REGULAR MEETING **OCTOBER 15, 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 **15th day of October 2026, at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Alex Danon, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Michael Voss, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Brian Amthor was absent. Also, present were Kathy Ebbrell, Anne Barnhart, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Sergeant John Spinato, Wallkill Fire Chief Gary Specht 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 Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 1, 2026, and the minutes of the Budget Work Session held on October 8, 2026.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Ronk acknowledged correspondence from Stephanie Huppert on 10/2/26 who is appealing a denial made for records she requested in a FOIL request dated September 24, 2026. The request was regarding the Blue-Chip Farms application currently being reviewed by the Planning Board. Supervisor Ronk stated it was his understanding that the records requested are not available. He requested the Town Clerk explain why the FOIL request was denied. Town Clerk Rascoe provided copies of information, going back to July 2026. She explained that Ms. Huppert requested and was given copies of everything in the Planning Board files from the Planning Board Secretary and herself. She also explained that Ms. Huppert was invited, at her convenience, to come to the Town Hall and view the Planning Board files herself. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to uphold the decision to deny the FOIL Appeal.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

CE Penney Drive Housing Development

Ms. Adrienne Gelfand-Perine inquired about a huge housing development proposed for CE Penney Drive. Supervisor Ronk explained that a plan for twenty-eight houses has been proposed. The Planning Board is reviewing two options. There is a traditional subdivision plan and a cluster subdivision plan under review. Depending on if the Town Board can add these homes to the water district will determine the plan they will seek approval for. Ms. Perine stated that she understands there are currently water and flooding issues in this area. Supervisor Ronk explained that it is very early in the process. He has the same concerns, and the Planning Board will be addressing them through the SEQRA process.

Veterans Exemption

Ms. Gelfand-Perine spoke to the Town Board about adopting a local law to fully exempt veterans who are 100% disabled. She knows the Town Board is going through the budget process and offered to arrange for a sub-committee to explore the effects and impacts, so the Town Board can make a decision. Supervisor Ronk explained that our Assessor has spent a great deal of time researching this exemption. He has provided a memo to the Town Board advising that there are sixty veterans having a 100% service-connected disability in our town. Using this number, he estimates for town taxes and special district levies, the impact would be $103,000.00 that would have to be distributed to other taxpayers. The impacts were discussed. Supervisor Ronk stated there are approximately four thousand tax parcels in town, for a rough comparison, would amount to a $28.00 per year tax increase on those taxpayers.

Mulford Drive

Mr. & Mrs. Michele Marion spoke to the Town Board about the smell of marijuana coming from a greenhouse on Mulford Drive. Mrs. Marion advised that she called the Code Enforcement Officer to inquire what can be done. She also knows other residents have contacted him. Supervisor Ronk advised that he has received several complaints and has spoken to the police and the code office. If violations exist, the owners will be violated. Mr. Ronk advised that the Town Board opted out of allowing cannabis dispensaries and on-site consumption because of the effects on the community. Mr. Ronk assured the Marions that the Town will continue to investigate this issue and act accordingly.

Road Signs

Mr. Jesse Miller expressed his dissatisfaction that the stop signs were not installed in the area of the schools as promised. He stated that there is still a problem with speeding. He was hoping the Highway Superintendent would be here to advise when they would be put up. Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town does have the signs and he will encourage the Highway Superintendent to get them put up as soon as possible. Mr. Ronk stated the Town Board did approve stop signs at First, Second, and Third Streets, along with Viola Street and Panther Lane. Mr. Miller stated if the signs were up, it would cut down on a lot of the speeders.

Milk Factory

Ms. Merrie Witkin requested an update on the Milk Factory project on Route 208. Supervisor Ronk explained that he had been contacted by the Orange County I.D.A. and the Orange County Partnership

who advised him that the financing was finally coming through. The groups discussed with him how the sewer line could happen to accommodate the project. Mr. Ronk discussed the intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Montgomery, which had been cancelled. The Town of Shawangunk did our part and built the sewer line. The contractor who built the line agreed to honor the price quoted for the Milk Factory. Dates and grants were discussed. Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town of Shawangunk will lose some grant money which will be added to the cost of the project.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES

TOWN SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report for the month of September 2026 for $30,163.98 was submitted and is on file.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The Building Inspector's Report for August & September 2026 was submitted and is on file.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Supervisor Ronk reported the following on behalf of Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski:
The Western Star that was bid out for $410,00.00, has come in with a price increase of $15-17,000.00 There was a discussion if the truck should be ordered. Councilman Danon stated that this needs to be discussed further with the Highway Superintendent. He needs to have a truck report on the hours and miles on them. Mr. Danon reviewed the number of tandems and single axles in the fleet. He would also like to see a report on what is being used for salt and sand. This information is needed before purchasing additional trucks. Councilman Voss questioned the justification for the price increase. Supervisor Ronk advised that salt has increased from $73.00 a ton to $110.00 a ton. Mr. Ronk advised that it is necessary for the board to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session. **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 Voss. **VOTE: Councilman Voss, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Danon, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor was absent.**

The Executive Session started at 7:47 p.m., and ended at 8:07 p.m. No action was taken.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Marlatt reported the following:
All items are listed and available on the Auctions International Site. The items will be listed until November 4, 2026.
The copier for the department has been ordered and will be delivered on October 21, 2026.
The Police Department truck has been sitting outside the middle school and has been effective. Several tickets have been issued in the school zone.
Alternate plans have been made for crossing guards when time off is requested.
Supervisor Ronk requested special attention on Wallkill Avenue between 7-9 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman LoCicero inquired the status of the list for full-time Police Chief. Supervisor Ronk reported that the letters have been sent out. The New Paltz Police Chief has agreed to sit in on the interviews. Mr. Ronk is working on dates where a Town Board meeting will need to be scheduled for these interviews. Councilman Danon requested a template of the contract. Councilman LoCicero has agreed to work with the labor attorney to draft an employment contract for the interviews. A motion was made to authorize Councilman LoCicero to work with labor counsel to draft a contract. **VOTE: Councilman Voss, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Danon, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor was absent.**

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk reported that the DEC has accepted the Town's apologies for the recent spill at the Pump Station. They have approved an action plan for the infrastructure at the River Road Pump Station. Supervisor Ronk advised that the Technical Team has accepted the drawings and will be meeting on site next week. The Town Engineer, H2O Innovations, and contractor JPT, have a goal of completing the work before it freezes.

PARKS/REC

Verkeerderkill Park

Councilman Danon reported that he has obtained a donation of bank run for leveling the site of the new playground. Trevor Hunt has been working on the site but needs a roller to compact the soil. Supervisor Ronk will reach out for a volunteer.

Popp Park

Supervisor Ronk reported that the electric will need to be fixed prior to ice-skating at the park. JTP has volunteered to dig the line to identify where the break occurred.

Signs

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Interpretive Core Communication Boards for the parks have arrived. On behalf of the Child's Wish Foundation, Brian Amthor has donated the cost of the signs for all of the town parks.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

Supervisor Ronk discussed a sidewalk issue involving applications for driveway permits for two homes on Wallkill Avenue and Bridge Street. He explained that sections of sidewalks may have to be removed for the curb cuts. He has advised the Highway Superintendent that if this is the case, the sidewalks will need to be replaced with ADA compliant concrete sidewalks. All members were in agreement.

TRANSFER STATION

Councilman Danon reported that Dan Davis has cleaned out the old shed. He is recommending that the new shed be set up in the same area because the electricity is there. Mr. Danon reported that he has quotes for the shed and a decision needs to be made about where it will be located. Councilman LoCicero stated that a site visit with Mr. Davis needs to be scheduled so a final decision can be reached. The composting/brush pile and the cost of disposing it was discussed. Supervisor Ronk suggested that the Town will have to start charging for dumping brush. Councilman LoCicero suggested that the Highway Department discontinue dumping trees and stumps on the pile. He feels that they should be bringing them to Taylor Recycling. It was agreed to discuss this with the Highway Superintendent.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Resignation

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by councilman Danon to accept the resignation of Lara Vesley as MWI, effective October 14, 2026, with regrets.

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

Cleaning Position

Councilman Danon discussed the possibility of hiring an MWI to do the cleaning of town properties. Mr. Danon explained that with Lara Vesley leaving and paying $9600.00 a year to a cleaning company, for the cleaning of Town Hall, it may be wiser to consider another option. He is proposing to post a part-time position to see if there is any interest. The job would be 16 ¼ hours per week, with a salary range of $19-20.00 per hour. The job would be to clean all town owned buildings. All members agreed to post the job to see if there is any interest.

BUILDINGS

Town Hall Annex/Fire Horn

Councilman LoCicero reported that members of the community recently came to a Town Board meeting and a Wallkill Fire Commissioners meeting. They voiced their concerns regarding the old fire horn at the former fire house. Mr. LoCicero is proposing to resolve this issue. He is proposing that the Town Board send a letter to the Wallkill Fire Commissioners requesting them to remove the horn from the building.

The letter could explain that after December 31, 2026, no non-town owned town equipment will be permitted to remain in the building. Any existing leases, contracts, or verbal or written agreements will not be renewed. A motion was made by Councilman Voss and seconded by Councilman Danon to send this letter as discussed.

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

Supervisor Ronk requested to clarify that the Town of Shawangunk Supervisor did not disable the horn. The horn is broken; it was not sabotaged by anyone. As a member of the Ambulance Corps, he does not feel that the horn is necessary. He never advocated getting rid of the horn. He purchased his house knowing that the horn existed.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

Supervisor Ronk reported that there are new options with MVP health insurance. He discussed some of the changes with the plan. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement with MVP.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING

No report.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk reported that the new phone system has been installed. There are a few issues that are being worked out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Schedule

Supervisor Ronk reported that he will not be present for the Budget Work Session on Water & Sewer next week. He is suggesting that the Town Board set the Public Hearings for the Preliminary Budget and the Public Hearing for Special Districts on November 5, 2026. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss to schedule the Public Hearings for the 2027 Preliminary Budget and Special District Assessment Rolls on November 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

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

Walker Valley Speed Zone

Councilman Voss reported that he has made some progress with the speed zone he is proposing on Route 52 in Walker Valley. He met Brian Slack from Ulster County who has expressed interest in conducting a survey on the area. Mr. Slack will be placing this project on the survey list.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

ACCOUNT	WARRANT	VOUCHERS	AMOUNT
GENERAL	19	886-925	$ 54,602.31
HIGHWAY	19	332-355	$421,831.22
WATER	19	79-84	$ 26,734.21
SEWER	19	136-145	$ 30,936.34
TRUST & AGENCY	16	139-152	$ 7,346.50

A motion was made by Councilman Voss and seconded by Councilman LoCicero 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 8:58 p.m.

_____

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk