

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 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, Walkill, NY on the **17th day of September 2026, at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Alex Danon, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Michael Voss, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Kathy Ebbrell, Anne Barnhart, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Sergeant John Spinato, 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 LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 3, 2026.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Supervisor Ronk acknowledged correspondence on 9/14/26 from S & C Huppert, regarding the Blue Chip Project. Correspondence received from Susannah Fiala regarding a FOIL Appeal dated 9/14/26. A press release was received from Shawangunk Valley Fire District on 9/14/26 regarding breaking ground for a firehouse expansion.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Core Communication Board**

Samantha Thomson spoke to Town Board about the significance of Communication Boards for children with limited speaking abilities. Ms. Thomson shared information that the value of these boards would add to Garrison Park and requested the Town Board to consider funding the installation of one at Garrison Park. She introduced educators Stephanie Harrigan and Brian Majestic to expand on the program. Ms. Harrigan distributed handouts and explained that she and Mr. Majestic have created Inclusive Minds, LLC with the goal of increasing accessibility, inclusion, and neuroaffirming practices in the region. They explained how the boards provide communication access for children who are non-speaking or minimally speaking. Ms. Harrigan explained that installing a core communication board is a simple, low-cost improvement that significantly increases accessibility and inclusion in the playground. Her hope is to install one at Garrison Park first and expand it to other parks. The board is 5'X3' and is built to last five to ten years. DePew Signs have been building their signs for other parks at a cost of \$380.00.

Councilman Amthor spoke of his family foundation, Childs Wish. He feels that this proposal would fall within the needs of children and is proposing, with Town Board approval, to cover the expense for the installation of communication boards at all town parks. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the offer made by Councilman Amthor to cover the expenses of installing the Core Communication Boards at Garrison Park, Popp Park, Galeville Park, and Verkeerderkill Park.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Ms. Thomson, Stephanie Harrigan and Brian Majestic thanked Councilman Amthor for his generous offer and stated they will be happy to work on the location and installation of the signs at the parks. They thanked the Town Board for their time and cooperation.

Adrienne Gelfand-Perine announced to the Town Board and audience that Dr. Amy Coopersmith will be holding two puppet shows on self-determination at the Weekend of Wallkill.

**Veterans Exemption**

Ms. Gelfand-Perine spoke to the Town Board about adopting a local law to fully exempt veterans who are 100% disabled. She said the Ulster County Legislature passed the law this week and is urging the towns and school districts to pass a local law as well. Ms. Gelfand-Perine stated that there are a total of #560 veterans in Ulster County that are 100% disabled. She is in support of the passage of this exemption.

Supervisor Ronk explained that our Assessor has been attending webinars with the state to learn about this exemption. He explained that there is confusion about some of the specifics and the implementation of the exemption. Mr. Ronk stated there is outstanding information on what involvement the Department of Taxation & Finance will have.

**Fire Department Horn/Siren**

Ms. Andrea Joyce inquired if the fire department horn will be back in service after being out for many years. Ms. Joyce questioned if the horn was even necessary. Ms. Joyce was joined by other residents in the neighborhood and stated that no one was in favor of the horn coming back. She inquired if the residents had any say in this.

Councilman LoCicero introduced himself and explained that he is one of the Commissioners for Wallkill Fire District. He explained that when the building was sold to the Town, there was a contract to have the horn remain. At that time, there was a concern with the horn being located across from the middle school and the disruption it could create during the day. In the meantime, the horn has been broken. There have been discussions by the commissioners about what to do with the horn. The school district needs to be a part of the discussion. Ms. Joyce questioned why it was necessary to have the horn. Mr. LoCicero explained that the horn alerted residents and cautioned them when there was a fire, prison break or weather-related emergency. Ms. Joyce said times are changing with communication and inquired if this was still necessary. Councilman LoCicero advised that the Wallkill Fire District is the place

where the horn is discussed. He explained that the Commissioner's meet at the Firehouse on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The Public is welcome to attend.

**Jansen Road**

Mr. Grier Morgan spoke to the Town Board about the condition of Jansen Road. He explained that thirty-five years ago, there was not much on the road. Today, Jansen Road is used as a cut through, and it is not safe to walk on the road. Cars travel 50 miles per hour. Mr. Morgan expressed his frustration of not getting a return call back from the Highway Superintendent. He reported that the end of Jansen, where it meets Indian Springs Road, is full of holes and need attention. Supervisor Ronk said he will speak to the Highway Superintendent. He will go out himself and look at the problem. Supervisor Ronk asked Police Chief Marlatt to respond to the speeding. Mr. Marlatt advised that he has a car out in that area patrolling.

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES****TOWN SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

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

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's Report for the month of August 2026 for \$30,187.03 was submitted and is on file.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

The Building Inspector's Report for August 2026 will be submitted at the next meeting.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Supervisor Ronk reported the following on behalf of Highway Superintendent:

Paving will be done next week on Strawridge Road, Jill Marie Circle and Sloan Court.

The cost of salt has increased 40%. Highway superintendent Blazeski is proposing to go out for local bid for salt. This was discussed and agreed that a legal notice will be posted seeking bids for Untreated Road Salt.

**POLICE CHIEF**

Supervisor Ronk advised Chief Marlatt that he should proceed with ordering the RICOH Printer for the Police Department.

Supervisor Ronk reported that he spoke to Wallkill School District Assistant Superintendent Brian DiVincenzi regarding the passing of school buses on Albany Post Road. Police Chief Marlatt explained that the problem is occurring at 7:05 a.m. when there is a shift change. He has the day shift coming in a half hour early. There was a discussion on arm cameras and which routes have them.

Adrienne Gelfand-Perine inquired if the police department is moving to the former firehouse. Supervisor Ronk explained title issues and the work that would be required to upgrade the building.

**Alarm Law**

Police Chief Marlatt reported that he reviewed the Town Alarm Law that was passed in 2001. Supervisor Ronk reported that he met with Fire Chief Gary Specht. The fire department is getting three to four calls a day at the same apartment complex. After reviewing the law, Chief Specht is comfortable with the existing law, with the exception of the fines.

**Surplus Equipment List**

Chief Marlatt submitted a list of surplus equipment that will be listed on Auctions International for sale. The list was reviewed and discussed with the Town Board.

**PUBLIC SAFETY****Alarm Law**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the outdated fees in the current Alarm Law. He explained that the fees need to be updated. He also explained that the Town Building Inspector, the Fire Department, and the Police Department are all involved in responding and enforcing the law. The amount of the current and proposed fees was discussed. Supervisor Ronk will update the fees in the law and present the revisions at the next Town Board meeting.

**Ambulance Corps**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Wallkill Volunteer Ambulance Corp has requested to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Board meeting to discuss the budget.

**WATER & SEWER****Milk Factory**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he attended a meeting with involved parties regarding the Milk Factory. They have secured their funding and are ready to move forward. It was agreed that the Inter-Municipal Agreement would have to be re-adopted between Shawangunk and Montgomery.

**Sewer South**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there is another two hundred feet left to do to finish the project. Once the drilling is completed, the property owners who want to hook up can install the pumps that are supplied by the Town.

Supervisor Ronk reported that Green Meadows is re-accepting the bid for flushing the low-pressure system. Mr. Ronk stated the Town will benefit by keeping the line flushed.

**H2O Innovations Contract**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he had a meeting with the company who manages the Town Water and Sewer Department. The five-year contract from 2021 is up for renewal. H2O Innovations is seeking an increase. Supervisor Ronk said the option would be to go out to bid or operate the water and sewer in-house. Mr. Ronk reported that he discussed the billing and better communication with answering calls. Following a discussion, Supervisor Ronk agreed to send the old contract, and the proposed contract that H2O submitted, to the Town Board members for their review.

**Repair Work**

Supervisor Ronk reported that repair work on sidewalks and various road locations where previous water line breaks occurred, was done this week by J Algarin.

**PARKS/REC**

Councilman Danon reported that an aerator and seeder for the tractor has been secured through Auctions International. The accepted bid was \$2,700.00. He will make arrangements for Trevor Hunt to pick up the equipment.

**Verkeerderkill Park**

Councilman Danon reported that Trevor Hunt has re-done the beach volleyball court at the park. He repaired the gate. He reported that Highway Superintendent Blazeski and Councilman Voss dug out the stumps and rocks where the new playground equipment will be installed. The site was leveled and graded. Councilman Voss reported that Trevor Hunt was a tremendous help. Supervisor Ronk noted that he takes pride in all he does. Supervisor Ronk discussed the scheduling of the equipment after the final grading and concrete piers are installed. Councilman Danon will look at possible dates.

**SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**

Supervisor Ronk discussed various sidewalk issues with specific concerns. Andrea Joyce brought the issue in front of her house on Central Avenue to the board's attention. Councilman Amthor and Supervisor Ronk will be meeting to select the locations that need to be repaired. Mr. Ronk stated the repairs that need to be made will be blacktop, not concrete. He stated the sidewalk fund needs to be built up. The price for concrete, prevailing wage, and engineering is too high.

**TRANSFER STATION**

Supervisor Ronk and Councilman Danon reported on plans to purchase and re-locate the shed at the Transfer Station. The shed will be located between the containers and the composting pile. Drainage work needs to be completed to get the site ready. The desired size of the shed is 12X16 with a covered porch. There was a discussion on possibly going back to the window stickers for passes. Supervisor Ronk reported that he visited with Steve Schelin who is recovering and hopes to be back to work soon.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Supervisor Ronk advised that it would be necessary to hold an Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining regarding the Highway Department. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining. **VOTE: ALL AYE.** A motion was by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to enter back into the Regular Meeting. **VOTE: ALL AYE.**

The Executive Session started at 8:16 p.m. and ended at 8:39 p.m. No action was taken.

**BUILDINGS****Popp Park Electric**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the electrical problem at Popp Park has been identified. It was discovered that one leg of the power comes at 94 volts and the other leg comes in at 200 volts. Central Hudson came out and discovered there was a problem underground and cut the power. A volunteer offered to run a camera in the line to locate the source of the break.

**Town Hall Meeting Room**

Kathy Ebbrell reported that the bolts are falling out of the brackets from the courtroom chairs. Supervisor Ronk will look into getting them re-tightened.

**INSURANCE/PURCHASING**

No action

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING**

No action

**COMPUTERS**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Office of Court Administration has been enforcing their policy that no town related information can be used on the OCA Computers. A new computer will be purchased for the Town Website and the Board of Assessment Review files.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No action

**NEW BUSINESS****Local Law #2-2026 Tax Cap Override**

Supervisor Ronk reported that a local law needs to be adopted to allow for the Override of the Tax Cap Limit. He read Introductory Local Law #2 of 2026. Mr. Ronk advised that a Public Hearing needs to be published in the newspaper. This action is a Type II Action and not subject to SEQRA. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to Introduce Local Law #2-2026 and proceed with a Public Hearing.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Foil Request Appeal**

Supervisor Ronk discussed an appeal to a FOIL request that was denied by the Building Inspector and Records Access Officer. The denial was based upon records that were requested from the Building Department . The determination by the Building Inspector was that this was considered a municipal search. Following a discussion, Supervisor Ronk will speak to the Building Inspector.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were audited.

| <b><u>ACCOUNT</u></b> | <b><u>WARRANT</u></b> | <b><u>VOUCHERS</u></b> | <b><u>AMOUNT</u></b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| GENERAL               | 17                    | 805-844                | \$ 53,725.13         |
| HIGHWAY               | 17                    | 293-314                | \$456,195.48         |
| WATER                 | 17                    | 71-76                  | \$ 13,596.89         |
| SEWER                 | 17                    | 123-131                | \$ 16,994.00         |
| TRUST & AGENCY        | 15                    | 122-138                | \$ 8553.75           |
| SIDEWALK              | 1                     | 1                      | \$ 1,700.00          |

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

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

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

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk