

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 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 **3rd day of October 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 Member Rich Barnhart, Highway Clerk MaryAnn Longano, 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 Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 19, 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on September 19, 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

CORRESPONDENCE

Public Hearing Notice

Supervisor Ronk acknowledged a Public Hearing Notice received on September 18, 2024, from the Town of Newburgh related to Cannabis Uses.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Walkkill Lions Club

Sal Patella and Dave LaSpada, representing the Wallkill Lions Club, announced that the Lions Club is partnering with the PBA to hold a Halloween Event at Popp Park on Friday, October 25th.

Sal Patella and Dave LaSpada advised the Town Board Members that the group is moving forward with purchasing the seasonal ice-skating rink previously discussed. Mr. Patella reported that they have received letters of support which include school activities. They are working on three grants and possible funding streams. Quotes were submitted for three items they were hoping the Town could contribute. One proposal would include site work at the park, including a storage shed, fencing, and audio system in the existing pavilion. Mr. LaSpada advised that Watchtower Farms will offer support. They are expecting two smaller grants, one is a matching grant for \$2,500.00-5,000.00, and the other is a 50% matching grant with an unknown amount at this point. They have started a public fundraising campaign and estimate that with these sources they are at the half-way point to pay for the project. The cost of the kit is \$120,000.00. With the work stated, they would be closer to the goal. Supervisor Ronk inquired if any of the items would qualify for any of the matching grants. The issue of leveling the concrete pad, and the sound system were discussed. Mr. Patella explained that the sound system could be used all year for various activities. Councilman Amthor inquired if they would be continuing this winter as they have in the past. Mr. Patella said they would be continuing as they always have. Mr. LaSpada advised that they will not hear about the grant until March or April. Councilman DeWitt inquired if there was a priority with the items requested. Mr. LaSpada advised that the shed is crucial. Supervisor Ronk stated that some of the items may have to be phased in. Mr. Patella advised that Watchtower is willing to assist, after the funding has been secured. Councilman Danon stated he completely supports the project. Councilman DeWitt stated that the Town Board will have to look at the budget and discuss further. Supervisor Ronk stated that the Town Board will continue to discuss and work on the funding requests.

Assemblyman Brian Maher

Assemblyman Maher was introduced by Supervisor Ronk. He stated that it was an honor to be present tonight to make a special announcement. Assemblyman Maher explained that he represents twenty towns in four counties. Members receive a small amount of funding for capital improvement projects. He was able to obtain \$50,000.00 for a handicap boat launch at Popp Park and \$25,000.00 towards the ice rink discussed previously. Assemblyman Maher also pledged to help maximize funding through other non-profits and would like to be a part of those conversations. Assemblyman Maher presented a check to the Town for \$75,000.00.

Supervisor Ronk thanked Assemblyman Maher on behalf of the Town of Shawangunk taxpayers. He further explained that the boat launch was a dream of many organizations. He thanked Mr. Maher for his assistance and generosity in bringing back funds to our residents. Supervisor Ronk will continue to work with Assemblyman Maher on these projects.

Pavement Management Group

Supervisor Ronk introduced Mr. Howard Mills Vice President of Pavement Management Group. Mr. Ronk explained that Mr. Mills formally represented Shawangunk in the NYS Assembly and was the

former Superintendent of the NYS Insurance Board. Mr. Mills explained how he invested in the company which empowers municipalities to maximize road investments with technology and data. He advised that the Town of Montgomery is utilizing the plan and named many other municipalities who have signed on with the company. Mr. Mills showed an overview of the program. He explained that the process would take one hundred twenty days to analyze the ninety-two miles of roads the Town of Shawangunk has. The cost for the program is \$250.00 per mile, with a total cost of \$27,500.00. Mr. Mills further explained that the company remains engaged with the municipality by updating data. There is a \$500.00 charge every other year for that update. Mr. Mills answered questions from the audience regarding federal grant funding, projections and prices. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that having this information will be advantageous when the Town applies for funding. Supervisor Ronk stated the Town can keep applying for funding when grant opportunities become available. Mr. Mills clarified that the \$27,500.00 fee is not a one-time fee but a charge every two years.

Shawangunk Democrats

Adrienne Gelfand-Perine, representing the Shawangunk Dems, addressed the Town Board and read a letter regarding the disappearance of political signs from private property. It was agreed that the courts have ruled that political signs are a freedom of speech, and everyone is in agreement that theft of all signs from private property is a crime and should not be tolerated.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Roads

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported that the planned pavement jobs on Upper Mountain Road, Riverside Drive, Birch Road and Denniston Road are finished, or just about to be completed.

POLICE CHIEF

No report.

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

One-Way Street/Main Street

Supervisor Ronk referred to a letter from New York State Department of Transportation dated September 23, 2024. The letter advises that the state has no jurisdiction, the Town should contact Ulster County for their input. It was also advised that a local law must be passed and filed with the Department of State. Supervisor Ronk advised that he spoke to the Town Attorney who is researching if

a local law is necessary. If Ulster County has no objections, a Resolution may be sufficient. Supervisor Ronk will contact Ulster County, if there are no issues, the plan can move forward. This matter will be continued at the next meeting.

Walker Valley Mutual Aid Plan

Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town Board must approve the Mutual Aid Plan for the Walker Valley Fire Company. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the plan as written, and authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Pine Bush Ambulance

Brett Cohen, representing Pine Bush Ambulance, advised the Town Board that there is an open position on the Executive Board. They are offering the position to the Shawangunk and Crawford Town Boards. He explained that this position is different from the liaison.

Private Road/Stein Road

Supervisor Ronk reviewed a letter received from Assessor Curt Schoeberl regarding the naming of a private road off of Stein Road. The proposed name of the road is "Lily Pool Lane". Mr. Schoeberl will submit the name to Ulster County E-911 for their approval. Mrs. Brown, who made the request at the last meeting will pay for the sign. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the name "Lily Pool Lane".

VOTE: ALL AYE.

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

Supervisor Ronk reviewed the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Shawangunk, Town of Montgomery and the Milk Factory. Mr. Ronk explained that the attorneys are finalizing the language with a few minor changes that will not affect the contract. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the Intermunicipal Municipal Agreement.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Route 208 Sewer South Bids

Supervisor Ronk explained that the project will be going out in two bids. One bid will be the installation of the low pressure sewer system, and the second bid is for furnishing low pressure sanitary sewer pumps. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Ronk read Resolution #11 identifying Contract TSW-231 and TSW-242. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve Resolution #11 as proposed.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

PARKS

No report.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

No report.

RECREATION

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Councilman DeWitt reported that Trunk or Treat will be held at Verkeerderkill Park on October 27, 2024. Set up time is 2 p.m. with festivities starting at 4:30. Fireworks will be held at 7:30 p.m. Mr. DeWitt explained that the PBA is sponsoring the fireworks, which were not held on National Night Out because of the weather. Sponsors of the event are the Town of Shawangunk, PBA, Bearded Boys BBQ, July 4 Ever Fireworks, and the Walker Valley Fire Company. A sample flyer was reviewed. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the flyer for circulation.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Transfer Station was closed for one week due to work on the Sewer Pump House. The road had to be dug up and there was no access.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Ronk reported that there will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss an employee issue.

Councilman Amthor reported that interviews are scheduled for next Tuesday for the Dog Control Officer position.

BUILDINGS

No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Planning Board Chairman has requested an additional computer in the office to be used by himself and the members. Mr. Ronk explained that he is hoping to re-purpose one of the computers being replaced in the Town Clerk's Office.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS**Association of Towns**

Supervisor Ronk explained that the Annual Training put on by the Association in February 2025 is offering "early bird rates" which are due by October 31st: He would like to attend and inquired if anyone else would like to attend. When the schedule is released he will distribute to the members.

Annual Financial Contract

Supervisor Ronk reported that Cooper Arias, LLP has submitted a proposal for a three-year contract to perform the Annual Financial Audit of the Town. Mr. Ronk explained that he feels it is important to keep them as they have been doing a good job for the Town. Councilman DeWitt stated he thinks it's in the best interest of the Town to stay with Cooper Arias. The offer is year one \$19,750.00, year two \$20,500.00, and year three \$21,300.00. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to accept this three-year contract and authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the contract.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. **VOTE: ALL AYE.**
A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to enter back into the Regular Meeting. The Executive Session started at 8:18 p.m. and ended at 8:47 p.m. **VOTE: ALL AYE.**
No action was taken.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	18	724-753	\$ 26,000.70
HIGHWAY	18	366-387	\$ 40,571,.28
WATER	18	98-99	\$ 1,088.33
SEWER	18	161-171	\$129,822.65
TRUST & AGENCY	16	103-107	\$ 2,188.20
LIGHT	10	10	\$ 2,005.03

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

VOTE: ALL AYE.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Resolutions were offered by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt for the following Budget Transfers:

DECREASE	SM599	TO	INCREASE	SM5420.400	\$ 9,128.00
INCREASE	SS1440.400	TO	DECREASE	SS8120.400	\$15,000.00
INCREASE	DA1420.400	TO	DECREASE	DA9060.800	\$ 3,000.00

VOTE: ALL AYE.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The 2025 Tentative Budget was presented. Copies were distributed to the Town Board Members. Supervisor Ronk reviewed the budget line by line with the board members. He is proposing a zero percent raise for all elected officials. Mr. Ronk is proposing a flat \$21.50 per hour for all clerical staff. He is suggesting that the Longevity Bonus in the Employees Manuel be increased.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk