

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 20, 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 **20th day of June 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Joseph LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Amthor was absent. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Sergeant John Spinato, 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 Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 6, 2024.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Park Avenue

Mrs. Joan Kirschen introduced herself and requested that the pot holes and sunken area around the entranceway to the library parking lot be filled in. She explained that people who use the Library and the Rail Trail, park along Park Avenue and the potholes are deep. Supervisor Ronk will speak to the Highway Superintendent and request they bring in some millings and fill in these areas.

Strawridge Road

Mr. Phillip Kirschen introduced himself and explained that they have lived in the Town since 1971. They love the community and have concerns with the condition of Strawridge Road on the upper end, where they live. Erosion and potholes have made the road dangerous to drive on and unsafe for school buses. Mr. Kirschen stated that it has been many years since the road has been paved. Mr. Kirschen stated that

they pay taxes and request that the road be worked on. Supervisor Ronk explained that it is not a lack of desire to repave the road. He discussed funding obstacles and explained the CHIPS Funding. Mr. Kirschen inquired if the Town receives any federal funds for highway purposes. Mr. Ronk stated he does not know when and if they will be received. Councilman LoCicero explained that the main issues to be resolved are drainage and the best solution to direct the water. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that this Town Board is not responsible for the condition of the roads. The roads have not been maintained for far too long. Mr. Blazeski explained that the CHIPS Funding the Town received over the years was intended to be matched, and it never was. Supervisor Ronk explained that it is not likely that Strawridge Road will be repaved this year but it is on the radar of the Highway Superintendent.

Live Stream Meetings

Mr. Andy Ghiorse noted that upgrading of computers was on the agenda. He inquired if the Town Board has considered posting the meetings on line. Mr. Ghiorse stated that people may like to listen to the audio or live stream instead of having to come out in person. Supervisor Ronk agreed that once the technology in the building is upgraded, he would like to do that.

C.E. Penny Drive

Mr. James Street from 114 CE Penny Drive introduced himself. He thanked Supervisor Ronk and Highway Superintendent Blazeski for coming to his home and checking out the safety problem with the way the traffic handles the corner in front of his house. Mr. Street also thanked the Police Chief for sending officers over. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that the solution is to place reflective directional signs around the corner. He further explained that the placement of the signs may not be attractive, but necessary to be effective. Mr. Street stated that he understands that but safety of his children and property is the priority.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported the following:

Thanked the Town Board for their cooperation which has allowed for two machines to be working on both ends of town at the same time. Presently they are ditching and mowing Birch Road and Upper Mountain Road.

The new mower attachment on the excavator was used and worked out well.

Mulford and Ralph Brach Drive have been micro-paved. Mr. Blazeski explained that this is the first time using this process. There were a few issues that needed to be addressed. Materials were stored at Popp Park so there was less trucking time involved.

POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief Marlatt had nothing to report.

Traffic Car

Supervisor Ronk inquired about additional scheduling of staff for the Traffic Car for traffic enforcement. Mr. Ronk recognized Officer Rafferty and Office Reynolds for the professional job they have been doing

with traffic enforcement. Chief Marlatt advised that he has scheduled four days a week in July. He has areas of concern that will be covered.

Schedule

Councilman LoCicero directed the Chief submit a schedule of when he is at the Police Station. Mr. LoCicero explained he and others would like to know when the Chief is available. Chief Marlatt agreed to submit a schedule that would be fluid depending on activity.

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

Resignation Letter

Supervisor Ronk discussed a resignation letter submitted by Phil Jamison. The letter states that his resignation will be effective on June 29, 2024. A motion by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to accept the resignation of Mr. Jamison.

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

Supervisor Ronk explained that this resignation was due to a break in service and is expected to return to work on July 14, 2024. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to re-hire Mr. Jamison on that date.

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

Truck Financing

Supervisor Ronk discussed the BAN for the truck purchased last year and is due on July 26, 2024. Mr. Ronk advised that he will do some research so the Town Board can make a decision to renew the BAN with hopes that interest rates come down. The amount of the BAN from last year is \$13,000.06. A decision for the new tandem truck will need to be made. The cost of the truck is \$290,000.00. He will get the rates from several banks with the goal for lower payments and present the information to the Town Board Members.

LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Covered under Police Chief.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk reported that the repair of the River Road Pump Station is complete and up and running. H2O did the repair at a cost of \$21,000.00. Mr. Ronk advised that the Clarifier Project is moving along; there are some additional parts needed.

PARKS**Galeville Park**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he and Councilman LoCicero went out to the park and looked at possible locations for pickleball courts. One possibility would be the softball field. Clearing could be done so people could sit under the pavilion and see the courts. There was a discussion if lights would be allowable. The base for the courts was discussed and will be researched as to what other courts use.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

No report.

RECREATION**Summer Camp**

Councilman DeWitt reported that camp now has over thirty children signed up. He explained that camp will have started prior to the next Town Board meeting. The ratio is one counselor for every twelve campers. He is recommending the hiring of the following at this time, and if/when the numbers increase, authority to hire positions as needed.

Assistant Camp Director - Jessica Bedell - \$19.00 per hour

Lead Counselor – Fallon Grace Wynkoop - \$18.00 per hour

Lead Counselor – Abreeanna Thomas - \$18.00 per hour

Junior Counselor – Anthony Bedell - \$16.00 per hour

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to hire the named counselors as discussed at the rate of pay discussed.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize Councilman DeWitt to hire up to six additional positions, if needed, depending on enrollment numbers.

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

AED Grant

Supervisor Ronk reported that Ulster County passed a resolution to use ARPA for grants up to \$5,000.00 for the purchase of AEDs for camps. This will assist with complying with New York State regulations. Mr. Ronk will apply for the funding. He will also be doing the training for usage of the AEDs for camp employees.

Summer Concerts

Supervisor Ronk explained that the Vision of Wallkill is requesting permission to put up a sign advertising the summer concert series at Popp Park. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to give permission for the sign at Popp Park.

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

Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town has budgeted to pay for one of the concerts, with the money being in the 2024 budget. The Town is sponsoring the band "Soul Purpose" at a cost of \$700.00. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the payment.

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

RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION

Councilman Danon reported that the seasonal employee has started working with Steve at the Transfer Station. They are working on loading up the scrap metal and things are going well. Following a brief discussion on scrap metal, Supervisor Ronk will research prices.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**Parks Department/Municipal Worker Supervisor**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he consulted with Ulster County Civil Service about creating this position. He was advised that the Town would be entitled to one position with this title. The Town Board would need to pass a resolution to create this position and file with Ulster County. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to create the position of Municipal Worker Supervisor.

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

Supervisor Ronk will follow up with the paperwork for Ulster County.

Executive Session

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

BUILDINGS**Town Hall**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the air conditioning needed repair. MDS just got it up and running today. The blower issue with the unit was discussed. Mr. Ronk explained that MDS will continue to work on the unit and will be cleaning the filters.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk reported that the computers in the Town Clerk's Office have been having issues. One computer in the Assessor's Office is also having issues. The warranties are expired. The type of computers and budgets were discussed. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to proceed with the purchase of DELL computers.

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

INSURANCE/PURCHASING**Department of Environmental Protection**

Supervisor Ronk advised that he filed for the five-year New York City DEP Drainage Permit on Strawridge Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**Main Street/One Way**

Councilman LoCicero reported that the paperwork has been completed and sent to the state. The Town Board needs to pass a resolution in favor of the One-Way Street from Main Street to Church Street. All members were in agreement to proceed. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to create the One-Way Street.

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

NEW BUSINESS**Dumpster Law**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received complaints from residents about dumpsters. Highway Superintendent Blazeski has also expressed his concern that the sides of the roads are getting broken up

by the trucks that pick up the garbage. He requested that something be done. There was a discussion about setbacks, roads, and sidewalks in relation to regulating where dumpsters can be placed. Supervisor Ronk will contact the Association of Towns to inquire if they have any sample laws.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	12	466-495	\$ 53,729.43
HIGHWAY	12	223-247	\$ 58,385.85
WATER	12	59-61	\$ 5,094.05
SEWER	12	95-103	\$ 21,366.51
LIGHT	6	6	\$ 1,739.81
TRUST & AGENCY	10	45-51	\$ 2,669.40

A motion was made by Councilman Danon 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.

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

A motion by Councilman DeWitt and second by Councilman LoCicero to enter back into the Regular Meeting. The Executive Session started at 8:10 p.m. and ended at 8:30 p.m.

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

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk