

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 1, 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 **1st day of May 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 Sergeant Spinato, Officer Rafferty 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.

Supervisor Ronk explained that this was the second Town Board meeting with a new format. He explained that the first meeting of the month would be a work session to work on specific issues. The bills would be reviewed, new business and privilege of the floor will also be on the agenda. The meeting would be open to the public.

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 April 17, 2025.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from Joseph Vilela on 4/18/25 and Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council on 4/18/25.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Pine Bush School

Ms. Amy Brockner and Mr. Joe Lenz, representing Pine Bush School District, introduced themselves to the Town Board. They spoke about the upcoming budget vote on May 20, 2025. The increase in the budget is covered by state aid. The tax levy increase is a 1.62% change. The increase for a \$400,000.00 house is between \$92.00-\$96.00. They were available to answer questions from the Town Board and the public.

Dyer Halpern

Mr. Halpern introduced himself to the Town Board. He explained that he owns and operates a short-term rental with his partner at 15 Winding Hills Trail. He appreciates the efforts of the Town Board with

the proposed local law being considered. He explained that he will not be available to attend the Public Hearing and was hoping to have the opportunity to share his comments tonight. Mr. Halpern explained that he has read the law and thinks it is a fair law and overall looks good. His only question is the limit to twelve people, which is he hoping would be twelve adults. Mr. Halpern continued to explain that he uses the services of all local people and has not had any issues. Supervisor Ronk explained that the intention of the Town Board is for the safety of residents and visitors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board will go into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session. **VOTE: ALL AYE.**

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session and enter back into the Regular Meeting by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor. **VOTE: ALL AYE.**

The Executive Session started at 7:22 p.m. and ended at 7:39 p.m. No action was taken.

WORK SESSION**Short Term Rentals**

Supervisor Ronk distributed copies of an updated draft of Introductory Local Law #2 which was reviewed and red-lined by Town Attorney Rich Hoyt. The comments and issues raised were discussed and agreed upon. Mr. Ronk requested any other changes be submitted by Monday, May 5th. Supervisor Ronk also advised that there may be an issue with the timing of the legal ad placed in the Walkkill Valley Times. The Public Hearing on May 15th may have to remain open.

Food Truck Law

Supervisor Ronk discussed tabling a discussion on a proposed law. Supervisor Ronk will prepare a draft law to be discussed at another meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**UCERT Agreement**

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board needs to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement. He advised that the Town could withdraw from the team at any time if the equipment is returned. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve Sergeant Reynolds joining the UCERT Team.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize the necessary equipment through state bid.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Spectrum Franchise Agreement

Supervisor Ronk distributed copies of the Time Warner Cable Franchise Agreement. He explained that the Public Service Commission negotiates the contracts. Mr. Ronk explained that the fee is the same, five percent of the annual gross revenue. It is a fifteen-year term. The Board Members will review the agreement and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

Dumpster Law

Supervisor Ronk distributed several samples of a dumpster law from neighboring towns. One of the issues discussed was the length of time garbage receptacles can stay out in the street/roads. Another concern is the location of dumpsters, and the damage to town roads. Setbacks and screening were discussed. Councilman LoCicero stated the goal is to keep the law simple while addressing these concerns. Supervisor Ronk will consolidate these concerns into a draft law and bring them back to the Town Board.

Resident Ellen Turner stated she has two dumpsters on her road. She expressed her concerns with animals getting into the dumpsters and with overflowing dumpsters.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department

Supervisor Ronk explained that Officer John Rafferty has inquired about the process of taking the Civil Service Exam. Officer Rafferty was present and explained that you are not permitted to take the Civil Service Exam after the age of thirty-five. He would like to work full-time but is fifty-five years of age. Supervisor Ronk explained that this would be a Home-Rule Bill and must be sponsored by Assemblyman Brian Maher. He also noted that the legislative session is ending and would need to be requested very soon.

Supervisor Ronk explained that two additional vehicles were added to the list of cars under the Car-Wash Agreement at Sheely's Car Wash. The cost for six months is \$1,055.52. Sheely's will honor ten washes for every eight. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the plan with the additional vehicle added.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Building Department

Supervisor Ronk reported that the new part-time Building Inspector is working out well. He is well versed in the CivicGov program and has been able to pass on valuable information. The Building Department has requested the purchase of a tablet, which will work out in the field with the software program. There was

a discussion on the model that should be purchased. Supervisor Ronk will do some research and make a recommendation.

Transfer Station

Councilman Danon explained that last summer a seasonal employee was hired to assist with the Transfer Station clean up. Mr. Danon would like to hire Jadyen Falk, who is home from college, to fill in and assist with the on-going clean up. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to hire Jayden Falk as a part-time Municipal Worker I for \$16.00 per hour, starting on May 2, 2025.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Town Audit

Supervisor Ronk reported that the 2024 audit conducted by Cooper Arias is complete. There were no initial areas of concern. The Town's Justice Court records were audited and need to be certified and recorded in the Town Board minutes. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to certify the Town Justice Court 2024 Audit completed by Cooper Arias, LLP.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Town Board Goals**Transfer Station**

Supervisor Ronk reported that a tub grinder needs to be rented again. As there is an issue with brush. It may become necessary to limit what comes in until the area can be cleared. Mr. Ronk will arrange for the rental of the tub grinder.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the company is scheduled to come to the Transfer Station for a tire pick-up.

Jadyen Falk will be instrumental in boxing up the electronics.

Website

Councilman Amthor reported that the Civic Gov program and other records will have to be considered with the new website.

Supervisor Ronk reported that it is a requirement of the federal government to operate a ".gov" domain website address. He has applied and received approval. When it goes online, he will have the ".org" messages get forwarded, operating both domains.

Technology

Supervisor Ronk discussed getting a t.v. hooked up in the meeting room. It would be available for all the boards to utilize.

One-Way Street

Councilman LoCicero advised that the one-way signs for Main Street need to be installed. He requested permission to get assistance from Mr. Perna of Montgomery. There were no objections from the board members. Supervisor Ronk will make arrangements with Ulster County for the electronic sign.

Three-way Stop

Supervisor Ronk advised that he will have a resolution prepared for the next meeting for approval of the three-way stop signs on Viola Street.

Sidewalks

Supervisor Ronk discussed not paying for a MHE bill for a cost estimate for the sidewalk project that the town never received. Mr. Ronk reported that he will be meeting with Engineer Her Litz from GPI next week to work on a cost estimate.

Park Equipment

Councilman Danon reported that the equipment has been ordered. He is waiting for a delivery date before a community build date can be scheduled. Supervisor Ronk reported that Beck’s Hardware has volunteered their assistance and will provide tools for the project.

Highway Truck

Supervisor Ronk reported that it has been confirmed that the warranty for the truck starts when the town takes title to the truck. As discussed at a previous meeting, the funds will come out of next year’s budget to pre-pay for the chassis. The savings will be \$6,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve taking the money out of excess funds in next year’s budget.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

ACCOUNT	WARRANT	VOUCHERS	AMOUNT
GENERAL	9	287-319	\$ 34,101.74
HIGHWAY	9	159-178	\$ 85,262.21
WATER	9	32-34	\$ 16,339.33
SEWER	9	72-76	\$ 1,613.11
LIGHT	5	5	\$ 1,904.76
TRUST & AGENCY	8	56	\$ 8.95

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

VOTE: ALL AYE.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk