

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**JULY 18, 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, Walkkill, NY on the **18th day of July 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman LoCicero was absent. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Sergeant John Spinato, Court Clerk & ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell, ZBA Member Robert Wallner, Planning Board Chair Mark Watkins, Planning Board Member Ryan Reid, 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 DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 18, 2024.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to discuss.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Vision of Walkkill**

Donna Barczak and Julie Craner, representing the Vision of Walkkill Committee reviewed the plans for the 2024 Weekend of Walkkill. The event will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The location is the same as previous years, on the library lawn, the Town Hall property, and the Libolt property off of Park Avenue. The Art Show will be held in the Town Hall Lobby. This year's theme is "Welcome to Farmland". V.O.W. is requesting insurance coverage for the event. Supervisor Ronk advised that there is no problem with the coverage as long as the Town is listed as a co-sponsor. President Barczak advised that the group had received a grant last year from Ulster County and has applied again this year for the \$500.00 in funding. She advised that all advertising will list the Town as a co-sponsor.

**Parkview Car Show**

Dan Grove, owner of the Parkview House spoke to the Town Board about holding the Annual Car Show for the sixth year. Mr. Grove explained that the show will be the same routine as in previous years. Criag Ross will handle the security and safety. Mr. Ross will be in contact with the Police Chief to coordinate the road closures. The car show will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2024. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the event, with the condition that a Certificate of Insurance is presented to the Town.

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

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS****SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

The Supervisor's Report for June 2024 was submitted and on file.

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's Report of \$44,999.16 was received.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported the following:

Storm damage was cleaned up.

Upper Mountain Road and Birch Road are being prepared for paving.

Attended Highway Superintendent Meeting where the BETA Group Consultants were present and held a presentation of the company. They are a company that goes into municipalities and does a survey and inventory of the roads. They also include an inventory of all catch basins and road signs. A breakdown is then given which proposes a five-to-ten-year program. Mr. Blazeski would like to move forward with the company coming in. The cost is approximately \$1800.00. When that is complete, he proposes to hold a public meeting for residents to see the status of our roads. A comprehensive Plan can be created. Highway Superintendent Blazeski will reach out to other municipalities and get references and opinions on whether this is a worthwhile option. Supervisor Ronk stated that there is no cost to having the company come in and make a presentation.

There was a brief discussion on a possible mandate for dealerships selling trucks to municipalities. The mandate would require dealerships to sell one electric truck for every so many diesel trucks. The information needs to be clarified.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Police Chief Marlatt reported the following:

Distributed a monthly report for June 2024 showing the department statistics.

Advised that Officer Reynolds and Officer McDermott were scheduled for Firearms Training. Once they attend this training, they will be able to train the other officers in the department.

Will be sending an officer for Crime Scene Training.

A Firearms Workshop will be held. There are new requirements that need to be updated.

He has been contacted by the American Legion in Montgomery for assistance with two benefit motorcycle rides that will be going through Shawangunk. The Chief will be in contact to inquire what the routes are and provide assistance. The dates of the rides are July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Eleven traffic cars are on the schedule.

Officer Edwards is interested in coming back to work part-time. Since there is a void in the A line, Chief Marlatt is recommending the re-instatement of Officer Edwards, who is interested in working the A line. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to re-instate Officer Edwards to work part-time.

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

**LIASION TO HIGHWAY****Truck Financing**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the truck purchased last year, which has a balance of \$290,180.00 and is due on July 26, 2024. The rate through Greene County Bank last year was 4.48%. The rate that is offered this year is 4.29% and amounts to \$13,000.06. Following a discussion on interest rates, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to renew the BAN with Greene County Bank as discussed.

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

**Western Star Tandem Plow Truck**

Supervisor Ronk discussed a resolution that was drawn up by the Bond Counsel for the truck. A Permissive Referendum is necessary. The Resolution needs to be advertised in the newspaper and posted on the Town Sign Board and Website. After thirty days, the Town Board can pursue a BAN. The payment would be \$58,358.60 plus the interest on the bond. The rate is 4.59% for seven years. The quote for a lease is \$342,760.00. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adopt the Bond Resolution as discussed.

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

#### **Investments**

Supervisor Ronk advised that investments through NYCLASS have earned the Town \$210,882.00 in interest during the period 1/1/24 through 6/30/24.

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

No report.

#### **WATER & SEWER**

##### **Water Main Break**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there was another water main break at Second & Lavoletta this week. Mr. Ronk advised that this is the fourth or fifth break recently. Again, there was no shut off valve. Tyler from H2O advised him of the break and was on-site all night. The contractors came in and did the repair. Supervisor Ronk stated that this area needs to be looked at in terms of possible future water breaks.

##### **Clarifier Project**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he spoke with Town Engineer, Brinnier & Larios, who advised that Wittcom is working on the Clarifier upgrades for the Sewer Department. The contractor has submitted a change order to replace the control panel and wiring while they are performing the work on the clarifier. Brinnier & Larios is recommending that Town be pro-active and replace at this time. The change order was discussed. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the change order for \$38,916.00.

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

#### **PARKS**

##### **Galeville Park**

##### **Pickleball Court Site Work**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Councilman LoCicero has obtained three quotes on clearing brush between the pavilion and back fields at Galeville. Mr. Ronk further explained that this would allow the area to be prepared for the future pickleball courts. The quotes are, Garrison Tree Service at \$8,100.00, Zach Tree Service at \$9,500.00 and Ken's Logging based at \$2,500 per day. Discussion on the drainage ditch, noise and light restrictions was held. Supervisor Ronk advised that he spoke to John Valk who shared information on specific deed restrictions. Councilman Danon wondered if it was better to hold off on a decision at this time. This may be something the Parks Department can do at some point. He is concerned about re-growth until the pickleball courts could be built. Councilman Danon inquired if this

work would be paid for with recreation funds. Councilman DeWitt has no problem with clearing the area at this time. He feels Ken's Logging has the equipment and has submitted a good price. Mr. DeWitt inquired why the pickleball courts are being considered at Galeville and not at Garrison Park. Councilman Amthor advised that he is in favor of clearing the area at this time. The maintenance staff can keep the area clear until the courts go in. Highway Superintendent Blazeski recommends Ken's Logging as he has the equipment to do the work in short amount of time. Supervisor Ronk explained that Ken's Logging has the time presently to do the work at this price. He advised that County Park Grant funds could possibly be used for this expense. Mr. Ronk explained that he has heard several concerns about noise from neighbors if pickleball courts were built at Garrison Park. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to accept the quote from Ken's Logging, for up to three days of work.

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

**Garrison Park Fence**

Supervisor Ronk discussed his concerns with the condition of the fence around Garrison Park. There was a discussion if the fence should be taken down or replaced. Councilman Danon stated that having a fence around the park is necessary for safety reasons. Councilman DeWitt stated that the fence needs to be made of sturdy materials. This discussion will continue at a future meeting.

**Verkeerderkill Park**

Councilman DeWitt reported that there is a request to waive the rental fee for the pavilion at Verkeerderkill Park for a Donate Life event. Mr. DeWitt reported that the Town Board waived the fee last year and recommends doing the same this year. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to waive the rental fee for the event scheduled for August 24, 2024.

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

**SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there is an area on Central Avenue where the concrete has lifted up on the sidewalk. The concern is the gas value is now below grade. Councilman Amthor will contact the contractor for a recommendation on how to proceed.

**RECREATION****Summer Camp**

Councilman DeWitt introduced Camp Director Gillian Batchesingh who reported that camp was going smoothly. She reported that all three fire companies in the Town participated in the event yesterday.

The Town Police Department has been there twice. The group was going to Splash Down on Friday and the Ulster County Fair on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. They have been to the movies. On the agenda there are visits scheduled for a Beekeeper, The National Guard, Library and an ice-cream party.

**RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Transfer Station is making progress with the clean-up. Mr. Ronk discussed the possibility of organic re-cycling in the future. He stated that the fence still needs to be repaired. Councilman Danon suggested that when the clean-up is complete at the end of the summer, the fence will need to be addressed. Various options were discussed with the type of fence that would work the best.

**PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**

**NYS Retirement Standard Work Day**

Supervisor Ronk explained that Judge Parlman has submitted the Reporting Resolution of her hours. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to accept the hours as submitted.

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

**Planning & Zoning Position**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received two applications and resumes for the position advertised. He would like to advertise again to see if there is additional interest prior to holding interviews. Councilman Amthor suggested he post the advertisement on Indeed to reach additional people.

**BUILDINGS**

**Town Hall**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he will be working with Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell on possibly applying for a grant to repair the bricks on the stairway to the courthouse.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

No report.

**COMPUTERS**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Microsoft Office has been purchased and received. Installation will start with the police computers tomorrow with the remainder of the departments to follow. Computers were ordered for the Town Clerk's Office.

**VOIP System**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the present voice mail system has been hacked. It was necessary to have the system password protected. Superior Phone Company has made a proposal and suggested better phones that would be protected. Mr. Ronk advised he will be researching this matter further and report back to the Town Board.

**INSURANCE/PURCHASING**

No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was brought discussed.

**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	13	496-578	\$103,728.06
HIGHWAY	13	248-289	\$ 80,624.53
WATER	13	62-70	\$ 19,989.80
SEWER	13	104-122	\$116,218.69
LIGHT	7	7	\$ 1,682.63
TRUST & AGENCY	11	52-61	\$ 3,200.85

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk