

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 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 **5th day of February 2026 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Alex Danon, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Mike Voss, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Anne Barnhart, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, 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 and the Organizational Meeting held on January 1, 2026.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 15, 2026.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There was no one present that brought any issues before the Town Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board will go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and a personnel issue. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon 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 LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon. **VOTE: ALL AYE.**

The Executive Session started at 7:06 p.m. and ended at 7:40 p.m. No action was taken.

WORK SESSION

Police Chief

Police Chief Marlatt advised the Town Board that he and the Police Committee held interviews for Police Officers. Chief Marlatt explained that two of the candidates appear to be a good fit for the department. The first candidate, Juan Cano, has completed Phase I and could attend Phase II in Ulster County in August. Chief Marlatt explained that he is on the civil service list and the Town can hire him part-time to get started now. Officer Cano would be responsible for the expense of attending Phase II. The Town would supply the equipment for his training. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to hire Juan Cano as a part-time officer.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Chief Marlatt explained that the second candidate that the committee is recommending is Christopher Pileggi. He is a former State Police member and has all the required certifications. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to hire Christopher Pileggi as a part-time police officer.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Chief Marlatt advised that he has submitted a voucher for Officer Synder to attend the DARE Training that will be held February 16th through the 27th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Ronk advised that it was necessary to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into an Executive Session. **VOTE: ALL AYE.** A motion was made to come out of Executive Session and enter back into the regular Meeting by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor.

The Executive Session started at 7:06 p.m. and ended at 7:40 p.m. No decisions were made.

Chief Marlatt explained that the department currently has three part-time certified Training Officers. A full-time officer is required. He is requesting approval for Officer Brooks and Officer McDermont to attend the training with the Orange County Sheriff's Office on March 2nd through March 5th. The four-day training cost is \$375.00 per person. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the training for these officers. It was agreed that if one of these officers cannot attend, a substitute can be made.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Chief Marlatt reported that the estimate he received and submitted in his budget for a new police car was \$76,348.00 . Now the price has increased and the estimate he received today is \$78,879.00. The car will be purchased on state bid from Healey Brothers. Following a brief discussion on the five-year warranty and the price difference, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to purchase the police vehicle.

VOTE: All AYE.

Chief Marlatt reported that there was an in-person audit from Department of Criminal Justice on hiring standards reporting. The last audit was remote in 2023. Chief Marlatt reported that the auditor was one hundred percent satisfied and has approved the department temporarily. The final approval goes before the State Board. Following that, the department will be good until 2030.

Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported that he met with the engineers regarding a new highway garage. The engineers visited the property and funding options were discussed. Mr. Blazeski requested permission to move forward by obtaining a rendering, which would allow them to proceed with the next step, going to Albany for possible funding options. There was a lengthy discussion on the type of buildings and the process moving forward. Mr. Blazeski suggested that Town Board members visit other highway buildings in the area. Mr. Blazeski requested permission to proceed with a concept rendering from GPI Engineering. GPI will also help write the grant application.

Councilman Danon stated that a building has been needed for twenty years. Mr. Danon stated that the possibility of moving the Police Station to the complex should be pursued. There was a discussion on possible funding opportunities if a grant application was for an emergency management center.

Councilman Voss said a highway building is long overdue, and the Town Board should move forward.

Supervisor Ronk stated that the cost for this project would be in addition to trucks and other equipment. Councilman LoCicero stated that he would like to have a meeting with the engineers and come up with a calendar and outline of a plan prior to any drawings. The plan should include if the complex would be built in phases.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski stated that the trucks need to be put away under cover.

It was agreed to invite the engineer to the next Town Board meeting to discuss this further. Highway Superintendent Blazeski will make the arrangements.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported the following:

The last snowstorm went well. The supplier is out of salt, but they have sand.

The street clean-up was completed today. There was good cooperation from the residents.

The local law regarding parking on the streets needs to be adopted. Mr. Blazeski provided a sample of a law. Supervisor Ronk stated that the Town does have a local law, but it needs to be updated. He reported that four cars needed to be towed during the snowstorm. Towing regulations during a State of Emergency were discussed. Supervisor Ronk will follow up on drafting a local law for consideration.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski distributed a chart of highway equipment purchases from 2021-2025. The report was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Blazeski requested permission to go out to bid for a new tandem truck. A discussion took place on emissions, replacements, bonding and financing. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize Mr. Blazeski to go out to bid for the tandem truck.

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

Walden Humane Society

Supervisor Ronk reported that he inquired with the Town of Plattekill regarding a dog kennel, he was advised they do not have one. Mr. Ronk is suggesting that the contract with Walden Humane Society be signed so there is a place to bring the animals to. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and second by Councilman Amthor to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement for the year 2026.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Contracts

Supervisor Ronk reviewed the yearly contracts that were ready to be signed with the Walker Valley and Wallkill Senior Citizens, the Wallkill Ambulance, Historical Society, and Fire Companies, as approved in the 2026 Budget. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize the signing of the contracts.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Resignation

Supervisor Ronk reported that he received a letter of resignation from Building/Code Officer Ed Diller. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to accept Mr. Diller's resignation with regrets.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Mowing Bids

Councilman Danon reviewed the mowing bids with the Town Board. He reported that he would like them to be submitted and opened on March 3rd, 2026. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to place a legal ad in the Wallkill Valley Times.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Parks

Councilman Danon reviewed the rental forms for town properties. He has made changes for the use of the fields at the parks, which include a fee. This fee will go towards the cost of improvements and maintenance. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the revised form as submitted.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Buildings

Councilman Danon reported that the sprinkler system at Town Hall needs to be serviced. He is getting prices from companies. It is estimated to cost about \$1,100.00.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	3	55-108	\$ 78,020.03
HIGHWAY	3	12-34	\$ 157,945.88
WATER	3	8-13	\$ 9,011.84
SEWER	3	9-18	\$ 27,099.10
TRUST & AGENCY	3	7-19	\$ 2,366.66
LIBRARY	1	1-2	\$ 540,550.45
AMBULANCE	1	1-2	\$ 315,000.00
FIRE DISTRICT	1	1-4	\$1,718,458.08

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 LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk