

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 1, 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 **1st day of August 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Joe 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, ZBA Member Robert Wallner, Planning Board Chair Mark Watkins, 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 Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 18, 2024.

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 29, 2024.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Borden Road

Mark Bodnarczuk introduced himself to the Town Board. He inquired when Borden Road would be paved. He thought it would be paved last year. He read the minutes from the meeting and found out that Dana, Calabrese, Birch and other roads would be paved, with no mention of Borden Road. He did

some research and found out that Borden Road has not been paved since 2000. He has driven around to see other roads that have been paved. Mr. Bodnarczuk inquired what determines when a road gets paved. Supervisor Ronk advised that decisions have not been made for 2025. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained the 284 Agreement process and how the CHIPS money can be used. He explained the 2% tax cap and how the Town is making strides in making progress with the roads. Mr. Bodnarczuk questioned again what determines what roads get done. He stated that Red Top Road was done three years ago and inquired why that road was done. He stated that since the bridge went out it seems like Borden Road has been forgotten. Mr. Blazeski stated that with the current funding, he can only do four miles per year. He explained the surface treatments used. Supervisor Ronk explained that Mr. Blazeski brings in professionals to determine what roads they can work on. Mr. Blazeski explained that the base of roads are not built to today's standards and this needs to be considered to determine the treatment and equipment for the roads.

A resident stated that the road is a hazard. Since the bridge has been closed no tree trimming has taken place. Cars have to wait before they can pass each other near the turn. They pay taxes and inquire where the money is going. Mr. Blazeski advised that he will go out and take a look at that area. Mr. Bodnarczuk stated he realizes the budget issues, but the road should have been paved at least once in twenty-four years. Mr. Blazeski explained his goal of applying the correct treatment to each road. He explained that drainage work including culverts and ditching needs to be done prior to the road treatment. Councilman Danon explained that Mr. Blazeski is working on getting a company to come out and analyze every road and create a plan for each road. Mr. Blazeski explained that they have created a capital plan for equipment, and he wants to do the same for the roads. Supervisor Ronk explained the bonding rates and the possibility of putting a proposal on the ballot.

Stein Road

Jackie Muskulas inquired what the plan was to finish the project on Stein Road. Highway Superintendent Blazeski discussed the condition and the plan to complete the road. Mrs. Muskulas inquired who would maintain the concrete wall. Mr. Blazeski stated the Town will. Supervisor Ronk explained that presently there is an issue with the paver, and they have companies coming in to give estimates.

Red Barn Road

Mr. Brett Cohen inquired about the brush that is hanging out to Route 52. He stated that it is not safe to pull out. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that it is the responsibility of the New York State Department of Transportation, and the Town cannot do the brush trimming. He agreed to reach out to the NYSDOT and request they trim the brush in that area.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported the following:

The One-Way Resolution and paperwork for Main Street and Wallkill Avenue has been submitted to the New York State Department of Transportation. The next step is they will come out and do a traffic study.

He will be attending a meeting in the Town of Montgomery regarding a presentation from a research company who specializes in evaluating roads to come up with a five-to-ten-year plan. He hopes to find out if this is something the Town would benefit from.

The agreement to purchase lands necessary for Stein Road was received from the Engineer. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilmen LoCicero to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the agreement.

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

POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief Marlatt reported the following:

Previous Town Board requested he add lighting to the patrol cars. He has received an estimate of \$19,000. Chief Marlatt stated that this expense would be eligible under the \$185,000.00 Tech Grant the Town received. Supervisor Ronk advised that the funds have been deposited in the Town Bank Account. A plan on how the money will be spent needs to be developed. Chief Marlatt will come up with a plan and review it with the Police Liaison.

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

Brander Subdivision on Wildrick Road

Supervisor Ronk discussed a letter received from Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins regarding a recommendation from the Town Engineer setting a Performance Bond of \$18,155.00 for the road. A recommendation for up to \$3,860.45 in a separate Escrow Account for inspections was also included. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to set the bond amount as recommended by the Town Engineer.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

No report.

WATER & SEWER**Water**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there were two water main breaks on Viola Avenue this week. Mr. Ronk stated that there has been a total of six water main breaks this year. This area needs a lot of replacement pipework to avoid these breaks in the future. He will be addressing this in the upcoming budget.

Sewer

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has met with Town Attorney Rich Hoyt and Town Engineer Dennis Larios on finishing up the Intermunicipal Agreement so the project can go out to bid. The Town of Montgomery is collaborating with their Attorney for the Milk Factory Project. The language regarding the double rate needed to be updated. Supervisor Ronk is hopeful that the agreement will be ready by the September meeting.

PARKS**Park Grant Equipment**

Councilman Danon reported that he has been having difficulty with the equipment company, and it may be necessary to go to a new company.

Pickleball Courts

Councilman LoCicero reported that the site work at Galeville Park was approved. He has been working on obtaining prices for two pickleball courts to start. He was researching concrete versus blacktop. The conclusion reached was concrete was the best surface to install. He has received a bid of \$7,000.00 for the concrete so far. There will be the additional expense of nets and painting the lines. He would like to move forward this year with two courts, without fencing. There will be a grassy area in between the courts. The excavating is being donated. In the future, he is proposing four courts and fencing. Councilman LoCicero would like to start the plan at this time with the Town Board approving an allowance of up to \$20,000.00. Supervisor Ronk stated that Galeville Park is underutilized and having pickleball there would attract people to the park. He stated that Montgomery and Crawford are booked all the time. Councilman Danon stated that there may have been concerns with noise and lack of business in the hamlet. He would like to possibly see two courts located in Garrison Park in the future. Supervisor Ronk advised that there is \$250,000.00 in the Recreation Fee Fund for park improvements, part of that is from the Ulster County Grant. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize spending of up to \$20,000.00 for the pickleball project at Galeville Park.

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

Verkeerderkill Park

Supervisor Ronk reported that all the wood equipment needs to be replaced. Councilman DeWitt advised that one of the pieces may be kept for a memorial. Mr. Ronk suggested that a plaque could be put on the memorial with a fire engine theme. He also suggested that Garrison Park have a train-related theme.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

No report.

RECREATION

Summer Camp

Councilman DeWitt reported that at the last Town Board meeting he was authorized to hire additional counselors if needed. He advised that the following were hired:

Nayely Gutierrez - Lead Counselor	\$17.00 per hour
Hazel Gutierrez - Assistant Counselor	\$16.00 per hour
Reilly Benson - Assistant Counselor	\$16.00 per hour

Councilman DeWitt reported that there is one week left of camp, the program has been going well. Tomorrow, they are going to the Ulster County Fair. Councilman Danon reported that his children attend camp and have enjoyed all the groups and organizations that have been brought in.

Councilman DeWitt reported that repairs were made to the see saw and some plumbing leaks were repaired.

RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION

Supervisor Ronk reported that several pallets of electronics were put together. Steve has requested the Town Board explore alternative electronic companies. The scrap metal clean up at the Transfer Station is making good progress. Councilman Danon reported that extra boxes were brought in to assist with the clean-up.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board will go into Executive Session prior to New Business being discussed.

BUILDINGS

No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk reported that Microsoft 365 has been installed on all of the Police computers as well as the computers at Town Hall. Sergeant Spinato reported that full integration will be starting on the police computers.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board would go into Executive Session to discuss an attorney/client personal matter. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to enter into Executive Session.

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

The Executive Session started at 8:05 p.m.

A motion was made to come out of the Executive Session by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon and resume the Regular Meeting.

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

The Executive Session ended at 8:27 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS**Personnel**

Supervisor Ronk read Resolution #7-2024 regarding the dismissal of a Town Employee effective August 1, 2024. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve Resolution #7-2024 as read.

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

A copy of this resolution is attached as part of the Regular Minutes.

Court

Supervisor Ronk explained that the Court Clerk has requested that the petty cash for the court office be increased from \$200.00 to \$300.00. Mr. Ronk explained that the recent cost increase for certified mailings, and the need to make change to residents making fine payments there is not sufficient cash

available to do business. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to increase the Court Office Petty Cash to \$300.00.

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

River Road & Cottage Street Drainage

Supervisor Ronk reported that Joe Yuknevich has purchased two parcels of property off of River Road and Cottage Street. He is building a single-family home and plans on farming the remainder of the property. He is willing to grant an easement to the Town having access to the drainage ditch for cleaning purposes. Planning Board Chairman explained that this is a good opportunity for the Town to have access to the drainage ditch and spoke in favor of the proposal. Councilman LoCicero stated that it is in the best interest of the Town and a good opportunity to have this easement. Supervisor Ronk explained that Mr. Yuknevich has made the offer with the condition that the Town will pay for the legal fees to draw up the agreement. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the attorney expense of drawing up the easement up to \$300.00.

Dog Control Officer

Councilman LoCicero inquired the status of hiring a Dog Control Officer. Mr. LoCicero explained there have been too many lost dogs that the Police Department has had to handle recently. Recently there was an issue that required treatment by a veterinarian. He explained that a vet should have a contract with the Town. Mr. LoCicero discussed a dollar amount that should be approved without having to contact a supervisor for approval. Supervisor Ronk requested authorization to contact the applicants who applied to learn if they are still interested in the job. He will compile a list and schedule interviews. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize Supervisor Ronk to contact those individuals for the Dog Control Officer position .

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

Sergent Spinato advised that the Town of Plattekill has a contract with Flannery Animal Hospital. Supervisor Ronk will follow up with the Plattekill Supervisor for a sample of their contract.

AED'S/American Rescue Funds

Supervisor Ronk reported that Ulster County is offering municipalities with camps and sporting teams \$5,000, to purchase AED's. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize Supervisor Ronk to put in an application for the AED's.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

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<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	14	579-607	\$ 28,810.03
HIGHWAY	14	290-303	\$ 99,276.16
WATER	14	71-73	\$ 15,517.32
SEWER	14	123-128	\$ 26,752.51
TRUST & AGENCY	12	62-68	\$ 2207.21

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

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

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

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk