

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 2, 2025**

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 **2nd day of January 2025 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins and members Ryan Reid, Rich Barnhart, 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 LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 19, 2024.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Special Year End Meeting held on December 31, 2024.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A Public Hearing Notice was received from the Town of Crawford regarding Zoning Changes on 12/19/24.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

### **SWEARING IN – TOWN JUSTICE**

Town Clerk Jane Rascoe administered the Oath of Office to incoming Town of Shawangunk Justice, David Davis. Judge Davis was congratulated by the Town Board and all present at the meeting.

**VISION OF WALLKILL - SPARKLE & SHINE**

Larissa Burke and Donna Barczak, representing the Vision of Wallkill, presented certificates and awards to the winners of this year's contest. In total there were seven categories for business and residential. The winners present accepted their awards and took photographs.

**WALLKILL LIONS CLUB**

Supervisor Ken Ronk reported that the Lions Club will be installing the liner at Popp Park for ice skating this winter.

**ULSTER FARMS/SHAWANGUNK MATERIALS**

Shawangunk residents Tom Gastio and Chris Wurster advised that they have filed hundreds of complaints with the Town regarding the operation being conducted at Ulster Farms Materials on Albany Post Road. Mr. Gastio explained that they are conducting an unpermitted activity and is requesting the Town Board look into the operation and take action. He also advised that they are not in compliance with the DEC. His understanding is there is an incomplete application in front of the Planning Board. Chairman Mark Watkins stated that the Planning Board advised the applicant that they had to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals and to the Building Inspector. Mr. Watkins advised that the applicant has not returned back to the Planning Board. Supervisor Ronk advised he has spoken to the Building Inspector who is aware and prepared to take action. Mr. Ronk exchanged contact information and will follow up with Mr. Gastio.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR 2025**

Attached to minutes.

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS**

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

No report.

**POLICE CHIEF**

No report.

**HIGHWAY**

**Vehicles**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the disposition of a former highway truck to the Sewer Department. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize the Supervisor to make a Interfund Transfer for the amount listed in Kelly Blue Book.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

### **Main Street/One Way**

Councilman LoCicero reported that the signs have been received. The signs will be put up as soon as the posts are installed. Mr. LoCicero explained that Ulster County has offered the use of an electronic sign to posted in advance of the new traffic pattern taking effect. E-911 will be notified when the change is effective.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilman LoCicero reported that the Police Committee will have a Technology Meeting next week. Supervisor Ronk discussed the need for the Hummer vehicle currently belonging to the Police Department. He explained that it would have to be transferred to another agency or sent back. He also noted that the Flatbed also needs to be re-surplused. Councilman Amthor reported that the new police vehicle has come in. It is waiting for the light package to be installed.

### **WATER & SEWER**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has signed the contract with Delaware Engineering for the Water System Lead Service Inventory.

Mr. Ronk discussed sending out a notification form with the April Water Bills. He explained that a letter to residents could contain a QR Code and Notification Form to provide back to the Town. This form would provide their contact information in the event there is a water interruption issue. By including the letter with the bills in April, it could save the cost of a separate mailing.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the bills for the Viola Avenue area water main break have been submitted. They are in the \$180,000.00 range. He explained that there is not enough in the Water Fund to cover these expenses. Mr. Ronk will proceed with exploring options. Councilman Danon inquired if an option should be to borrow additional funds to replace the old infrastructure that keeps breaking down. Mr. Ronk stated that it may make sense depending on what the bond market does in the next administration.

### **PARKS**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the sheds were ordered for Popp Park and the Highway Garage. He thanked Highway Superintendent Blazeski for assisting with the purchase. Mr. Ronk explained that the sheds will be installed in the spring after the concrete pads are poured.

Councilman Amthor inquired about the status of the parking lot at Popp Park and the agreement with the bus company. Supervisor Ronk advised he has had difficulty contacting the appropriate representative from the bus company. He will be following up in person shortly.

**SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**

No report.

**RECREATION**

No report.

**RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION**

Councilman Danon discussed raising the fees at the Transfer Station. He explained that rate increases are necessary due to the fact that Resource Recovery is raising fees. Mr. Danon distributed a proposed fee schedule to reflect those increases. There was a discussion on organic yard waste and the cost to the Town. It was noted that the Town has to rent a tub grinder and pay for an operator and equipment to mulch. Possible options are to accept the yard waste on a different day as to not bog down the lines when the Transfer Station is open. Another option discussed was a possible additional employee to handle the yard waste. Another consideration was to restrict yard waste to residential residents and not allow commercial landscapers to dispose for free. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adopt the proposed fees with the exception of yard waste. The revised fees will take effect on February 1, 2025.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**

Supervisor Ronk advised that there will be an Executive Session held at the end of the meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues.

**BUILDINGS****Snow Removal**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the need to hire someone to plow, shovel and salt the Town Hall Parking lot, Popp Park, around Garrison Park and the sidewalks on the Wallkill Bridge. Councilman DeWitt agreed to contact the current contractor to inquire if he is interested in the work.

**Town Hall Annex**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there was a water leak in the basement due to a split valve. The water was shut off and he is getting quotes to make the repair.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

No report.

**COMPUTERS**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he was made aware that the monitors in the offices at Town Hall do not have cameras or microphones. He further explained that most trainings and Team/Zoom Meetings need to be equipped with these features. Following a discussion, Mr. Ronk has agreed to research the cost and purchase these for each department. It was agreed when new monitors are purchased, they will have these features built in.

**INSURANCE/PURCHASING**

No report.

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS**

**Short Term Rental Law**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the need to regulate short term rentals. He is proposing to hold a Public Hearing so the board can hear from the public. Councilman LoCicero inquired if other towns were allowing them. Mr. Ronk reported that in the Town of Montgomery, the owners of restaurants are opposed to them. In the Town of Crawford, they recently voted to ban them. Supervisor Ronk requested that the board members review, mark up the old law, and be prepared to schedule a Public Hearing at the next Town Board meeting.

**Food Trucks**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the need to address the regulation of Food Trucks. Mr. Ronk requested the board members consider passing a new law in the first quarter of this year.

**Spectrum Franchise Agreement**

Supervisor Ronk discussed a drainage issue on River Glen Road. He advised that he is prepared to schedule a Public Hearing on a new Franchise Agreement with Spectrum. Details of the old versus new agreement were discussed.

**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	1	1-12	\$ 20,798.55
HIGHWAY	1	1-3	\$ 66,144.48
WATER	1	1-2	\$ 1,480.32
SEWER	1	1-2	\$ 5,297.64

