

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 7, 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 **7th day of November 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Amthor and Councilman LoCicero were absent. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Zoning Board Member Robert Wallner, 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 October 17, 2024.

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

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Supervisor Ronk announced that the Town Board has created and is distributing informational sheets where residents can provide their contact information to the Town. The information will be used to contact residents with any Town Emergency or important announcement. He stated that the contact information will not be shared. A letter will be sent to residents providing instructions on how to provide the contact information to the Town.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from Marco Civiglia on 11/4/24 regarding zoning, and a Notice of Claim regarding Walker Valley Schoolhouse on 10/23/24 were received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearings for the 2025 Preliminary Budget and the Tentative Special District Assessment Rolls were opened at 7:05 p.m. See Public Hearing Minutes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**Lions Club**

Andy Harcher and Dave LaSpada, representing the Wallkill Lions Club, discussed the proposed Ice Skating Rink at Popp Park that has been previously discussed with the Town Board. Mr. LaSpada inquired if the Town Board has come to any decision on what they can contribute towards the project. Mr. LaSpada advised that it is necessary to have a decision prior to lining up the volunteers. He further advised that they are raising funds and plan on moving forward with the project. Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board has budgeted \$15,000.00 for the purchase of the shed for the chiller. Mr. Ronk also advised that the cost of electric is being considered. Supervisor Ronk explained to the Board Members that Watchtower needs the authorization from the Town Board to install the concrete pad for the chiller. Following a discussion, a motion as made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to authorize the installation of the concrete pad so the project can move forward.

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

Presentation of Proclamation

Town Historian Kyle Williams presented a New York State Senate Proclamation honoring the 160th Anniversary of the 156th Infantry Regiment of the Battle of Cedar Creek. Mr. Williams explained that many of the men who served were from the Town of Shawangunk. Supervisor Ronk accepted the proclamation and said it will be proudly displayed in Town Hall.

Supervisor Ronk, on behalf of the Town Board, thanked Mr. Williams for his assistance with the Eagle Scout project recently completed by Joseph Davis. The Colored Cemetery is located at the intersection of Route 208 & 300. Kyle was instrumental with assisting with the history of those buried in the cemetery.

Housing Project

Ms. Andrea Joyce voiced her concern and inquired about the rumors she has been reading on the Facebook page, Wallkill Happenings. Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town Board has no control

over what is posted on that page. He assured Ms. Joyce that the Building Inspector has been working closely with the builder to ensure the thirty-unit apartment buildings are built according to the plan that was approved. He further explained the apartments are available for anyone to rent. Councilman DeWitt added that the realtor that was hired has to stick to the plan.

School Crossing

Dana Winchell expressed her concerns to the Town Board with the area of Route 208 and with the School Crossing Guards. Ms. Winchell explained that she has seen children almost get hit and it is dangerous for the crossing guards. She is inquiring what the Town can do to address this dangerous corner. Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town is working with the New York State Department of Transportation. In addition, the Police Chief is working on signage for the crosswalks. The Town Board will discuss having the Police Chief assign patrols to do speed checks during the busy times.

Zoning Issues

Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins addressed the Town Board and requested direction with Food Trucks. They have had inquiries and assistance with directing applicants. He stated that there is nothing in Zoning that addresses food trucks. Mr. Watkins also requested the Town Board address regulations on Agri-tourism. There are many farms that are holding wedding events and he is concerned with the safety of these events. Supervisor Ronk discussed the need for guidance from New York State Agriculture and Markets. Mr. Ronk also advised that he has been working with the Town Clerk and issuing Peddlers Permits until the regulations are in place for food trucks.

Town resident Delbe Spath advised the Town Board that the camper at 55 Bona Ventura is too close to the property line, he feels it does not belong there. Supervisor Ronk explained that this property is a bank foreclosure, and the Town has been working with the bank to get matters resolved.

Walker Valley Schoolhouse

Town resident Katie Baxter introduced herself and advised that she has a group of Homeschoolers. Ms. Baxter explained that she is requesting to use the Walker Valley Schoolhouse on a few dates. She advised that she and the parents would be willing to sign a waiver of liability. Supervisor Ronk discussed a recent issue when someone fell on the property. He agreed to discuss the issue with the Town Attorney and will contact Ms. Baxter with a response. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to allow the group to use the building, pending the approval of the Town Attorney.

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

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT****Auction Items**

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski submitted bids from Absolute Auctions for three items. He recommends the Town Board accept the bids. A motion as made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to accept the bids as submitted.

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

The expected date for the Stein Road guard rails is November 18th.

Mr. Blazeski requested the Town Board hire Pavement Management Group to do the road inventory and management solutions as discussed during the presentation on October 3, 2024. There was a discussion on both companies and the services they offer. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and second by Councilman DeWitt to hire Pavement Management Group, for a one-year contract.

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

Resolution

Supervisor Ronk read a Resolution #13-2024 authorizing Highway Superintendent Blazeski the ability to direct employees that are not directly related to a road or bridge.

The Resolution was offered by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt.

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

POLICE CHIEF**Monthly Report**

Police Chief Marlatt distributed copies of the October Monthly Report. He explained the statistics and answered questions. Chief Marlatt discussed the scheduling of the traffic car. He explained that shifts need to be covered first.

Middle School Crossing

In response to the safety issue at the Middle School, Chief Marlatt discussed patrols and signs. He explained that the previous signs were broken. He has ordered signs to replace them. He also has budgeted in the 2025 budget to purchase additional signs. Chief Marlatt explained that with an increased police presence, vehicles may redirect their route to avoid getting tickets.

Dog Control Officer

Chief Marlatt reported that Katie Judson was hired and started. The Chief met with her and gave her an overview of the job. She is currently working with Sgt. Brooks to learn the job. The Crown Victoria is being worked on. It will get lettered and be available for the Dog Control Officer.

Various

Chief Marlatt advised that lighting upgrades on the vehicles have started. Bill Davidson has covered a few school crossing shifts since being hired. The PBA participated in Halloween events with the Lions Club at Popp Park as well as Verkeerderkill Park. Both were good events and the fireworks went off. He suggested hayrides at Verkeerderkill Park in the future. Safety of the children was discussed for next year. Some areas were very busy with hundreds of kids. Chief Marlatt suggested a committee be formed to discuss and organize for next year. Election pick-ups were handled by the Sheriff's Department this year.

HIGHWAY

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Burn Ban continues for one month. The Executive Order must be renewed every five days.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk discussed the bills from the most recent water main break. He advised that the bill for the valve and pipe is \$45-50,000.00. This does not take into account the labor costs. It needs to be decided how to finance this expense. One option would be a Bond Anticipation Note and decide next year how to pay it off. Possibly work that needs to be done can go out to bid and this could be paid off with a Water Bond. The bills can be paid from the General Fund, but must be paid back by the Water Fund. These expenses can be raised through water debt only and not through the rates.

PARKS

No report.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

No report.

RECREATION**Halloween Trunk or Treat**

Councilman DeWitt reported that Trunk or Treat at Verkeerderkill Park had a light attendance with some many events in the area happening. The event went well, and the fireworks were enjoyed.

Holidays In The Hamlet

Councilman Danon reported that the event is scheduled on December 7th. The Town is sponsoring the fireworks. The show will be put on by July 4Ever Fireworks at a cost of \$5,000.00. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract.

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

RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION

Councilman Danon reported that clean-up is continuing. There will be another electronic pick-up on November 27, 2024.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Ronk advised that he will be attending the Association of Towns Training in February of 2025. A motion to appoint Mr. Ronk as the delegate at the Annual Meeting was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon.

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

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

BUILDINGS**Restore NY Grant**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the process of applying for the grant has started. The details will be to demolish the Police Building, clean up the site and re-develop the site.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk advised he is looking to purchase a scanner for the Planning Board Office. Chairman Mark Watkins reminded the Town Board that the department needs another computer.

Supervisor Ronk advised that Councilman Amthor and he are working on revising the Town Website next year.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

No report.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS**Culvert Pipe**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the expenses with repairing the culvert pipe repair on Viola Avenue. He is proposing to use the American Rescue Funds for this expense. Following a discussion a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to use the American Rescue Funds for this expense.

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

Supervisor Ronk discussed using the remainder of the American Rescue Funds for salaries next year.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business discussed.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	20	778-882	\$ 39,972.43
HIGHWAY	20	403-424	\$241,869.96
WATER	20	107-119	\$ 69,584.14
SEWER	20	180-185	\$ 8,712.40
LIGHT	11	11	\$ 1,989.28
TRUST & AGENCY	18	113-119	\$ 3,127.10

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, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman LoCicero were absent.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

A Resolution was offered by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt for the following Budget Transfers:

INCREASE	SW8340.400	\$80,000.00	DECREASE	SW399	\$80,000.00
INCREASE	A1220.400	\$ 500.00	DECREASE	A1990.400	\$ 500.00
INCREASE	A1410.100	\$10,000.00	DECREASE	A1990.400	\$10,000.00
INCREASE	A3120.400	\$20,000.00	DECREASE	A3120.200	\$20,000.00
INCREASE	A3510.400	\$ 210.00	DECREASE	A3110.200	\$ 210.00
INCREASE	A7310.400	\$ 840.00	DECREASE	A7310.200	\$ 840.00
INCREASE	A7510.400	\$ 52.00	DECREASE	A7550.400	\$ 52.00
INCREASE	A8160.100	\$ 2,000.00	DECREASE	A8160.400	\$ 2,000.00
INCREASE	DA5140.400	\$ 1,644.00	DECREASE	DA5142.400	\$ 1,644.00
INCREASE	DA5110.400	\$50,000.00	DECREASE	DA5110.100	\$ 50,000.00
INCREASE	A1220.400	\$ 500.00	DECREASE	A1220.200	\$ 500.00

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter. **VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman LoCicero were absent.**

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to enter back into the Regular Meeting. **VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman LoCicero were absent.**

The Executive Session started at 8:10 p.m. and ended at 8:32 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk

SPECIAL DISTRICT ASSESSMENT ROLLS

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, NY on the 7th day of November 2024, on the Tentative Special District Assessment Rolls. The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT were Supervisor Ken Ronk, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Amthor and Councilman LoCicero were absent. Also present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Zoning Board Member Robert Wallner, and several members of the Public.

Supervisor Ken Ronk explained that the Public Hearing is being held to comply with the law. He further explained that every property owner in one of the Special Districts was mailed a notice advising the Assessment Rolls and Rates for those districts would be available for inspection. Supervisor Ronk read the Public Hearing Notice which listed the districts that are included. They are as follows: Wallkill Water & Sewer, Sidewalk & Lighting, Maple Ridge Drainage, Titus Drainage & Lighting, Orange County Enterprises Drainage, Plains Estates Drainage, Rolling Hills and Prospect Height's Drainage Districts.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to close the Public Hearing for the Special District Assessment Rolls. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:33 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adopt the rates for the Special District for 2025.

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

Jane P. Rascoe
Town Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING

NOVEMBER 7, 2024

2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

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, NY on the 7th day of November 2024, on the 2025 Preliminary Budget. The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT were Supervisor Ken Ronk, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Amthor and Councilman LoCicero were absent. Also present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Zoning Board Member Robert Wallner, and several members of the Public.

Supervisor Ken Ronk distributed copies of the 2025 Preliminary Budget. He explained that the amount to be raised in General and Highway Funds combined is \$431,385.00. The increase for the average home valued at \$300,000.00 would be approximately \$68.22.

There was a discussion on the overall budget. There were no comments or questions from the public.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to close the Public Hearing for the 2025 Preliminary Budget. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:34 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adopt the Preliminary Budget as the 2025 Final Town of Shawangunk Budget.

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

Jane P. Rascoe
Town Clerk