

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**JUNE 4, 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 **4th day of June 2026, at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Alex Danon, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Michael Voss, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Joe LoCicero was absent. Also present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Rich Barnhart, Kathy Ebbrell, 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 pledge to the flag.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Voss to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 21, 2026.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Supervisor Ronk acknowledged correspondence from Nicole Brooks, John May and Emily Watson, and Hans Pirman. All items will be addressed by the appropriate department during the meeting.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

No one from the audience addressed the board.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law #1 of 2026 remains open. He explained that this law proposes language changes and definitions for clarification purposes. The law also addresses guidelines for apartments and banning Battery Storage Systems. The Town is still waiting for comments from the Ulster County Planning Board, and any additional comments from residents. Rich Barnhart reported that he attended a seminar on Battery Storage Systems. At that seminar, municipalities were encouraged not to be dissuaded from banning these systems. He explained that there are changes to technology, but acting too quickly before the state addresses the dangers with lithium batteries, was not advised. Specifically, Mr. Barnhart spoke of thermos run-away, where the idea is to "let it burn". He stated he thought the Town Board was doing the right thing by banning Battery Storage Systems. Rich Blazeski stated that the fire departments do not have the needed hazmat resources or water to "let it burn". Along with the shortage of volunteers, they just can't babysit these fires. Supervisor Ronk stated allowing them at this time would be a cost to the taxpayers. The Town Board can allow them at any time when the research is complete and they are deemed safe.

WORK SESSIONHIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Blazeski distributed copies of the letter he received announcing the CHIPS Funding figures following the passage of the state budget. He stated that he is pleased with the \$20,000+/- increase over last year.

The crew has completed the work on Malloy Road and are moving to Wildrick Road and Old Fort Road.

POLICE CHIEF

Supervisor Ronk reported that he sat in on four interviews, replacing Councilman LoCicero while he was out of town.

Police Chief Marlatt reported that Officer Nicole Brooks has turned in her resignation and is requesting to stay part time with the Town of Shawangunk Police Department. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Voss to accept the resignation of Nicole Brooks as a full time Police Officer, with regrets, and move to part time status, effective June 12, 2026.

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

There was a discussion held on the interviews that were held. Chief Marlatt requested that the Town Board vote on three officers that were interviewed, as they are lateral transfers and not off the civil service list. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to hire Daniel Kopec and Michael Sink as full-time officers, pending any necessary background checks and civil service requirements.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to hire Nicholas Anzovino as a part time officer, pending any necessary background checks and civil service requirements.

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

Chief Marlatt stated the hiring of these additional officers and Officer Brooks staying on as part-time, will help with staffing.

Chief Marlatt reported that John May has turned in his resignation letter as a part time Crossing Guard. Chief Marlatt reported that Crossing Guard, Bill Davidson, has agreed to pick up the extra hours and cover for the vacancy. Chief Marlatt advised that if another applicant surfaces, they can be hired as an alternate. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to accept the resignation of John May.

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

Chief Marlatt submitted and distributed a Monthly Report for May 2026. The statistics were reviewed and discussed.

Supervisor Ronk reported that both Home Rule requests for Office Montalto and Officer Raftery were submitted to the New York Legislature. At this time, the Montalto bill passed and is waiting for signature. The Rafferty bill passed the Assembly today and is in the Senate Civil Service Committee.

### WORK SESSION

#### WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk discussed a change order for the Sewer South project. He explained that a water line was found which was not on the map. There were four users on the old four-inch line that needed to be switched to the eight-inch line. In order to get the seven-inch separation, there is an additional cost of \$54,000.00 to drill new sleeves to the eight-inch line and blacktop. This issue needs to be addressed now or later and will be added to the overall cost of the project. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize the Supervisor to sign the change order from Green Meadows.

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

#### PARKS/REC

##### **Rail Trail**

Councilman Danon discussed a quote he received from Town of Montgomery for micro paving our portion of the Rail Trail. The Town of Shawangunk portion is three quarters of a mile. And the last time it was sealed was 2009. By doing the paving at the same time, there will be significant savings. The estimate received from Suit-Kote for the Shawangunk portion is \$17,428.97. Councilman Danon recommends moving forward. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Voss to authorize doing the work in conjunction with Montgomery.

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

#### **Park Build**

Councilman Voss reported that he has concerns with removing the stumps at Verkeerderkill Park at this time. He explained that after cutting the trees, grinding the stumps and roots, there will be holes and it will be unsafe during summer camp. Supervisor Ronk explained that the footprint of the playground needs to be expanded, which is why this prep work needs to be done. Following a discussion, Councilman Danon stated that summer camp ends the first week in August. Supervisor Ronk is suggesting that the American Ninja Warrior playground at Garrison Park be scheduled for installation at this time. When camp is over, the work at Verkeerderkill Park should start right away. Supervisor Ronk explained that Trevor Hunt is installing the border at this time with the assistance of a volunteer. He has had two other volunteers helping him which will be recognized at a later date.

#### **Verkeerderkill Park**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Pat Mercurio, who is a neighbor to the park has offered the labor to build a pickleball court at the park if the Town pays for the material. Mr. Ronk suggested that there may be a volunteer he could approach for the concrete. The information was sent to Councilman LoCicero.

#### **Garrison Park**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the possibility of converting the basketball court at Garrison Park for pickleball. Lighting would be needed.

#### **Summer Camp**

Councilman Danon reported that Director Gillian Batchasingh has held interviews for camp staff. She recommends the following:

Lead Counselors, Elly Taylor, Caityln Murphy, and Anthony Daley at the rate of \$19.00 per hour.

Junior Counselors, Denardo Denvitt and Faith Anderson at the rate of \$16.50 per hour.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and second by Councilman Amthor to hire the Lead Counselors and Junior Counselors as listed. In addition, Jessica Bedell is returning as the Assistant Director at the rate of \$21.00 per hour, and Gillian Batchasingh as the Director at the rate of \$27.00 per hour with a \$600.00 stipend for Medical Officer.

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

Councilman Danon reported that depending on the enrollment, there are two additional people ready to be hired.

#### **Clerk Salaries**

Councilman Danon inquired the status of clerk salaries. Supervisor Ronk advised that a seventy-five-cent raise was put in the budget, to be effective July 1, 2026 to the end of the year. He reported that the new employee that was hired at a higher rate did not receive a raise in January. This seventy-five-cent raise would bring all clerical staff to the same level.

**NEW BUSINESS****Park Rental**

Supervisor Ronk discussed an e-mail request from Hans Pirman requesting a refund for the rental of Popp Park on June 7, 2026. Mr. Pirman had a death in the family and had to cancel his event. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to refund the \$300.00 fee.

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

**Building Permit Refund**

Supervisor Ronk discussed a request from Emily Watson. She is requesting a building permit fee refund that she paid as the work was never done. Mr. Ronk explained that the customer went with another company. He said the Town Board needs to set a policy on refunds. He continued to explain that hours were put in by the Building Department to process and issue the permit. The total fee for the permit was \$250.00. Following a discussion, it was agreed that any requests for refunds would be handled on a case-by-case basis. A twenty-five percent administrative fee may be charged for the fee associated with the issuance of a building permit. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Voss to refund Emily Watson the fee of \$187.50 for the cancellation of the building permit.

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

**Ulster County PFAS Testing**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he obtained and posted a press release from Ulster County regarding testing for private wells. He explained that it is a new pilot program that can be applied for through Ulster County. This issue was brought up at the last Town Board meeting. The notice has been posted on the Town Bulletin Board.

**Time Keeping**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he is checking into an electronic time keeping system. The Town uses RDA Software which has an on-line portal. The system utilizes a workstation with a time clock, which can be used with a tablet or phone. The annual license comes with a cost of \$2400.00. The benefits and options were discussed. Councilman Danon inquired if other municipalities are using this system. Supervisor Ronk and Councilman Amthor will continue to research the best fit for the Town.

**Ulster County Resolutions**

Councilman Danon reported that the Ulster County Legislature is proposing legislation that will impose a tax on high income residents, and a bill that will silence the minority from bringing bills to the floor. Following a discussion, Councilman Danon stated the Town Board should stand by our opinions and

inquired if the Town Board should send in a statement opposing these bills. Supervisor Ronk stated he could draft a resolution for the Town Board's consideration for the next meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Highway Contract**

Supervisor Ronk reported that after the Fact-Finding hearing was held, the recommendation is to enter into further negotiations, which will commence this month. Mr. Ronk discussed the on-going process while trying to settle a contract.

**Phone System**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the company representative has done a walk through in all departments at Town Hall to check the internet speed. There are a few firewall issues that need to be addressed.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were audited.

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>WARRANT</b>	<b>VOUCHERS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL	11	411-459	\$ 46,207.90
HIGHWAY	11	175-194	\$ 96,128.18
WATER	11	48-49	\$ 1,966.36
SEWER	11	73-78	\$ 15,241.17
TRUST & AGENCY	10	74-81	\$ 3,337.83
LIGHT	6	6	\$ 2,092.04

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk