. The tie backs are made and ready to install, they have the concrete products for the wall. At this point, he is waiting for the engineers, the process is slow, but moving forward.

**Truck Purchase**

Mr. Blazeski reported that the tandem truck purchased last year is at Lakeview. It is scheduled to be completed for July.

**Highway Complex**

Items raised by the Insurance Company inspection are being addressed. For example, the signs have been ordered for the fencing and the lockers have been ordered.

**Bids**

Mr. Blazeski reported that the bids for the Tandem Plow Truck and Hot Patch Dump Spreader were opened on February 28, 2024. He stated that the bids were advertised and completely bid. There was only one bid for both items. The bids were reviewed by the Town Board members. Mr. Blazeski advised that by the year 2027 with emissions standards, the price for a truck will be \$50,000 more than today.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to accept the bid of \$38,728. for the Hot Patch Dump Equipment.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to accept the bid of \$363,246. for the Tandem Truck.

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

**POLICE CHIEF**

Police Chief Marlatt reported that Ulster County has offered to loan the speed sign display units to municipalities. The County will be able to collect data, as well as assist the town with traffic enforcement. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Town Board would like to borrow the sign. Chief Marlatt will contact the County and make the arrangements.

Chief Marlatt advised he will be scheduling a meeting with the Police Committee to review some issues.

Chief Marlatt submitted a resignation from Officer Laura Dunn, effect May 1, 2024. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to accept Officer Dunn's resignation with regrets.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Chief Marlatt explained that depending when training is scheduled for DARE Officers, he is certified to fill in until another officer is resigned.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to accept the resignation of Officer Jason Edwards.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Chief Marlatt advised the following:

He is scheduling an Annual Department Meeting for March 12, 2024.

The department is all set to cover the Scramble and St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, 2024.

The Patrol PC equipment arrived today. Sgt. Spinato is setting up for installation. Work Stations will be replaced with this equipment.

The new car is scheduled for delivery at the end of the month. Officer Reynolds is coordinating the lettering, radios and equipment.

A radio for the Town Court was donated. He will check out the compatibility of them. Supervisor Ronk reported that he checked out the price for chargers with NYCOM, which is \$25 per charger. Mr. Ronk said the Town would be happy to accept the donation of the radios.

Sgt. Spinato and Officer Snyder are scheduled to take Evidence Training.

Fireman's Qualifications are scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Police Department will assist with the Duck Derby on May 11, 2024.

Discussed briefly changes to policies.

Inquired on the status of the uniform request. Supervisor Ronk would like to discuss prior to approving. Chief Marlatt inquired if the Town Board was considering adopting a noise ordinance. Councilman Amthor stated because of the maintenance, at this point, he doesn't think so. Supervisor Ronk stated, not considering at this time.

Councilman LoCicero inquired why car 585 needed a \$305 transmission flush at Strictly Ford with only 59,000 miles. Chief Marlatt stated he will need to speak with Officer Reynolds regarding this question.

Supervisor Ronk inquired why go to Strictly Ford for tire and oil changes, why not stay local. Chief Marlatt will check to see if the reason it went to Strictly Ford was due to other items that needed to be done.

Advised that the surplus equipment items went up today with Auctions International. Last he checked most items already had bids.

Supervisor Ronk reported that he received a letter from a resident thanking the police for the recent traffic enforcement. He also wanted to thank Officers Rafferty and Ireland for the assistance they gave to a resident who fell. She sent a letter thanking them for their kindness and courteous assistance.

### **TOWN LIASION REPORTS**

#### **LIASION TO HIGHWAY**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there was a safety issue with broken up sidewalks along Walkkill Avenue. The Highway Department did a good job cleaning them up and making them safe.

#### **LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

##### **Public Safety Committee Appointments**

Supervisor Ronk inquired if there were any volunteers to sit on the Public Safety Committee, which will consist of fire, police and ambulance. Following a brief discussion Councilman LoCicero will reach out to the fire companies and Supervisor Ronk will reach out to the Ambulance Corps.

##### **Penflex**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Penflex will be attending a Town Board meeting. Along with the representative from Penflex will be the person that handles the investments. Councilman Danon requested that the information be sent prior to the meeting so it can be reviewed. Supervisor Ronk will confirm the meeting for the first Town Board meeting in April.

### **WATER & SEWER**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the main meter located at the well on Reservoir Road needs to be replaced. The proposal from H2O Innovations for a mechanic and tools was explained because once the work starts, they can't stop. The water tank will be filled prior to the work so there won't be any interruption to water service.

**PARKS****Grant**

Councilman Danon reported that he had meetings with two playground equipment companies. Both companies will be sending recommendations. Mr. Danon explained that themes were given for each park. Once the information is received, the purchasing process can move forward.

**Scheduling Leagues**

Councilman DeWitt reported that the football and soccer leagues have applied for use of the fields. He has reviewed the schedules and found that there are no conflicts. The issue of providing a key for use of the restrooms at Galeville Park was discussed. It was agreed that because of the damages last year, if the Football League wants access to the restrooms, they would need to provide a deposit and agree that they would be liable for any damages. Supervisor Ronk will follow up with drawing up a contract if they wish to have a key.

**SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**

No report.

**RECREATION****Summer Camp**

Councilman DeWitt distributed and discussed the flyer that was drawn up for this year's summer camp. Camp will start July 1<sup>st</sup> and run to August 9<sup>th</sup>. The age group to attend camp is 5-14 years old. The price is the same as last year, residents of Shawangunk and Crawford is \$600, non-residents is \$675. The price includes three field trips, breakfast and lunch. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve circulation of the flyer as discussed.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Councilman DeWitt requested the flyer be placed on the town website. He also requested that an advertisement for an Assistant Camp Director, Junior and Senior Counselors are available, be posted. Councilman Amthor will follow up with the postings.

**RESOURCE RECOVERY**

Supervisor Ronk discussed a letter he received from Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, dated February 28, 2024. Mr. Ronk noted that our Transfer Station had zero percent contamination. He stated that Steve Schelin is diligent and does a great job.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Annual DEC Report has been completed and filed. The electronic Recycling Report was also completed and filed today.

The permit to operate the Transfer Station has been renewed and is valid until 2029.

Supervisor Ronk and Councilman Danon discussed options to fix up the Transfer Station area this spring.

**PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**

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

**BUILDINGS**

No report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

No report.

**COMPUTERS**

Supervisor Ronk advised that he met with the Ulster County IT person who discussed low-cost ways to accomplish possible improvements. Some of the goals discussed were shared drives, internet services, and fiber-based server options. He will be providing quotes to the Town Board.

**INSURANCE/PURCHASING**

**Building Department**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the three software quotes for the Building Department. Municibid comes at a \$50,000 up front cost. The Bass program is the second highest at a cost of \$25,000. The current company Civic Gov, comes in at a cost of \$17,000. for two years and provides training for other departments. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to stay with Civic Gov. The existing contract is in effect until June of 2024.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Pine Bush Ambulance**

Supervisor Ronk advised that making an appointment to this board is an opportunity, not a requirement. He stated that in the Town of Crawford, either the Police Chief or the Supervisor attend the meetings.

Councilman DeWitt stated that the Town of Shawangunk should have a representative and will inquire with some folks that may be interested.

### **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 Walkkill Avenue to Church Street. Overall, the feedback has been positive other than one phone call he received from a resident who was not in favor.

Mrs. Roseanne Stockhofer addressed the Town Board and is in favor of a one-way street. She explained that she lives right behind Pasquale's and has almost been hit many times. She has seen accidents and many speeders at this dangerous location. She feels if customers didn't park right at the corners, it may not be so bad. She also feels like the speed limit should be lowered. Mrs. Stockhofer stated if the New York State Department of Transportation won't approve the one-way street, the Town should consider installing signage with "no parking here to corner" and lower the speed limit as a second option. Supervisor Ronk advised the police has been stepping up traffic enforcement, he has received positive feedback from residents. Supervisor Ronk said the Town will move forward with the process, but advised that the New York State may say no.

### **Judge Appointment**

Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town Board interviewed eight qualified individuals to fill the unexpired term of the late Judge Kevin Hunt. He further explained that it was a difficult decision as several of the applicants were attorneys, which was important because they could start right away and not have to wait for the Judge Training in mid-April. The court is getting busier and is a lot of work for just one Judge. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to appoint Tara E. Parlman to fill the unexpired term for Town Justice.

### **VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Supervisor Ronk congratulated Ms. Parlman and introduced her to the audience.

### **Mowing Bids**

Councilman DeWitt reviewed bids that were submitted with the Board Members. He advised that he divided up the awards as follows:

**New Prospect Cemetery** came in at half the price as last year for \$475 per mowing. Mr. DeWitt explained that the Town sends out and awards the bids and gets reimbursed for the mowing. The bid was received from King Hill Farm who has mowed for the Town in the past.

**Verkeerderkill Park** came in at \$300 from King Hill Farm.

**Galeville Park** came in at \$355 from King Hill Farm.

**Brush hogging** came in at \$65 per hour, if needed, from John Filip.

**Walkkill Area** came in at \$390 from King Hill Farm.

**Area Cemeteries** one time mow came in at \$75 from Ruger Property Maintenance and \$80 from King Hill Farm.

**Walker Valley Schoolhouse** came in at \$15 from King Hill Farm.

**Retention Ponds** need to be clarified and references checked prior to award.

Councilman DeWitt explained that the bids can roll over to a second year, as stated in the specifications. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to award all areas to King Hill Farm, with the exception of the Retention Bonds & Brush hogging.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Board Interviews**

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board will be conducting interviews for the Planning Board on Saturday, March 9, 2024.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

No Budget Transfers.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were audited.

<b><u>ACCOUNT</u></b>	<b><u>WARRANT</u></b>	<b><u>VOUCHERS</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
GENERAL	5	173	\$ 116,566.07
HIGHWAY	5	68-102	\$ 146,949.42
WATER	5	22-	\$ 42,550.72
SEWER	5	36-44	\$ 32,107.97
LIGHT	2	2	\$ 1,823.44
TRUST & AGENCY	4	17	\$ 131.25

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

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**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 8:14 p.m. and ended at 8:34 p.m. A motion by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor 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 8:58 p.m.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk