

## **SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**OCTOBER 30, 2025**

Minutes of a Special Meeting and Public Hearings 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025. The Public Hearings to be opened are the 2026 Preliminary Budget and Special District Assessment Rolls. The Public Hearings were opened at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Supervisor Ken Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Joe LoCicero and Councilman Adrian DeWitt were absent.

### **SPECIAL DISTRICT ASSESSMENT ROLLS**

Supervisor Ken Ronk explained that the first Public Hearing to be opened is the Special District Assessment Rolls. Mr. Ronk further explained that the Public Hearing is held to comply with the law. Every property owner within a Special District is mailed a notice advising that the Assessments Rolls and Rates for those districts would be available for inspection. The Special Districts are Wallkill Water & Sewer, Sidewalk & Lighting, Maple Ridge Drainage, Titus Drainage & Lighting, Orange County Enterprises Drainage, Plains Estates Drainage, Rolling Hills and Prospect Heights Drainage Districts.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Supervisor Ronk announced the Public Hearing will remain open until the next Town Board Meeting on November 6, 2025.

### **2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Supervisor Ronk distributed copies of the 2026 Preliminary Budget. He explained that the increase from last year to this year's Preliminary Budget is 16.48% in the General Fund. The increase for the Highway Fund is 12%. Based upon a home in Shawangunk, valued at \$450,000.00, the amount of the tax increase for General would be \$69.50, and for Highway \$79.00.

Supervisor Ronk discussed some of the main reasons for the increase; State retirement and health insurance increases, double digit increases in liability insurance premiums, an increase of \$15.00 per ton for salt and sand. Mr. Ronk discussed the investments made

this year. Some of those included the hiring of a Parks Maintenance Supervisor. New playground equipment purchased and will include projects at the parks in the Town. A boat launch will be installed at Popp Park. Mr. Ronk reported that all elected officials opted to not take a salary increase for 2026.

Supervisor Ronk discussed the investment the Town made with hiring Pavement Management Group to conduct a highway inventory of town roads, bridges, culverts, guard rails, signs, etc. All roads have been rated on a scale from 0 to 100. There are 93 miles of roads, about one third of the roads are in bad shape, one third in decent shape, and all others in the middle. Now that the Town has this data, decisions on rebuilding and repairing roads can be scheduled.

Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town Board is doing a lot of preparation work for the grant application process. At this time, the Town does not qualify to apply for specific grants, but doing this preparation work, he is hopeful the Town will be eligible for grants in many of the Special Districts.

Supervisor Ronk announced that the Public Hearing will remain open until the next Town Board meeting on November 6, 2025. The Final Budget for 2026 needs to be adopted by the Town Board by November 20, 2025.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Ulster County Environmental Management Council**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Dave Haldeman's current term on the Council is expiring. He is willing and available to continue serving for another two-year term. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to re-appoint Dave Haldeman to the Ulster County Environmental Management Council.

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

Supervisor Ronk will advise the UCEMC of the Town Board's Resolution in support of Mr. Haldeman's re-appointment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk