

**REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 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 **5th day of September 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk & ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Members Mark Watkins and Ryan Reid, several members of the Police Department and 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 Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 15, 2024.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Supervisor Ronk acknowledged a Public Hearing Notice from Town of Montgomery on September 4, 2024.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

No one was present to address the Town Board.

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS**

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the crew has been preparing the roads for chip, seal and cold pave. Presently they are working on Upper Mountain Road.

Mr. Blazeski discussed the proposed New York State mandate that all vendors will have to sell one electric truck for every ten. If trucks are built prior to 2025, they would be exempt. Councilman Amthor

explained that the mandate is known as the ACT Plan and relates to emissions. He further explained that it applies to select states including New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, California, Washington. In 2026 Rhode Island and Vermont will be added. Next year dealers will have to sell one electric diesel truck for every six they sell. The price will reflect with the shortage of trucks and will add \$20,000 to \$30,000 per truck. Essentially, this is forcing companies to go electric in New York State and will affect budgets.

**POLICE CHIEF**

No report.

**LIASION TO HIGHWAY**

No report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY****Appointment**

Councilman Amthor reported that the Police Liaisons have recommended the appointment of Officer Aaron Reynolds to the position of Sergeant. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to appoint Officer Reynolds to the Sergeant position, effective September 8, 2024.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Office Reynolds thanked the Town Board. He was congratulated by the Board and fellow officers who were present at the meeting.

**WATER & SEWER****Route 208 Sewer South**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has met with the Supervisor of Town of Montgomery a few times, and with the Town Attorney regarding the Intermunicipal Agreement for the Milk Factory sewer line. Most of the issues have been ironed out. Mr. Ronk explained that Ulster County had a deadline for signing the funding agreement, so he signed it prior to the adoption of the IMA. The bidding process will go out as one bid containing two options being bid separately.

**PARKS****Galeville Park**

Councilman LoCicero reported that the clearing work is completed. The brush will settle down over the winter. In the spring it will be cleaned up and mowed. The pickleball courts will be built in the spring.

Supervisor Ronk advised that he will be sending a thank you letter to Ulster County Department of Public Works for the work they did to the park entrance while they were paving Long Lane.

**Verkeerderkill Park**

Councilman DeWitt reported that there was a water break at the park. The Police Chief shut the water off and repaired the problem. Mr. DeWitt also noted that Walker Valley Auto has been maintaining the flag at the Walker Valley Schoolhouse. The park has been busy with various ball teams using the fields. Tentatively, the Trunk Or Treat will be held on October 27, 2024.

**Park Grant Equipment**

Councilman Danon reported that he has discussed the renovations with the company the Board Members talked about at the last meeting. The prices increased as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. He will have to get updated price quotes. He is requesting giving authorization to Supervisor Ronk to sign the purchase order for the design up to \$250,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to grant Supervisor Ronk that authority.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**SIDEWALK/LIGHTING****Sidewalks**

Councilman Amthor reported that he has confirmed with the vendor the areas that need repair and will be completed by October. Supervisor Ronk reported that he has the contractor look at the sidewalk issue on Central Avenue and it will be repaired appropriately.

**RECREATION****Summer Camp Wrap Up**

Councilman DeWitt reported that the final numbers are not available yet. He is anticipating that this year's budget will break even.

**Grant**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the \$1,000.00 grant through Ulster County is being processed.

**RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION**

Councilman Danon reported that he has reviewed the proposed tipping fees and discussed them with the Supervisor. Mr. Andy Ghiorse reported that the fee increase is for transportation and disposal.

**PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**

Supervisor Ronk advised that it will be necessary to go into Executive Session to discuss employee interviews.

**BUILDINGS**

No report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Steering Committee for Patterns for Progress has met regarding the Strategic Economic Development Action Plan. They discussed the Rail Trail and Downtown areas and are recommending a Public Informational Session be held. The purpose of the meeting will to gain public input and will be held in October.

Supervisor Ronk reported that Catsmo Foods on Myers Lane is looking to expand. They wish to expand by putting in a third smoker. He did a tour and wrote a letter of support for a CFA Grant to the Ulster County Economic Development Corporation.

**COMPUTERS**

Supervisor Ronk reported that a website upgrade will be included in the budget for next year.

**INSURANCE/PURCHASING**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received a quote for Pollution Control Insurance, which is being required as part of the grant they have approved from Ulster County.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Time Cards**

Councilman LoCicero reported that he has been pursuing various ways for the Highway Department to track their time. Presently the system being used is a long process and consumes too much time. Several types of systems were discussed. Mr. LoCicero will continue to check out what is available and make a recommendation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2% Tax Override**

Supervisor Ronk reported that proposed Local Law #3 has been on the desk of the Councilmen for seven days and emailed to them for ten days. The proposed law requires a Public Hearing. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to schedule the Public Hearing for Local Law #3 on October 19, 2024.

**VOTE: ALL AYE**

**Pro-Housing Community Designation**

Supervisor Ronk explained the details and requirements of the NY Forward Grant. It is a 4.5 million dollar grant to revitalize the downtown. There is no funding match required. The Town would have to come up with project ideas. In order to apply, the Town needs to be a "Pro-Housing Community". Part of the process requires a GIS Zoning Program resolution passed by the Town Board. If the Town Board desires to begin the process of applying there is a pre-application letter which is due tomorrow. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to pursue the application process.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board would go into Executive Session to discuss employee interviews. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to enter into Executive Session.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

The Executive Session started at 7:50 p.m.

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

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

The Executive Session ended at 8:30 p.m.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were audited.

| <u>ACCOUNT</u> | <u>WARRANT</u> | <u>VOUCHERS</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| GENERAL        | 16             | 651-702         | \$ 61,447.39  |
| HIGHWAY        | 16             | 322-346         | \$ 41,618.41  |
| WATER          | 16             | 86-92           | \$ 2,454.70   |
| SEWER          | 16             | 140-150         | \$ 17,563.26  |
| TRUST & AGENCY | 14             | 86-96           | \$ 5,800.50   |
| LIGHT          | 9              | 9               | \$ 1,959.64   |

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

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk