

## REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 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 March 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 Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, 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 held on February 19, 2026.

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

### CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

### PRESENTATION OF DICK PARKER AWARD

Supervisor Ronk explained that the Dick Parker Community Service Award is an award that the Town Board, in conjunction with the Southern Ulster Rotary Club, awards to a deserving person in the community for their service to the community. Mr. Ronk explained that Dick Parker was the owner of Fair Rite Products and a very community minded member of the community. For the first quarter of 2026, the Dick Parker Memorial Award is being presented to a very deserving person. He was featured on News 12 and covered on the Wallkill Happenings site for his service to the community. Mr. Ronk announced that Noah Mitzer is being recognized for his many hours of snow shoveling this winter. Noah assisted the Wallkill Fire Department by shoveling out the fire hydrants throughout town. Noah has assisted many townspeople with his services. He can be seen towing his equipment in a trailer on his bicycle. Noah is always pleasant, kind and generous and very deserving of this award. Councilman Danon shared that Noah watches over the playground at Garrison Park and is always around to help with repairs. Councilman Amthor conveyed that the community is fortunate to have him living here and is proud of his work ethic. Councilman LoCicero stated that he has watched Noah grow up living next to the firehouse. He encouraged Noah to join the fire department when he turns 16 years old. Councilman

Voss explained to Noah that he is a businessman and it is difficult to find people who work so hard. He stated that Noah is off to a great start and is proud of his work ethic. Supervisor Ronk encouraged Noah to work hard in school, get good grades, and he will succeed in life.

In addition to the award, Noah was presented with a gift card to Becks Hardware and a gift from Ulster County Legislator Rich Walls.

#### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

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

#### **WORK SESSION**

#### **HIGHWAY**

##### **Sunset Trail**

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski discussed Sunset Trail with the Town Board members. He explained that some of the issues are because the homes on the left side of the road are higher than the right side. This prevents the road from being raised. The drainage is gone. When a catch basin can be located, it was handmade years ago. He will try to get item four, but to do anything is throwing good money away. Mr. Blazeski explained that the two and half miles of Strawridge Road is at the top of the list this summer. He is waiting for Ulster County 284 Agreement to determine if any of the feeder roads off Strawridge can be done. Councilman Danon inquired if it was feasible to say Sunset Trail could be at the at the top of the list for the following summer. Mr. Blazeski said that it is not known at this time.

##### **CE Penney Drive**

There was a brief discussion on the issue with school traffic on James Street's property. Councilman LoCicero reported that it was his opinion a stop sign should be installed, which may help with some of the problems. Mr. LoCicero offered to speak with school administrators and attempt to find a solution regarding school traffic.

##### **Trucks/Equipment**

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the bid notice has been run in the newspaper for a 2027 Western Star Snowplow Truck. The sealed bids are due on March 17, 2026.

Councilman Danon inquired if the Sweeper Truck will be available to clean the streets. Mr. Blazeski reported that there will be two trucks sweeping the roads.

##### **Personnel**

Supervisor Ronk explained that at the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting Jeremy Turner was hired with an undetermined start date. Following a brief discussion, a motion as made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon that the start date for Jeremy Turner will March 16, 2026, at the 90% HEMO rate.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Fact Finder's Report**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Public Employment Relations Board Fact Finder's Report was made public today. Mr. Ronk explained that the Town Board and the Highway Department Employees have been in contract negotiations for several years. An impasse was reached. Mediation sessions were held with no resolution. Fact Finding was filed with the Public Employment Relations Board. This is a process where a Fact Finder comes in and holds a hearing. A recommendation is then given, which can be accepted or rejected.

Supervisor Ronk explained that the report covers four years: 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and is retroactive. The Fact Finder's recommendation is a 5% salary increase in 2024, 4% increase in 2025, a 4% increase in 2026 and a 4% increase in 2027. Total increase is 17%. Mr. Ronk stated that all other terms have been agreed on by both parties. Councilman Danon stated that this recommendation is in line with other towns. He stated that this is what the Town offered one and a half years ago. Mr. Danon stated that this has wasted a lot of taxpayer money to get to this point.

A Resolution was offered by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adopt the recommendations of the Fact Finder for wage increases of 5% effective January 1, 2024, 4% effective January 1, 2025, 4% effective January 1, 2026, and 4% effective January 1, 2027, and that the former CSEA contract, with the modifications previously agreed to by the parties, governing the remaining terms and conditions of employment is hereby accepted as the collective bargaining agreement covering the period beginning from the date the Highway Association was recognized as the exclusive bargaining representative of the full-time Highway Association employees through the close of business December 31, 2027.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Supervisor Ronk stated that this process has taken a lot of time, effort, and frustration. His goal all along was to get the employees a raise.

**Purchasing Policy**

Supervisor Ronk reported that this week was the External Auditor Week at Town Hall. He commented that the job is much easier for everyone because of the excellent job our Bookkeeper, Ellen Bistor, does. Mr. Ronk explained that he had a discussion with the Auditor about our current purchasing policy. The Auditor suggested eliminating the verbal quotes. The current amounts when quotes are needed are: \$100 for General; \$250 for Highway; and \$500 for Police. Councilman Amthor stated with costs going up, it makes sense to raise the amounts. The last change to the policy was in 2012. Councilman Danon stated that the amounts need to be adjusted. Supervisor Ronk will research what other towns have and gather data so the board can revise the Purchasing Policy.

**Millennium Strategies/Grants**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the annual contract is up for consideration. The quote in the contract has not increased since last year. The funds were included in the 2026 Budget. Mr. Ronk reported that we have been awarded between \$110-115,000.00 in grants. Grants for car seat safety, electric vehicle charging stations and MS4 are among them. Councilman Danon stated that he thinks Grant Writer Jacob Ford does good work and is in support of signing the contract. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the 2026 contract with Millennium Strategies.

**ALL AYE.**

Supervisor Ronk reported that T Mobile has a grant offer that tops off at \$50,000.00. Mr. Ronk reported that he had a discussion with Vision of Wallkill President who provided ideas for Main Street grants.

**Advantage Computer Jay Hawk Software**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Annual Software Contract with Jay Hawk has been received. He explained that this is the company who provides support for our Water & Sewer Billing. The annual cost is \$759.00 for annual software assurance and ten support hours. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the contract as presented.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Engineering**

Supervisor Ronk reviewed a nine-page contract from GPI Engineering. Mr. Ronk explained that GPI is a public full-service engineering company. Mr. Ronk spoke of the Stein Road project that was done for such a reduced amount by utilizing the services of Herb Litts from GPI. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the contract with GPI Engineering.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Gen Tech Generator**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the service contract for maintenance on the generators has been received. Mr. Ronk advised that the contract includes servicing for all four generators. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the service contract.

**VOTE: ALL AYE:**

**Phone System**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has met with several companies regarding phone service for the Town phone system. He has received a price per month of \$960.00 for phone service, which includes twenty-five phones and installation, from National Business Technologies. Some of the features include access on smart phones through an app, internal instant messaging system, and text SMS messages, up to five hundred per month. Currently, the present phone system costs between \$2,200.00-2,400.00 per month. Councilman Amthor inquired if additional block of messages can be purchased. He also inquired if the system is compatible with faxes and credit card machines. Supervisor Ronk explained that it is internet based and the app on the cell phone would be a backup if the system went down. The same phone numbers will be retained. He stated that a final price will be given during the final walk through. Following a discussion on the system, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Voss to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign a contract with National Business Technologies for phone service, after considering the questions that have been raised have been addressed.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Home Rule Request – S8398 and A2733**

Supervisor Ronk reported that this legislation would allow Police Officer Daniel Montalto to take the Civil Service exam. Mr. Ronk explained that due to circumstances, Officer Montalto lost full-time status on the Civil Service list. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to support this Home Rule Request.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Legislation in Support of John Rafferty**

Supervisor Ronk explained that it would be necessary to request a bill be introduced by Senator Peter Oberacker and Assemblyman Brian Maher to allow Police Officer John Rafferty to take the Civil Service exam similar to what was discussed for Officer Montalto. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to support this Home Rule Request for Police Officer John Rafferty.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Mowing Bids**

Councilman Danon reported that seven bids were submitted for lawnmowing town properties. He is recommending the bid be awarded to Saves U Time Lawn Care, LLC from Walden. The bid submitted to mow all the properties was a total of \$1890.00. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve awarding the bid as recommended.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

There was a discussion on the parks department doing some of the mowing. Councilman Danon explained that perhaps in the future, the town may purchase a mower, but for now, there are many other things that need to be addressed by the parks department.

**Towing Law**

Supervisor Ronk reported that after reviewing the Town of Plattekill Towing Law, it is his opinion that our Town does not have to pass something so comprehensive. There was a discussion on insurance, storage fees, and setting prices. There were questions regarding tow lists that are used by the Ulster County Sheriff and the State Police. It was suggested that the Town could possibly adopt the tow list of the Sheriff's Department. Supervisor Ronk requested board members review the Plattekill law and get back to him with questions. He will meet with the Town Attorney and get the questions answered by the next Town Board meeting.

**Buildings**

Councilman Danon reported that the sprinkler system at Town Hall was tested and inspected this week. He received the report from Sullivan Products who reported that the overall system is in good shape. There are a few issues that need to be addressed. The compressor has a leak which needs to be located, and a valve needs to be replaced. The quote for the test was \$2,800.00. The total price quoted for the work and inspection is \$10,046.50. There was a discussion on a dry or wet system. Councilman Danon will inquire with the company if the system can be converted to a wet system. Once the leak is located, that question can be addressed.

**Parks**

Councilman Danon discussed a request for use of the sports fields at Verkeerderkill Park from Pine Bush Little League. The fence needs some work and the bushes need trimming. Trevor Hunt will address those items. Clay may need to be brought in for field work.

The trees at Galeville Park have been cut down which will allow for the expansion of the parking lot. A chipper and excavator will be brought in to dig out the stumps and clean out the area.

**Building Department**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Building Inspector has brought to his attention that Watchtower Farms is renovating the HVAC System in their repair garage. The building is 68,500 square feet. The Towns' current fee schedule is based upon a commercial rate of \$60.00 per square foot. At that rate, the charge for a building permit would be \$41,000.00. Mr. Calaca has suggested that the amount be reduced in half. He has been advised that Watchtower are planning many renovations in the near future. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to decrease the Building Permit fee to \$20,600.00.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	5	149-188	\$ 245,771.32
HIGHWAY	5	57-72	\$ 114,004.31
WATER	5	20-23	\$ 10,248.91
SEWER	5	28-33	\$ 28,422.56
LIGHT	3	3	\$ 2,169.51
TRUST & AGENCY	4	23-33	\$ 2,578.95
DRAINAGE	1	1	\$ 601.20

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero 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 8:42 p.m.

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk