

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19, 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 **19th 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 Chairman 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 September 5, 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Ronk opened up a Public Hearing on "Override of the Property Tax Cap". Mr. Ronk explained that municipalities cannot exceed the 2% property tax cap set by New York State unless they pass a local law. See Public Hearing Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Community Room

Supervisor Ronk discussed a request from a Homeschooler Group who has requested to use the Community Room from November to March for their weekly meetups. This group has used the room in the past with no issues. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the use of the Community Room for the group.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Park Bench

Supervisor Ronk discussed a request for a bench to be purchased and placed on the Rail Trail in memory of a resident. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Supervisor Ronk will contact the resident who made the request and make arrangements for the purchase and placement of the bench.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**Stein Road**

Jackie Muskulus inquired when Stein Road would be paved and the status of the grant money. Supervisor Ronk advised that the paving company was approved to proceed. The Town is waiting for the date when they are available to do the paving. Ms. Muskulus inquired about the figures that were discussed. Mr. Ronk explained that \$17,500 is the cost to do the paving and \$43,000 is the cost of the blacktop. He advised that there is some grant money still available. Ms. Muskulus inquired if residents were able to see the engineer's report. She inquired about the erosion, road signs, school buses and the recently purchased paver. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained the process with erosion and explained that school buses cannot use the road until guard rails are installed. The road cannot be opened and the guard rails can't go in until the road is paved. Mr. Blazeski advised that the highway crew will be on Stein Road, and he agreed to take a look at the erosion, the missing sign and the depression with the pipe. He explained that the paver the Town purchased had to get sent back.

Phil & Joan Kirschen/Roads

Mrs. Kirschen inquired when the pot holes along Park Avenue and the Library would be fixed. She stated that she spoke to the Town Board about it three meetings ago. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that the crew looked at it a few weeks ago. One of the problems is the workers at the Library are parked there along with the walkers on the Rail Trail. Mrs. Kirschen suggested that the area be flagged the night before so no one parks there. She also inquired when the deep pot hole in the middle of Strawridge Road could be fixed. Mr. Kirschen inquired when the minutes of previous meetings are available. Supervisor Ronk explained that the minutes are approved at the next meeting and then posted on the website. Mr. Kirschen inquired if the company previously discussed about taking a road inventory was hired. Mr. Blazeski advised that he has attended meetings and contacted other municipalities for referrals. The details of the program were discussed. Treatments, processes and recommendations that would be utilized were discussed. Specifically, Mr. Kirschen inquired what type of surface would be used for Strawridge Road and when it could be done. Mr. Blazeski advised he would have to check on the surface and there is no schedule at this time. Supervisor Ronk explained guarantees can't be given as things like natural disasters could change schedules. He would guess that it would be three to four years. The entire road cost would be \$400,000.00 which is the entire CHIPS funding. The road would require other work like ditching, culverts and catch basins that could equal the cost of the paving. Long-term planning and the rating system were discussed. The data must be obtained prior to putting together a plan. Mr. Kirschen inquired about the court fine monies and audits. Supervisor Ronk explained the auditing process and advised that the Town has an independent audit

each year which is filed with the New York State Comptroller's Office. Mr. Ronk further explained that the secretary for the Highway Superintendent will now be full-time which will allow her to put data together.

Mrs. Kirschen inquired how the cars that are not stopping at the Rail Trail Crossing are handled. She stated that she is there every morning and cars do not stop for the pedestrians. Police Chief Marlatt advised that the officers do watch the crossing. He advised that people need to step on the road in the crosswalk in order for the vehicles to be breaking the law. Supervisor Ronk stated that traffic enforcement is up this year. A traffic car has been added to focus on road problems and traffic enforcement.

Councilman DeWitt noted that the Highway and General Fund are two separate funds. The Town Board has added eight percent to the highway budget but it never made a difference. The raise in the budget has increased more than two percent. Supervisor Ronk explained that everything is going up in price due to inflation. The Tax Cap was exceeded last year without getting anything additional.

Mr. Kirschen inquired if Strawridge Road, where it narrows, can be posted. Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town is working together with the DEP to widen this portion of the road.

Ingrid Malloy/Dirt Bikes

Mrs. Malloy reported that a week ago she witnessed four wheelers and dirt bikes running on DuBois Road. They ran down her driveway and came out on Roosa Road and headed down towards Walden. They did not have helmets on. It seemed they knew where they were going. She is assuming they may be the same ones that have been on Plains Road. Mrs. Malloy explained that she went down to the Police Department to report this and find out what the laws are. She is concerned if someone accidentally hit one of them. She was told by the police officer that she would have to have her property posted with "No Trespassing" signs to enforce anything. Mrs. Malloy inquired with the Police Chief what can be done. Police Chief Marlatt stated that there are many rules, one of them is that signs are needed to enforce. He explained that the lawlessness of the dirt bikes and four wheelers started in the cities. They run in packs and scatter when the police come. It's going on all over and is dangerous. Many are not registered and insured. They drive through anything, and it is not known where they are coming from. Andy Ghiorse reported that they ride on the aqueduct. The DEP used to patrol, but they don't seem to be presently. Supervisor Ronk agreed that it is hard to enforce riding on aqueduct.

Courtney Brown/Road Sign

Ms. Brown from 92 Stein Road inquired about the procedure to get a road sign on the private road she lives on. She explained that there are five houses on her road. There are two other private roads in the area that have blue road signs, Pumphouse Lane and GU Evans. She offered to pay for the sign. Supervisor Ronk explained that the road would need to be named for 911 purposes. The Town would approve the naming of the private road. The Town would order and install the sign and could get reimbursed. Mr. Ronk suggested she contact Assessor Curt Schoeberl, he can check the inventory and start the process for the naming of the road.

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

The Supervisor's Report for August 2024 was received.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report for August 2024 for \$55,963.68 was received.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**Roads**

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that Birch Road, Riverside Drive, Dana & Calabrese Drive were cold paved. The fog sealing on Upper Mountain Road and Denniston Road was done. He will look at the budget and determine if another road can be done.

State Mandate for Trucks

Highway Superintendent Blazeski discussed the problem with the proposed state law that will mandate dealers sell one electric truck for every six they sell. Mr. Blazeski discussed how more expensive it will be for municipalities. He does not understand changing the requirements when it takes ten hours to charge a plow truck to get forty-six minutes of use out of it. It is just not practical. Weight limits were discussed.

POLICE CHIEF**Monthly Report**

Police Chief Marlatt distributed copies of the August 2024 Monthly Report. The statistics were reviewed and discussed.

Training

Officer Ireland will be attending the DARE Officer training in Pennsylvania at the end of October. The Chief reported that he is getting the details in order and is making arrangements for the Interstate Agreement. The total cost of the training is \$700.00.

Officer McDermott will be attending the Defense Tactical Training School. He is in the process of getting three price quotes for Tactical Slings for the rifles. Chief Marlatt is looking for approval for this purchase as he has the funding in the budget. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to make this purchase.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Dog Control

Chief Marlatt reported that the Police Committee will be holding interviews for this position shortly and will make a recommendation to the Town Board.

Crossing Guards

Chief Marlatt explained that although presently we have two crossing guards, it is necessary to have back-ups. Right now, he has a qualified person interested in the position. He is recommending that William (Bill) Davidson be hired. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to hire Mr. Davidson.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Tech Grant

Chief Marlatt reported following interviews, he will be working on a list of ideas on what to use the funding for. He welcomed input from the Town Board Members.

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

No report.

WATER & SEWER**Route 208 Sewer South**

Supervisor Ronk reported that The Town Engineer and Attorney have met and worked out the final details of the Intermunicipal Agreement. The Agreement will still have to be voted on at the next Town Board Meeting. The funding from Ulster County will not be released until the signed contract is received. He will have the final quote for the required pollution insurance at the next meeting.

Capital Projects

Supervisor Ronk reported that capital work is necessary to do in the water district. He inquired with the Association of Towns if it was acceptable for the water department to borrow from the sewer department and keep the borrowing in house. He is waiting for a reply.

PARKS**Park Equipment Grant**

Councilman Danon reported that he is still clarifying the equipment order. He will send the final order to the Town Board prior to placing it. They are still working with the \$250,000.00 amount.

Garrison Park

Councilman Danon inquired if a similar fence could be considered for Garrison Park like what the Wallkill Firehouse has installed for a railing.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**Popp Park**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he is getting quotes for the two spotlights on the flag. The fixtures are not working, the quotes include replacing the fixtures with LED's.

RECREATION**Halloween Trunk or Treat**

Councilman DeWitt reported that he is still working on a date for the Trunk or Treat at Verkeerderkill Park.

RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION

No report.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**Employees**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the following employees have been interviewed and recommended: Highway Department – Curtis Lewis for the full-time position of HEMO at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, starting on October 7, 2024.

Planning/ZBA Secretary – Julie Pawson for the full-time position of Secretary to both Planning and Zoning Board at a rate of \$21.50 per hour, starting on September 23, 2024.

Supervisor Ronk explained that the employee working for both Planning and Highway will be moved to a full-time position in Highway. The employee working in Zoning and Court will be moved to full-time in the Court Office.

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to hire Curtis Lewis as stated above.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to hire Julie Pawson as stated above.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

BUILDINGS

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Town is applying for a grant to the Office of Court Administration. One of the items they have been discussing was the brickwork on the court entrance steps. A price quote will need to be obtained from a mason. Mr. Ronk explained that the Town Board will need to adopt a Resolution applying for the grant. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to apply for the JACP in the amount of up to \$30,000.00.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk reported that funding will be included in the 2025 budget for modernization of the Town Website.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Pro-Housing Community Designation

Supervisor Ronk explained that at the last Town Board meeting the board members agreed to pursue the application process for the NY Forward Grant. In order to apply for the grant which would increase housing, the Town Board must pass a Resolution designating the Town as a Housing Smart Community. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adopt the Housing Smart Resolution.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Consent Order – Highway

Supervisor Ronk reported that the court order has authorized the creation of the Shawangunk Highway Union. He advised that a labor attorney will have to work on this with the Town Board. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize the labor attorney to sign a consent order from PERB.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	17	703-723	\$ 33,163.84
HIGHWAY	17	347-365	\$ 50,777.23
WATER	17	93-97	\$ 15,312.54
SEWER	17	151-160	\$ 21,054.92
TRUST & AGENCY	15	97-102	\$ 1,000.00

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

VOTE: ALL AYE.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no comments on proposed Local Law #3, Override of the Tax Levy Limit. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to close the Public Hearing.

VOTE: ALL AYE

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:30 p.m.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Blazeski requested to have further discussion on the new ACT bill and the affect will have on purchasing trucks. He reported that he has located a Western Star which is close to our specifications that is available for purchase at a cost of \$349,000.00. He explained that it is a steel body, not stainless. There was a discussion on not having the ability to modify a competitive bid. There is also consideration that there need to be a plan and time table with payments. Councilman DeWitt stated that future purchases need to be considered. He stated the GradeAll is twelve years old and will need to be replaced. It was agreed not to move forward with the Western Star at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk

INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW #3 – OVERRIDE OF TAX CAP LEVY LIMIT

MINUTES of a Public Hearing held by the Town Board of the Town of Shawangunk, County of Ulster, State of New York, at the Town Office Building, 14 Central Avenue, Wallkill, New York, on the 19th day of September 2024, on the Proposed Override of the Tax Cap Levy Limit. The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Ken Ronk.

Present were Supervisor Ken 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 Chairman Mark Watkins, and several members of the public.

Following a discussion on Overriding the 2% Tax Cap, there were no comments or questions from the audience. Supervisor Ronk advised this action is a Type II Action and exempt from SEQRA.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to close the Public Hearing on Local Law No. 3 of 2024, Override of Tax Levy Limit.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to adopt Local Law #3, Override of the Tax Cap Levy Limit.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:30 p.m.

Jane Rascoe
Town Clerk