

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 4, 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 **4th day of April 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 Members Richard Barnhart, Patricia Turner and Ryan Reid, Court Clerk & ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell, and several members of the public. Councilman Alex Danon entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins entered at 7:30 p.m.

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 DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 21, 2024.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to discuss.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Police Chief Appreciation**

Police Chief Gerry Marlatt presented Certificates of Appreciation to Gidget Orr of the Wallkill Fire Department Fire Police. Ms. Orr was present to accept the certificates for Wallkill Fire Department and the other departments that assisted. Chief Marlatt explained that the Wallkill Fire Department assists with traffic control each year for the Shamrock Scramble and the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Police Department has limited manpower and depends on them each year. Assisting Wallkill this year was Modena, Walker Valley, Pine Bush, and Kerhonkson Fire Police Departments.

**Eagle Scout Project**

Michael Vaccarino from Boy Scout Troop 37 in Pine Bush discussed his Eagle Scout project with the Town Board. Michael explained that he would like to build a Gaga Ball Court at Verkeerderkill Park. Michael met with Councilman DeWitt and it was agreed a good spot to build the court would be by the basketball court. Following questions and answers, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the construction of a Gaga Court at Verkeerderkill Park.

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

**Milk Factory**

Delbe Spath inquired what the status of the water and sewer district was for the Milk Factory on Route 208 South. He explained that he read an article in the Wallkill Valley Times that it was approved in the Town of Montgomery. Supervisor Ronk explained that a sewer district was being created to run a new line down to the county line, which could accommodate the Milk Factory project. He has a meeting on Friday with the attorney and developers. Mr. Ronk further explained that at this time, only a sewer district was being formed. A new water line is not planned as the Town does not have excess water capacity at this time. When the sewer line is being installed, the piping will be installed for both sewer and water. In the future, when water is available, the lines will be there.

**Planning Board**

Planning Board member Patricia Turner addressed the Town Board regarding her position on the Planning Board. She recently learned that she was not being re-appointed and is disappointed with that decision. Mrs. Turner explained that the Planning Board was not an enforcement agency and she stands by her past decisions. Supervisor Ronk explained that a decision was not reached regarding her seat. There are three additional residents that need to be interviewed prior to making a decision.

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS****HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported the following:

**Bridge Closures**

On April 9<sup>th</sup> Awosting Road will be closed for a box culvert replacement.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> Red Mills Bridge will be closed for repairs. It is expected to be closed for three weeks.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> Galeville Bridge will be closed for replacement. It is a long project and expected to be closed indefinitely.

**Stein Road**

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the surveyor came out and put stakes in for property to be acquired. The engineer has an outline for property taking. The project is going well and the entire road is being cleaned up.

**284 Agreement**

A preliminary agreement was submitted. The total number at this time is \$447,889.00. The state budget was discussed. Further details will be submitted when state funding is known.

**Truck & Equipment Purchases**

Mr. Blazeski reported that Tim Hunt is willing to come down and make a presentation to the Town Board for capital planning. Mr. Blazeski will schedule a date.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Director of Ulster County Soil & Water met with Superintendent Blazeski at the Stein Road site. They discussed a plan on reseeding and mulching. Watchtower has offered their assistance with hydroseeding when the time comes.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Police Chief Marlatt reported the following:

**Auctions International**

Most items that have been sold have been picked up. The auction raised about \$20,000.00. The Town Board will need to determine if they wish to post the flatbed again, or go with another venue. Other options may be to keep it for the Highway Department, or for the new sewer project.

**Thank you**

A letter from the Orange County Department of Health was received. The letter thanked two of our officers for going above and beyond for an injured cat.

**Monthly Report**

Chief Marlatt is establishing a program that will transition with the new laptops to develop a report that will track calls and accidents. He will have the ability to make the report available to the Town Board at the next meeting.

**Vehicles**

Chief Marlatt is getting estimates for Car 584 which will be used for the Dog Control Officer. The estimates were requested from Walkill Auto Repair and Walkill Automotive. If the car can't be serviced at one of those shops, Strictly Ford will be contacted.

**Traffic Control**

Chief Marlatt has been in contact with Ulster County to schedule dates for the speed sign to come to Town.

**LIASION TO HIGHWAY**

Discussed under Highway Superintendent Report.

**LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Discussed under Police Chief Report.

**WATER & SEWER**

Supervisor Ronk reported that consideration needs to be given in next year's budget to possibly increase the water tax. Mr. Ronk explained that there has been some very costly water main and valve breaks recently. A plan needs to be addressed.

**PARKS**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he received a contract from Ulster County that needs to be signed for the playground equipment grant. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the contract and issue a Certified Resolution to Ulster County.

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

**Rental Rates**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Town Board needs to work on rates and rules for town owned properties. Currently, there are no guidelines for renting out the Community Room. There are two local laws in place that need to be reviewed.

**Popp Park**

Supervisor Ronk explained that First Student Bus Company has not had a contract for parking at Popp Park since 2019. Now that they have the contract with Valley Central School for busing, they have been parking there. It has been brought to his attention that this may be an illegal gift and a contract needs to be in place. Mr. Ronk will contact First Student and work out a contract.

**Eagle Scout/Cemetery**

Ms. Kim Davis discussed the possibility of her son, who is in Troop 76, working on his Eagle Scout project. They thought the cemetery at the corner of Route 208 and Route 300 was in need of improvements. Ms. Davis inquired if the Town Board had any other ideas. Councilman Amthor advised that the Town has other smaller cemeteries that may need attention. Chief Marlatt suggested the cemetery on Jansen Road may need work. Ryan Reid advised that the Colored Cemetery at 208 & 300 does need fencing and improvements. Patricia Turner stated that this cemetery does have historical value. Supervisor Ronk reported that work at this cemetery had been done by a prior Eagle Scout. Mr. Ronk can be contacted for ideas and he will follow up with Ms. Davis.

**Park Improvements**

Councilman DeWitt advised that he has been contacted by the Lacrosse League who has a contractor willing to donate stone to fill in the holes in the back parking lot at Verkeerderkill Park. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to accept the stone.

**SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**

No report.

**RECREATION**

**Summer Camp**

Councilman DeWitt reported that he has received applications for counselors. Camper applications are starting to come in.

**RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION**

No report.

**PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**

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

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Highway Superintendent needs a secretary devoted to the Highway Department. His goal is to hire a joint secretary for the Planning and Zoning Board. It will be necessary to work with Ulster County Personnel to create these positions and come up with the titles for them. Following a discussion on creating these new positions a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize Supervisor Ronk to work with Ulster County Personnel Department on creating these job titles.

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

Councilman Amthor stated that the Employee Handbook needs to be reviewed. Supervisor Ronk agreed that it does need to be revised. It was agreed that Mr. Ronk will send a copy to the Town Board members for their input. He stated that the Town may have to hire a HR company to assist with the necessary changes.

**BUILDINGS**

**Park Fencing**

Councilmen DeWitt reported that he is still waiting to hear from the contractor on a price for the fencing at Walker Valley Schoolhouse and Popp Park.

**Phone System**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he met with Granit Phone this morning. It may be possible to use the existing phones with planning for a future system. Several options were discussed. The Frontier bills will be reviewed so Granit can get some numbers together. Mr. Ronk will also be getting other quotes for upgrading the phone system.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Chamber of Commerce**

Councilman Amthor reported that they are still seeking someone to hold the office of Secretary/Treasurer for the new Chamber.

**COMPUTERS**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has been working with Eric Drozenski on ideas for upgrading the Towns computers. Currently, he has been working with the Police Department and the Town Clerk. They have been discussing a quote received for Microsoft 365 for four licenses. The program will be installed on the police tablets and on the computers at Town Hall. These licenses will be available for twenty computers at a cost of \$396.00 for a twelve-month cycle. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to purchase the program as discussed.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**INSURANCE/PURCHASING**

No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**One Way Street**

Councilman LoCicero inquired the status of Main Street and the process that needs to be followed in making it a one-way street. He suggested the Town Board work together with the Highway Superintendent in reaching out to the NYS Department of Transportation to move forward. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to formally start the process.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Emergency Plan**

Councilman LoCicero reported that he is scheduling a meeting with Mike Madison to work on an Emergency Management Plan and Vulnerability Study for the Town.

**Park Grant**

Councilman Danon reported that he received the renderings today for the park grant. He will share with the Town Board members so the process can move forward.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into the Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. The Executive Session started at 7:50 p.m. and ended at 8:52 p.m. A motion by Councilman Amthor and second by Councilman DeWitt to enter back into the Regular Meeting.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were audited.

| <u>ACCOUNT</u> | <u>WARRANT</u> | <u>VOUCHERS</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| GENERAL        | 7              | 270-305         | \$ 100,804.75 |
| HIGHWAY        | 7              | 125-153         | \$ 75,181.88  |
| WATER          | 7              | 35-39           | \$ 15,401.45  |
| TRUST & AGENCY | 6              | 27-30           | \$ 896.50     |

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

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk