

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 21, 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 **21st 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, 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 and the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 7, 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on March 15, 2024.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Ronk reported that he received a notice from the Orange County Department of Public Works today, advising that the Bruyn Turnpike/Walkill Avenue Bridge will be closed for approximately twenty-one days starting April 1st, 2024.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Dick Parker Award

Supervisor Ronk explained that this award is given out quarterly each year. Councilman Amthor further explained that the Town Board grants this award to residents who go above and beyond for their

community. This award is the first one that this Town Board will be granting and the decision was unanimous. Supervisor Ronk announced that this quarterly award will be presented to a dedicated and loyal town employee, Steve Schelin. Mr. Schelin was present to accept the award. Mr. Ronk shared a story about one of the many acts of kindness Steve does for our residents. Photographs were taken with the Town Board presenting the plaque.

Wallkill Lions Club

Mr. Dave LaSpada, President of the Lions Club approached the Town Board and explained that many of the Lions Club members were present tonight to present a proposal to the Town Board that would change recreational opportunities to the residents. Mr. LaSpada explained that it has been challenging with the recent weather patterns to maintain the Ice Rink at Popp Park. He further explained that it requires a lot of time and expense in building the Ice Rink. This year, it was only utilized for three days. It is evident that they can't rely on mother nature any longer. The Lions Club would like to install an Ice Rink Kit that would guarantee ice from November to March each year. Mr. LaSpada stated that it could be used for many events and have open skating each night. They have researched a portable ice unit system which would be about the same size as the current rink, 48X80. The kit is pre-engineered and without installation comes at a cost of \$110,000.00. Mr. LaSpada stated that the Lions Club would mutually share the expense with the Town and inquired if the Town Board would assist with searching for grant money to help with the financing.

There was a lengthy discussion on the details of the kit and the location of where the components could be placed. Mr. LaSpada explained that the electric would need to be upgraded and concrete 12X12 pads would need to be poured for the chiller units. They would also like to add gutters to the pavilion and level up the floor. If the Town could find a Parks & Recreation Grant, they would match the funding and donate the equipment to the Town. Supervisor Ronk explained that he is looking into the details of investing and owning the equipment with the Town Attorney. Councilman Danon stated that he thinks it would be a great addition. He and his family were able to take advantage of the three days of skating this year. He feels this is a great family service and Popp Park is a good spot. Councilman LoCicero suggested that perhaps Millenium Strategies can assist with researching grant opportunities that the Town can apply for. Councilman DeWitt discussed various options to prevent vandalism to the equipment and offered options for the storage of the equipment when not in use.

Supervisor Ronk inquired if the Town Board Members were in favor of moving forward and are they willing to find the grant money to finance the project. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero in moving forward of locating grant money for this project.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Supervisor Ronk advised that he will meet with the grant writer to discuss the possibilities of applying for a grant.

Mr. Sal Patella addressed the storage issue and stated that the best plan would be on-site storage. Councilman LoCicero agreed that the equipment needs to be protected and the best solution would be on-site storage of some type. The Town Board thanked the members of the Lions Club for attending the meeting tonight and all the work they do for the community.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The February 2024 Supervisor's Report was received.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The February 2024 Town Clerk Report for \$20,108.90 was received.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported the following:

Stein Road

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the Stein Road project has made progress this week. They had a crane and belt conveyor truck on site. This equipment was able to place 220 tons of stone instead of dropping the stone in place. Mr. Blazeski will meet with Ulster County Soil & Water next Monday to discuss stabilization ideas at the site. The next step of the project that the engineer has to start is the property acquiring that is necessary.

Material

The millings from the cold paving that the department salvaged has passed inspection, and both piles totaling 350 tons of millings can be used for paving.

284 Agreement

The 284 Agreement is getting closer to completion, a few more quotes are needed. The crack sealing and hamlet streets will be continued. Roads like Ralph Brach Drive and Mulford Drive will be resurfaced. Roads like Upper Mountain, Denniston, Pirog and others will be oiled & chipped. CHIPS funding is rumored to be reduced by 20% this year.

Bridge Closures

Red Mills Bridge will be closing for work, starting April 1st. Galeville Bridge will also be closing at some point this year. Supervisor Ronk noted that he has not been notified of a time frame for Galeville but will publish when he is.

Superintendent Highway Training

Would like to attend this year, it is unknown if he can attend the entire time as he may have a conflict.

Paver Bid

Received one bid on the paver.

Truck & Equipment Purchases

Mr. Blazeski reported that he has explained his two-year replacement plan with the Town Board a few times. He would like to replace the small truck and purchase a paver. Councilman DeWitt stated he does not disagree with the reasons Mr. Blazeski has provided. Supervisor Ronk stated that he is not beyond the budget if the backhoe purchase is delayed. Mr. Blazeski explained that by purchasing this paver they will have the ability to pave smaller roads on their schedule and will not have to rely on renting equipment and being on someone else's schedule. Councilman LoCicero stated he agrees with the Highway Superintendent and is on board with the purchase. Following the lengthy discussion a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to purchase the 2017 LeeBoy Paver for the price of \$135,000.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Supervisor Ronk explained that purchasing a new pick-up truck will exhaust the Highway Equipment Budget this year. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to purchase the truck with a plow for a total cost of \$71,698.00

VOTE: ALL AYE.

There was a further discussion on purchasing the extended warranty and if the recommendations would be followed. It was noted that the warranty may not be necessary if the rotation plan is in place. Mr. Blazeski will check into this further. Councilman LoCicero inquired if a plan to build the program was set up. Mr. Blazeski stated yes, he has a plan which is in the inception stage. Councilman Danon clarified the purchase price on the suggested proposal sheet provided. Mr. Blazeski stated yes, the state bid price with the recommended items total \$66,199.67.

POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief Marlatt reported the following:

He was currently viewing the equipment the Town has on the Auctions International site. Chief Marlatt recommended that the Town Board not accept the \$5200.00 offer for the Flatbed. He reviewed the additional offers with the Town Board and advised that he will get a total in the morning from the company.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to accept all other offers, except the Flatbed.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

The Annual Department Meeting held on March 12, 2024 went well.

The Scramble and St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, 2024 went well. The Chief advised that next year signs will need to be posted at the end of the parade route to avoid parking problems. He reported that the Fire Police were a tremendous help for both events. Councilman LoCicero suggested presenting the Fire Department with some type of recognition for their assistance.

Newly purchase Car 584 is in, wrapped and lettered. The Patrol PCs are being installed and radio frequencies are being updated.

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

Discussed under Highway Superintendent Report.

LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisor Ronk explained that there was a recent issue with an Order of Protection. He discussed this issue with the Town Attorney. It was agreed that a special attorney, with the technical expertise in dealing with these specific issues, be hired to handle these cases. Chief Marlatt stated that this is another unfunded mandate imposed by the state, but must be done. Mr. Ronk continued to explain that Attorney Bob Fisher has the experience with Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), and recommends hiring him to do the work for the Town. His rate is \$350.00 per hour, rate for the para-legal is \$125.00 per hour, and \$50.00 per hour for secretarial work. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve hiring Mr. Fisher for these cases.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk reported that there is an active water valve issue at Bona Ventura Avenue and Third Street. H2O has been there all day and night. Two additional breaks were found in the curb box on Third Street. They were all repaired, and hopefully, the work will be completed tomorrow. Mr. Ronk explained that this emergency work is very expensive. He wants to include planned preventive maintenance work in next year's budget. Councilman LoCicero stated that the Water Department should talk to the Highway Superintendent regarding their schedule of maintenance.

PARKS

Maintenance

Councilman DeWitt reported that he spoke to the contractor who installed the fence at Walker Valley Schoolhouse and at Popp Park originally. They are still in business, and he is confident that they can get the same type of fence to repair the damaged portions. He is waiting for prices from the contractor.

Mowing

Councilman DeWitt reported that he verified references on the bidders, and the contracts can be sent out.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

Supervisor Ronk reported that he is checking out possible sidewalk grants for next year. The Town Board Members discussed their desire to install concrete sidewalks in the future.

RECREATION

Summer Camp

Councilman DeWitt reported that the camp flyers were distributed to the schools, prior to Easter break. The issue with the "QR" code has been resolved and sign up of campers has started.

TRANSFER STATION

The Town Board Members and Steve Schelin discussed possible improvements that should be made at the Transfer Station this year. It was agreed that getting a trailer upgrade is necessary. Some other work that needs to be done is reinforcing the walls, installing railings, and installing three concrete pads for the boxes. Supervisor Ronk explained that the work should begin in the spring.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

No report.

BUILDINGS

Supervisor Ronk reported that the lighting in Town Hall is currently being worked on.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Patterns for Progress

Supervisor Ronk explained that Hudson Valley Patterns for Progress has chosen the Town to be the municipality to receive a CFA Grant. The project is targeted for the hamlet this year. Mr. Ronk reported that an advisory group has been appointed to work with Patterns for Progress. One of the items to look at will be how to better utilize the river. Director, Adam Bosch, is working on a schedule for the scope of services. Board members include himself and Councilman LoCicero, Sal Patella, Donna Barzack, and Mike Hydroski.

Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Amthor reported that the merger between Gardiner and Shawangunk is progressing. They are currently in the "re-branding" process. They are seeking volunteers for the position of secretary and treasurer, hopefully one person from each town. They plan on holding mixers this year.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk advised that he has been discussing options with Eric Drozenski on new firewalls and an updated phone system. He is following up with companies for pricing and features which will save the town money. Currently the existing phone system is outdated and very costly. Another option being explored is accepting credit card payments at the Transfer Station.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has been exploring options for insurance coverage for events held by volunteers. After consulting with the Town Insurance Agent, it was agreed that the best solution would be for the vendors who may offer some type of alcohol samples, that in addition to providing insurance certificates for liability insurance, a separate area be roped off and identification checked. Specifically discussed was The Vision of Wallkill Weekend of Wallkill and Holidays in the Hamlet. It is suggested that this area be on Town owned property, instead of the library. All Town Board Members were in agreement that this was an acceptable solution.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**Pine Bush Ambulance Board**

Councilman DeWitt reported that he has reached out to several people who may be willing to represent the Town and attend meetings. He is waiting for a response. The meetings are held on Monday nights. Supervisor Ronk reported that their numbers are improving. Sgt. John Spinato volunteered to serve and was appointed by the Town Board.

NEW BUSINESS**Millenium Strategies**

Supervisor Ronk reported that we have applied for a New York State Archive Grant. This grant would provide for getting our records online and provide for backup. He reported that we are well positioned to receive the \$20,000.00 grant. This year would be for the purchase of the equipment and next year would provide for the labor to scan and get to the cloud.

They are pursuing applying for a RESTORE NY Grant.

They are pursuing a Traffic Safety Program Grant that would provide for the purchase of car seats to give away and provide for free car seat inspection.

He is working with the grant company for a truck storage building at the Highway Complex.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski shared his opinion that the CE Penny Drive area would be appropriate for a RESTORE Grant.

Supervisor Ronk stated that hiring Millenium will prove to be a good investment.

NEW BUSINESS

Ambulance

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has been contacted by NVP Ambulance who is requesting a letter of support from the Town. A Certificate of Need is necessary to operate in Ulster County. Mr. Ronk noted that this may not affect Shawangunk. Most areas affected would be Dutchess County and other Ulster County Towns, such as Ulster. He will do some additional research on this request.

Planning Board

Supervisor Ronk reported that currently there are three open positions on the Planning Board. The Town Board has held extensive interviews and are ready to make two appointments at this time. Additional interviews will be held for the third position. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to reappoint Todd Widmark to his position on the Board and appoint Ryan Reid to the vacancy on the Planning Board.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Supervisor Ronk advised that additional interviews will be scheduled for the Planning and Zoning Board positions.

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	6	232-269	\$ 188,828.93
HIGHWAY	6	103-124	\$ 36,320.81
WATER	6	29-34	\$ 5,881.42
FIRE DISTRICT	2	5	\$ 63,799.00
TRUST & AGENCY	5	18-26	\$ 1,688.93

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

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 8:42 p.m.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk