

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 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 December 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Alex Danon and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Adrian DeWitt was absent. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins and Member Ryan Reid, Zoning Board Member Robet 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 LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 5, 2024.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A thank you letter to the Town Board from the Vision of Wallkill on 12/12/24 was received. A Public Hearing Notice from Verizon Wireless in the Town of Crawford dated 12/4/24 was received.

PUBLIC HEARING – RESTORE NY GRANT

The Public Hearing for the RESTORE NEW YORK Grant was opened at 7:01 p.m. See Public Hearing Minutes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There was no one from the public to present any issues to the Town Board.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's Report for the month of November was received.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report for the month of November for \$16,475.48 was received.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski submitted quotes for the purchase of two storage sheds. One Storage Shed is needed at the Highway Garage and another at Popp Park. Supervisor Ronk reported that he and Superintendent Blazeski went out to measure the location of where to place the storage shed at Popp Park. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to purchase two 12X26 sheds from Foote's Amish Sheds. One shed has a double door, and the cost is \$10,357.00. The cost of the other shed is \$9,857.00. Both sheds are in stock with free delivery with the purchase of both. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to move forward and purchase both storage sheds from Foote's Amish Sheds.

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

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to use Rescue Funds for this purchase.

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

Stein Road

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that Stein Road is finished and open. Supervisor Ronk will work on organizing a ribbon cutting. Mr. Ronk explained that this was a million-dollar project that was done for \$170,000.00 thanks to Mr. Blazeski. Highway Superintendent Blazeski credits the highway crew for their expertise and dedication in getting the work completed.

Vehicles

Highway Superintendent Blazeski advised that there are currently two trucks from the fleet out of service. The new truck has a problem with the motor and is at Arkel Motors. Although they are down a truck they will cover the storms as best as possible.

Strawridge Road

Highway Blazeski reported that borings were done on Strawridge Road today. Mr. Blazeski explained the process to determine what the base of the road is so the proper treatment can be used.

Pavement Management Systems

Highway Superintendent Blazeski advised he has met the team of people from the company who will be putting the program together for the Town. The survey of the roads will be done in January of 2025.

Employees

Highway Superintendent Blazeski recommended to the Town Board that Cliff Breuer be hired to fill the current vacancy in the Highway Department. Mr. Blazeski explained that Mr. Breuer has over twelve

years' experience running all types of equipment. He formally was a Department of Transportation Supervisor and has an enormous amount of experience, he is ready to go to work. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to hire Mr. Breuer at the full rate of \$27.76 per hour, effective December 30, 2024.

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

POLICE CHIEF

No report.

HIGHWAY

Discussed under Highway Superintendent.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Amthor reported that Sergeant Reynolds has located a Ford Explorer that is available for purchase. The vehicle was ordered and then canceled. Mr. Amthor explained that the Town Board budgeted in the 2025 budget, funds for another vehicle. By purchasing this vehicle, \$3,000.00 can be saved. The Chief's F150 truck will be put in circulation. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to move forward and purchase the Ford Explorer.

Supervisor Ronk reported that he signed a purchase order to update the tasers. Mr. Ronk advised that the graphics will be re-done on 7850 for use by the Dog Control Officer.

Councilman LoCicero reported that the Town Board budgeted for a Full Time Police Chief and will be moving forward to that goal. Supervisor Ronk advised that there is an active Police Chief B list which applies to a police force of ten or more full-time officers. A Police Chief can be hired provisionally until Ulster County schedules a test. Following a discussion a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to post for a Full Time Police Chief position.

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

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Stop DWI Plan has been received from Ulster County. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract.

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

WATER & SEWER

No report.

PARKS

No report.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

Councilman Amthor requested that bids go out in January 2025 for the projects to be completed. Supervisor Ronk will contact the Town Engineer and request him to start planning for the cost of these projects.

RECREATION**Holidays In The Hamlet**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the event was fantastic. There was a great turnout, and the Town Board was happy to be a partner.

RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION

Councilman Danon reported that there was an air conditioner pick up yesterday. Steve is preparing for a scrap metal pick-up at the Transfer Station.

Councilman Danon discussed the possibility of raising fees because the tipping fees are increasing.

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**Walker Valley Schoolhouse**

Supervisor Ronk advised that there has been a request from the Shawangunk Democrats to use the Walker Valley schoolhouse two Saturdays a month. In addition, the group uses the building once a month for game night. Ms. Adrienne Gelfand-Perine explained that the group uses the Schoolhouse on the second Saturday of the month from 4-5:30 p.m. They alternate between the Schoolhouse and the Community Room. They use the Schoolhouse once a month on the third Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. for game night. She further explained that one of the goals for 2025 for the group is to offer activities for people in Walker Valley who feel that there is nothing going on for them, as the Community Enhancement Committee is not active. They would like to offer activities such as Latin dance lessons, access to authors, along with other seasonal activities. Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town is currently in the process of reviewing polices for building uses and the liability of that. Mr. Ronk stated that the taxpayers need to be protected. He commented that this request is for a community function

and should be considered according to availability. Ms. Gelfand-Perine offered to schedule with the Town Clerk's Office. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize the use of the building subject to availability.

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

Snow Maintenance

Supervisor Ronk advised that one or two people need to be hired on a part-time basis for snow removal around Town Hall and Garrison Park. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to move forward and hire part-time people for snow removal.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

There was a discussion on the CivicGov Program, which will start in January. Mark Watkins stated that training is needed. Kathy Ebbrell suggested that the Town Board should request in-person training.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

Insurance

Supervisor Ronk reported that he spoke to the Town's Insurance Agent who is putting out RFP's and advised him to expect a ten percent increase in premiums.

Health Insurance

Supervisor Ronk reported that there was a representative at Town Hall today to speak with employees who have the MVP Plan.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

Short Term Rental Law

Supervisor Ronk discussed the need to adopt this new law early 2025. Councilman Danon inquired the benefit for the Town to allow STR's when the Town receives so many complaints. He also expressed his concern with STR's adding to the housing shortage. Supervisor Ronk stated that many local people operate STR's and it is a source of income for them. Mr. Ronk stated that a new law can solve many of the complaints and problems. Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins stated that the intent of the

law was to make a safe environment. He suggested the Town Board look at the law that was proposed in the first place. He agrees that STR's take up a lot of housing units. Following a discussion on the pros and cons of the STR law, it was agreed that fire and safety inspections are needed, and the number of bedrooms need to be determined.

Food Trucks

Supervisor Ronk discussed the need to address the regulation of Food Trucks. He reported that a food truck applicant has been calling the office every day. A new law in place is needed in the first quarter of the year.

Delaware Engineering – Lead Inventory

Supervisor Ronk discussed the need to move forward with this inventory. He reminded the Town Board that this was due in 2021. The total cost is \$51,500.00 and it will take six to seven months to complete. Mr. Ronk reviewed the breakdown of the project. He explained that if the Town was engaged in the project, the state would not likely impose any fines. Following a discussion, a motion as made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Delaware Engineering and use remaining Rescue Funds for this project.

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

Ulster County Transportation

Councilman Danon advised that Ulster County is revising their bus routes and have a survey on their website. Residents should make comments. A discussion was held on Ulster County Area Transportation and funding sources.

NEW BUSINESS

Harrier Ridge Drainage District

The application of Mako Homes to the Town Board for the creation of a drainage District to serve the Harrier Ridge Estates subdivision off Malloy Road was reviewed. The maps and description of the plan was submitted by the applicant's engineer, Lawrence Marshall. The maps and plans were reviewed. The estimated annual maintenance cost is \$1350.00. The average cost to the individual property owner is \$225.00 per year. Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins advised the Town Board that this is not the final approved plan. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the creation of the Harrier Ridge Estates Drainage District.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	23	886-919	\$ 38,070.62
HIGHWAY	23	454-478	\$ 48,871.30
WATER	23	128-131	\$ 6,596.93
SEWER	23	200-210	\$ 24,103.60
TRUST & AGENCY	10	132-133	\$ 200.00

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

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

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Resolutions were offered by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero for the following Budget Transfers:

INCREASE	SS1440.400	TO	INCREASE	SS8120.400	\$ 20,000.00
INCREASE	SS9030.800	TO	INCREASE	SS8120.400	\$ 15.00
INCREASE	SS8110.400	TO	INCREASE	SS8120.400	\$ 800.00
INCREASE	SS599	TO	INCREASE	SS8100.400	\$ 6,000.00
INCREASE	SS599	TO	INCREASE	SS8130.400	\$ 37,000.00
INCREASE	SS8110.100	TO	DECREASE	SS8120.400	\$ 340.00
INCREASE	SS8130.400	TO	DECREASE	SS8130.200	\$ 4,000.00
INCREASE	A8020.100	TO	DECREASE	A8020.200	\$ 1,500.00
INCREASE	A1650.400	TO	DECREASE	A1650.200	\$ 2,600.00
INCREASE	A8030.400	TO	DECREASE	A1990.400	\$ 1,550.00
INCREASE	A1650.100	TO	DECREASE	A3510.100	\$ 6,000.00
INCREASE	A1410.100	TO	DECREASE	A1410.400	\$ 2,000.00
INCREASE	A5010.100	TO	DECREASE	A5132.200	\$ 6,500.00
INCREASE	A8020.100	TO	DECREASE	A8020.400	\$ 1,500.00
INCREASE	A1110.400	TO	DECREASE	A1110.100	\$ 500.00
INCREASE	A9010.800	TO	DECREASE	A9015.800	\$ 11,635.86
INCREASE	A1220.100	TO	DECREASE	A1990.400	\$ 670.00
INCREASE	A1410.100	TO	DECREASE	A1990.400	\$ 975.00
INCREASE	A2115	TO	INCREASE	A8020.100	\$ 6,683.00

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INCREASE	A1420.400	TO	DECREASE	A1990.400	\$ 16,000.00
INCREASE	SW8310.100	TO	DECREASE	SW8310.400	\$ 337.00
INCREASE	SW9030.800	TO	DECREASE	SW8310.400	\$ 18.00
INCREASE	DA5140.400	TO	DECREASE	DA5120.200	\$ 3,200.00
INCREASE	DA4089	TO	DECREASE	DA5110.400	\$ 70,000.00
INCREASE	DA5142.400	TO	DECREASE	DA5112.200	\$ 15,000.00
INCREASE	DA4089	TO	INCREASE	DA5110.400	\$ 105,413.00

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

SPECIAL MEETING

Supervisor Ronk announced that an end of the year meeting needed to be scheduled to audit the end of year vouchers. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on December 31, 2024. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to schedule the End of Year Special Meeting on December 31,2024 at 11:30 a.m. at the Town Hall.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. and ended at 9:17 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

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

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING

DECEMBER 19, 2024

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 19th day of November 2024, on the application of a RESTORE NEW YORK Grant Application.

Supervisor Ronk opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. and explained that holding a Public Hearing is one of the requirements to apply for a RESTORE NEW YORK Grant. Mr. Ronk explained that the application is for demolition of the current Police Station to prepare the site for a shovel ready commercial development options. He explained that there was a public meeting held by Patterns of Progress and this was one of the projects the residents desired. Mr. Ronk reported that the grant requires a ten percent match by the Town and there is a fee of \$250.00.

Ms. Adrienne Gelfand-Perine spoke in favor of the grant application and expressed concern about where the Police Department would be relocated.

Mr. Jeffery Luoma expressed his support for the RESTORE Grant application.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to close the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:15p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize the Supervisor to sign and submit the grant application, pay the \$250.00 fee to submit it on behalf of the Town.

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

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk