

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 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 **19th day of February 2026 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Alex Danon, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Mike Voss, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Brian Amthor was absent. Also present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Richard Barnhart, Kathy Ebbrell, and several members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Supervisor Ronk led the Town Board in a moment of silence and 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 held on February 5, 2026.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Eric Orr, representing Wallkill Hook, Ladder & Hose, spoke to the Town Board about the 125th Anniversary of the fire department in 2027. Mr. Orr discussed various events that will take place. One event the fire department would like to hold this year is a Soap Box Derby Race on Lavoletta Street. He inquired if the Town Board would be in support of such an event. They are thinking about holding it in May or June. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the members of the Town Board are in support of the event. Mr. Orr will work with Supervisor Ronk and Councilman LoCicero to come up with a plan to present to the entire Town Board.

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's Report for the month of January 2026 was submitted and on file.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report for January 2026 for \$17,901.37 was submitted and on file.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The Building Inspector's Monthly Report for January 2026 was submitted and on file.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**Engineering Services**

Superintendent Blazeski introduced Herb Litts and John Rizzo from GPI Engineering. Mr. Blazeski reported that he is requesting the firm be hired as the engineers for the Highway Department for 2026. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and second by Councilman Voss to appoint GPI Engineering as the engineering firm for the Highway Department for 2026.

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

Highway Garage

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported to the Town Board that he met with GPI Engineering to discuss ideas regarding a new highway facility. He invited them here to present a plan on how to proceed.

Mr. John Rizzo introduced himself as the Division Director of Building Engineering, and Herb Litts, as the Project Manager of GPI Engineering. He distributed copies of his presentation for the board to review. Mr. Rizzo explained the role of GPI in this process. He reviewed municipal projects that they provided design and oversight of. Mr. Rizzo shared his opinion that after a site visit to the highway garage, it is clear that it is in disrepair and has exceeded its useful life. Mr. Rizzo reviewed the general outline of the steps involved in planning this type of project.

There was a lengthy discussion on the types of buildings that would be needed and what would be most cost effective. The discussion also included the square footage that would be needed, the type of construction, roof top solar. Supervisor Ronk stated that the first step is to clarify if this is the path the Town Board wants to start. GPI can lay out a road map which would include funding sources. It needs to be determined what the Town can afford. The funding will be coming from the General Fund. Grant sources, bonding sources, payments, and terms will need established. He suggested the Town Board liaisons can work with Highway Superintendent Blazeski if this is how the Town Board wants to proceed. Councilman LoCicero stated this was needed over six years ago, he is in favor of moving forward. He feels that we should start in the direction of building a new building. When the fire department decided to build, it was scaled down to half the size that was originally proposed. He added that it will come down to dollars. He will be happy to work with Superintendent Blazeski to start the process. Supervisor Ronk stated that if we started now, it could be years before the shovel goes in the ground. Councilman Voss mentioned the question that Councilman Amthor had regarding where the home for the garage could be during construction. He is absolutely in favor of moving forward.

Supervisor Ronk has consulted with the town attorney on housing the department outside of the Town during construction. He has also requested him to research the legality of volunteers doing a portion of the project.

Councilman Danon stated he is in favor of moving forward this year. He would like to know the cost advantages and disadvantages.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski stated that they will be looking at any and all grants and funding opportunities.

Supervisor Ronk stated that it is the will of the board to start moving forward.

Personnel

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he has interviewed a candidate for the position that is currently open. He is recommending Jeremy Turner be hired. A motion as made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss to hire Jeremy Turner at the current operator's rate. The start date is pending, but within the time frame of two to three weeks.

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

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Marlatt inquired if an Executive Session was necessary regarding a personnel matter. It was determined that an Executive Session would be necessary.

Chief Marlatt reported that he is coordinating efforts in preparation of the Shamrock Scramble and St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22nd. The parking plan will be different this year with the addition of the apartments now built.

Chief Marlatt reported that he spoke to the school about Officer's Brooks and McDermott attending the FTO Training. If availability changes up to the day, they have someone on reserve.

Officer Synder is currently attending D.A.R.E. School.

Chief Marlatt inquired if the contract was signed with the Walden Humane Society. Supervisor Ronk will confirm that it was signed and returned.

Chief Marlatt advised that Officer Juan Cano will be sworn in tomorrow. He will be attending Phase II Training in Greene County at the end of March.

Officer Pileggi has started working with the department.

Chief Marlatt reported that after going back and forth with the purchase order for the new car, the final price came in \$3,370.50 higher. That difference can be taken out of the Tech Grant. The specification sheet was submitted with the purchase order.

Chief Marlatt reported that interviews need to be scheduled with the Police Committee. Additional interviews are needed. Chief Marlatt reported that he has three applicants for the Dog Control position.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

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

The Executive Session started at 7:52 p.m. and ended at 8:15 p.m. No action was taken.

TOWN LIASON REPORTS

HIGHWAY

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Highway Department employees have requested an additional week of lieu time. Mr. Ronk stated that he supports this request as it may be fiscally advantageous with the amount of snow removal this year. There was a discussion on this request applying to the 80-hour, or the 120-hour employees. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize the Supervisor to grant the one-week lieu time to all employees.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

No report.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk reported there have been a few water issues this week. He was advised that the system was losing 100,000 gallons of water a day. After investigation, it was determined that there were no breaks in the system. A valve in the curb box to the former firehouse was replaced. A valve on River Road was replaced and a break at Buena Vista and Viola Avenue was repaired.

A change order from Green Meadows, the contractor of the Route 208 South Sewer project, was received. A water main break to a service line occurred when searching for a 4" line that was not marked on the map. The service line that was hit was marked out on the ground by the water department. There was a discussion about who was responsible for the bill. It was agreed that Supervisor Ronk will request a meeting with the Town Engineer to discuss who is responsible. The Town Board will hold off on approval until that meeting takes place. Supervisor Ronk noted that the service line to Popp Park broke during this work, since there was no shut-off, it was installed.

PARKS

Councilman Danon reported that he met with Trevor Hunt at Galeville Park to come up with a parking plan. Stone and piping will be needed to dry up a problem area. They are hoping to rope off a parking area which will define where cars should be parked. There are some trees from last year that will need to be removed. Mr. Danon inquired about when a part-time parks person can be hired. Supervisor Ronk shared this is not ready to be acted on at this time.

Supervisor Ronk reported that Trevor Hunt has cleaned up and done some painting on the inside of the garage and the restrooms at Verkeerderkill Park. He has rebuilt and painted the outdoor garbage containers.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

No report.

RECREATION

No report.

RRA/TRANSFER STATION

Supervisor Ronk reported that he is working on reports to be submitted.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Town submitted an objection letter to the Department of Labor for a former employee who has filed for unemployment benefits. Mr. Ronk stated that the DOL has overridden the Town's decision.

BUILDINGS

Supervisor Ronk reported that there has been an on-going vibration in the Town Hall. CR Wolfe, who installed the new boilers, came and checked to see if the vibration was from the boilers. It was determined that it was not coming from the boilers and was a natural gas issue. Central Hudson was called in to check on the issue. It was determined that the regulator going into the building was malfunctioning and needed to be replaced.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

Supervisor Ronk discussed the new insurance policy with the Town Board. He reported that the deductibles were higher, but premiums showed significant savings. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss to approve the contract with Trident Public Risk Solutions.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING

No report.

COMPUTERS

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS**U.S. Light Energy Host Community Agreement**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the proposed schedule in the agreement with the Town Board. The agreement provides for \$75,000.00. Half of the amount is for trees and the other half is for conservation and community enhancement. The fee will be paid to the Town upon issuance of the Building Permit. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Voss to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement pending sign off by the Town Attorney.

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

Bids/Proposals

Supervisor Ronk reported that out of four bid advertisements, only two proposals for Engineering Services were submitted. There were no responses submitted for Elevator Services, HVAC Services, and Plumbing Services. The two proposals that were received were from D & B Engineers & Architects and GPI Engineering. Supervisor Ronk noted that the hourly rates for on-call services from GPI are slightly lower, but both bidders have similar experiences. Following a review of the proposal submitted and a discussion on utilizing the same engineer as the Highway Department, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to award the bid to GPI Engineering on a on-call basis for all engineering services for 2026.

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

Supervisor Ronk discussed utilizing other resources for bid advertisements other than the Wallkill Valley Times.

Zoning Revisions

Supervisor Ronk distributed proposed zoning revisions for the Town Boards consideration. Mr. Ronk said the need for these revisions is to clear up issues and definitions. He stated that the Re-Zoning Committee will be discussing these changes at a meeting tomorrow. He is hoping to schedule a Public Hearing in March.

Attorney Waiver

Supervisor Ronk explained that it is necessary to sign a "waiver of conflict" for the SRO Contract because the attorney is also the attorney for the school district (not the town attorney). Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss authorizing the Supervisor to sign the waiver.

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

JCAP Grant

Kathy Ebbrell reported to the Town Board that she received notice today that the JACP Grant for a courtroom desk was awarded today.

Holiday Wreaths

Supervisor Ronk reported that the holiday wreaths were taken down last week by Hudson Valley Concrete Pumping. Mr. Ronk expressed his appreciation and will send a thank you to them.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	4	109-148	\$ 88,458.56
HIGHWAY	4	35-56	\$ 152,555.81
WATER	4	14-19	\$ 87092.26

SEWER	4	19-27	\$ 22,077.32
TRUST & AGENCY	3	20-22	\$ 840.00

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk