

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 1, 2026

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 of January 2026 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Alex Danon, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Mike Voss, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present were Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Planning Board Member Ryan Reid, Anne Barnhart, 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 18, 2025.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Swearing In of Local Officials

Supervisor Ronk administered the Oath of Office to Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Jane Rascoe. Town Clerk Jane Rascoe administered the Oath of Office to Supervisor Ronk, Councilman Alex Danon and Councilman Mike Voss.

Vision of Wallkill/ Sparkle & Shine

Donna Barzcak and Larissa Burke, representing the Vision of Wallkill, announced the winners of the Sparkle & Shine decorating contest. The winners in attendance accepted their awards.

Supervisor Ronk thanked the members of the Vision of Wallkill for all they do in the community.

2026 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Supervisor Ronk reviewed line by line, the minutes of the 2026 Organizational meeting. The listing is attached to these minutes.

Supervisor Ronk reviewed some of the goals he hopes to accomplish in 2026. He is anxious to update and establish a recycling and waste law pertaining to garbage cans and dumpsters. He is hoping to adopt some type of towing law for the town. Mr. Ronk also wants to update the Dog Law and Snow Cleaning Law. Supervisor Ronk inquired what any of the Town Board member's goals were for the coming year. Councilman Danon stated he is looking forward to completing the playground builds at Garrison and Verkeerderkill Parks. He also wants to continue with upgrades at the Transfer Station, including forms of payments. He will be working on revising the rentals for town properties and parks. Councilman Amthor shared that he would like to reach a decision on the former firehouse. A decision needs to be made on the relocation of the Police Station. Work should continue with the grant writer for sidewalk grant opportunities. He would like to institute a code red system. Supervisor Ronk advised that the TAP Grant is now open. Councilman LoCicero is continuing to work on the Emergency Management Plan. He advised that the plan has a code red system that the county will offer free of charge. Options for land lines, emails, cell phones, or whatever the town would like included will be available. Mr. LoCicero would like decisions made on the highway garage, whether it will be repaired or rebuilt. He spoke of a possible combination grant with the Highway and Police Departments. He would like to see implementation of an IT Department, including cameras. He would like to see a Farmers Market and a Christmas Parade started in the hamlet. Councilman Voss stated he would like to consult with other local municipal highway departments and either enhance or rebuild our buildings. For Community Enhancement West, he would like to address upgrades with the New York State Department of Transportation, including a traffic study. Mr. Voss stated if the housing projects that are proposed move forward, he wants to see the traffic patterns addressed. Supervisor Ronk advised that NYS DOT is planning on an ADA sidewalk project along Route 208 to the school. He also advised that traffic will be addressed if the housing projects move forward. Supervisor Ronk that Anne Barnhart will be reaching out to each councilman to set up times for each of them to meet with the grant writer.

WORK SESSION

Mowing

Councilman Danon reported that he has reviewed the lawnmowing specifications and is consolidating them as much as possible. He thinks the retention ponds should be bid separately. There was a discussion on the schoolhouse and area cemeteries that could possibly be done in house. New Prospect Cemetery needs to be bid out separately. He will continue to work on the specification so the bid can go out.

Video Cameras

Councilman Danon reported that he is meeting with a company for cameras at Popp and Garrison Park. He reviewed specifications on cameras and IT. Following a discussion, it was agreed to hold off for two weeks prior to going out for RFP'S.

Town Rentals

Councilman Danon reported that he has reviewed rental applications from the Town of Montgomery. He thinks it's time to update our fees and policies. Mr. Danon discussed the need for fees to improve the parks. The fields are used for youth programs and need to be mowed and maintained. He stated that a possible per child charge be instituted. Councilman LoCicero stated that the Town is not looking to make money. Councilman Danon stated that with the youth programs there are children from other towns using the fields and our town pays. He stated that the Walker Valley Schoolhouse needs to be cleaned and heated, without collecting any fees. Councilman LoCicero suggested determining what the actual costs are prior to deciding on fees. Councilman Danon will revise the rental forms and present at the next meeting.

Popp Park/Ice Rink

Councilman LoCicero reported that he and Councilman Danon met with the Lions Club and agreed to a set of rules which will be posted at the ice rink by the Lions Club. The ice rink will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. A timer will be installed so the lights shut off at 10 p.m. They are requesting the police department check on park closing when possible. Presently, the Lions Club goes down to shut off the lights each night. Councilman LoCicero stated that there is still a need to discuss the use of the skating rink. To be resolved are the times the rink will be open, who controls the use of the rink, and possible charges. Supervisor Ronk reported that the first electric bill was \$3,000.00. He added that that included the chillers to get the ice up and running. It needs to be determined what the electricity will run. Councilman LoCicero reported that presently there is no ice hockey allowed. The town's insurance needs to be consulted with to determine the liability. Councilman Danon stated that everything is not resolved yet. Some towns allow skating Thursday through Saturday, other towns, Friday, Saturday & Sunday. In Middletown, there are skate rentals. He is hoping we can offer skating lessons through a winter recreation program. Councilman LoCicero stated that the rules are set for now, but subject to change.

Assessor/Veterans Exemption

Supervisor Ronk referred to a memo he received regarding a veterans exemption signed by The Governor. It provides for a 100% property tax exemption for veterans that are 100% disabled. Currently there are thirty-eight taxpayers in town that are rated at 100%. Mr. Ronk explained that the Town would have to opt in to offer the exemption. Our Assessor has raised some issue for consideration. For example, a veteran that receives a 99% disability rating would not qualify. Veterans who rent do not benefit in any way. Supervisor Ronk will get further information on this exemption and forward it to the board members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. **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 8:26 p.m. and ended at 8:52 p.m. No action was taken.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	1	1-15	\$ 20,164.87
HIGHWAY	1	1-3	\$ 66,752.54
WATER	1	1	\$ 360.15
SEWER	1	1	\$ 508.56

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

VOTE: ALL AYE.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: ALL AYE.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk

TOWN OF SHAWANGUNK ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 1, 2026

Resolution to set the schedule for the year 2026 Town Board meetings is:

There will be two regular meetings, the first and third Thursday of each month. (There will be one meeting in the month of July) Work sessions and special meetings will be scheduled as needed. All meetings will be at Town Hall (14 Central Avenue, Wallkill, NY 12589) in the main meeting room (unless otherwise noted) and begin at 6:30 p.m. with a 30 minute work session for Board members to audit bills, with the business meeting being called to order at 7 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor that the resolution be accepted.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Appointments:

Deputy Supervisor – Alex Danon

Budget Officer – Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr.

Official Newspaper – Wallkill Valley Times, Times Herald Record

Authorized Signatures of Town Checks – Kenneth J. Ronk and Alex Danon

Attorney for the Town – Richard Hoyt

Special Counsel for Labor Issues – Roemer, Wallens, Gold & Mineaux, Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, LLP.

Auditors for 2025 Town Records – Accounting Firm of Cooper & Arias

Engineer for the Town – TBA

Tax Collector – Jane Rascoe

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer/Stormwater Officer – John Calaca

Part time CEO/Fire Inspector – Edward Diller

Town Historian – Kyle Williams

Water & Sewer Administration – Kenneth J. Ronk Jr.

Attorney Wallkill Sewer & Water District – Richard Hoyt

Engineer Walkkill Sewer & Water District – Brinnier & Larios
Planner for Planning Board – Bonnie Franson-Nelson, Pope and Voorhis
Operations of Water and Sewer – H2O Innovations
Registrar of Vital Statistics – Jane Rascoe
Public Access Officer – Jane Rascoe
Handicapped Parking Permit Issuing Agent – Jane Rascoe
Minority Business Officer – Kenneth J. Ronk Jr.
3 Year term Planning Board – Sal Patella
3 Year term Planning Board – John Szarowski
5 Year term Zoning Board of Appeals – Sandra Damon
5 Year term Assessment Board of Review – Neil Kolze
3 Year term Assessment Board of Review – Gary MacEntee
Chairman Zoning Board – Dennis Arluck
Chairman Planning Board – Ryan Reid
Chairperson for Environmental Management Commission- Dave Haldeman
Representative on UC Environmental Management Commission- Dave Haldeman
Representative on UC Planning Board - Tom Tango, Alternate-Richard Barnhart
Director of Civil Defense -Kenneth J. Ronk Jr.
Director of Purchasing and Personnel- Kenneth J. Ronk Jr.
911 Information Coordinator - Curtis Schoeberl
Dog Control Officer- TBD
Summer Recreation Director- TBD
Confidential Clerk to Justice Parlman - Kathleen Ebbrell
Confidential Clerk To Justice Davis - Kathleen Ebbrell
Assessment Board of Review Secretary – Kathleen Ebbrell

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero that the appointments be made for 2026 as recommended.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero that the Supervisor be authorized to invest funds of the Town for the year 2026 under the following guidelines:

There will be a third-party collateral agreement with all banks where Town moneys are involved for deposit cumulatively over \$250,000. Sufficient investments will come due prior to the audit meeting to ensure sufficient amounts of money to cover all accounts payable that are due. All designated banks will be contacted for rates when investments are renewed. Town funds can only be placed in investments approved by the State Comptroller, which would also include treasury bills. M&T Bank, NYCLASS and Bank of Greene will be contacted for competitive rates.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor that M&T Bank will handle the regular savings account and the payroll and accounts payable accounts for 2026.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Voss and seconded by Councilman Danon that the Supervisor be authorized to pay all claims in advance of audit, such as: rent, payrolls, electric, telephone, postage, freight charges, petty cash, insurance billings, discounted invoices, and recreation expenses etc., as allowed by law for the year 2026 if needed.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor that pursuant to Town Law Section 29(16) the Town Board of Shawangunk hereby authorizes and delegates to the Supervisor (or his designee) the authority to make administrative decisions for the daily operations of the day-to-day business of the Town, including the special districts.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon that a per diem rate of \$75.00 per day is reimbursed for meals while attending out of town conferences for dated billhead receipts submitted.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor that all contractors doing work with the Town sign a harmless agreement and provide a certificate of proof of one million dollars per occurrence liability insurance, additionally insuring the Town, as well proof that their employees are covered by Workmen's Compensation Insurance before any work commences.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Voss to set \$.60 per mile as the reimbursement rate for use of personal vehicles while conducting official Town business when town supplied vehicles are not available and with prior approval. (Town Law Section 116)

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adopt the following policy for paying vouchers:

VOTE: ALL AYE

Vouchers and bills will be audited at the beginning of the regular scheduled meetings twice every month (with the exception of July), for all vouchers submitted by the end of the Monday prior to the meeting. The Business Office will screen all vouchers prior to Board review for accuracy. All vouchers require a minimum of three Board members' initials prior to payment.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor that all Revolving loans recommended by the Revolving Loan Committee must be submitted to the Town Board for their approval at least 5 days before the next scheduled meeting.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Set Salaries and Rates of Pay for Contractual Staff and Officials

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss that the following salaries and rates of pay be set for 2026:

VOTE: ALL AYE.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Salaried Hourly Pay For 2026</u>
Councilmembers (4)	\$13,753 / yr
Judges (2)	\$16,729 / yr
Clerk for Judge (f/t)	\$22.25 / hr
Clerk for Judge (p/t)	\$22.25 / hr
Court Bailiff (s) (2)	\$21.74 / hr
Supervisor	\$38,336 / yr
Secretary	\$22.25 / hr
Supervisor's Bookkeeper	\$30.00 / hr
Deputy Supervisor	\$1,066 / yr
Tax Collector	\$11,823 / yr
Budget Officer	\$ 7,419 / yr
Assessor	\$43.11 / hr
Assessor's Field Assistant	\$22.25 / hr
Assessment Board of Review Chair	\$190 / mtg
Assessment Board of Review Members (5)	\$ 95.00 / mtg
Town Clerk	\$45,457 / yr
Deputy Town Clerk (p/t)	\$23.57 / hr
Deputy Town Clerk (p/t)	\$22.25 / hr
Dog Control Officer (s)	\$20.00 / hr
Building Inspector	\$39.33 / hr

Municipal Code Ass't	\$26.91 / hr
CEO Fire Inspector p/t	\$24.32 / hr
Crossing Guards (4)	\$20.48 / hr
Supt. Of Highways	\$60,157 / yr
Highway Secretary	\$22.25 / hr
Water & Sewer Administration	\$3,710 / yr
Historian	\$779 / yr
Zoning Board Chair	\$190 / mtg
Zoning Board Members (5)	\$95 / mtg
Planning Board Chair	\$190 / mtg
Planning Board Members (7)	\$95 / mtg
Planning Board Secretary	\$23.00 / hr
P/T Police Chief	\$33.58 / hr
Laborer (1)	\$16.75 / hr
Custodial Worker (1)	\$20.70 / hr
Municipal Worker II (4)	\$19.19 / hr
Municipal Worker I (2)	\$19.56 / hr
Municipal Works Supervisor	\$31.09 / hr

*In addition, all non-elected and non-contractual employees receive the following longevity after the following consecutive years of completed service:

5 years to end of 9 th year	\$0. 60
10 years to end of 14 th year	\$0. 75
15 years to end of 19 th year	\$0. 95
20 years and over	\$1.15

*Excludes Highway and Police contracted employees

Supervisor Ronk appointed the following Committees for 2026

Building Department	LoCicero-Voss
Personnel	Amthor-LoCicero
Parks/Recreation	Danon-LoCicero
Solid Waste/Recycling	Danon-Ronk
Water-Sewer	Voss-LoCicero
Sidewalk/Lighting	Amthor-Danon
Liaison to Highway Supt	Voss-Danon
Buildings	Amthor-Danon
Liaison to Police Chief	LoCicero-Amthor
Planning & Zoning	Danon-LoCicero
Community Enhancement (West)	Ronk-Voss
Web Site	Amthor-Danon
Re-Zoning Committee	Ronk, Danon, Arluck, Barnhart, Calaca
Economic Development & Revitalization	Amthor-LoCicero

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon that the Organizational Meeting for 2026 be adjourned.

VOTE: ALL AYE.