REGULAR MEETING **NOVEMBER 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 November 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 Amthor was absent. Also present were Police Sergeant John Spinato, Anne Barnhart, 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 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 15, 2026, and the Budget Work Session held on October 29, 2026.

VOTE: Councilman Voss, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Danon, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

A memo from EMC Chairman Dave Haldeman was received on 10/30/26, and a Public Hearing Notice from the Town of Mamakating on 11/17/26 was received. Supervisor Ronk reported that correspondence was received from a resident regarding an unsafe condition on Reservoir Road today. Mr. Ronk advised that the Highway Department was going out to address the issue with the road.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Adrienne Gelfand Perine addressed the Town Board offering her congratulations to Rich Walls for his victory in Legislative District 13. Ms. Perine stated that she and her team had over a thousand people who voted for change. She would like to see a Comprehensive Plan, live streaming, an Urgent Care facility, public transportation, help for farmers, support for disabled veterans and domestic violence. She stated that she is willing and ready to help the Town Board with these needs and concerns. Supervisor Ronk thanked Ms. Perine and stated that there may be a vacancy on the Climate Smart Committee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2027 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Ronk distributed copies of the 2027 Preliminary Budget. He explained there is a 15.04% increase in the General Fund, which would increase taxes $1.50 per thousand of assessed value. There is an increase of 13.7% in the Highway Budget, which would increase taxes $2.09 per thousand of assessed value. Overall, prices have increased, especially the increase in the price of salt.

2027 SPECIAL DISTRICT ASSESSMENT ROLLS

Supervisor Ronk explained that this Public Hearing is on the Special District Assessment Rolls. This process is necessary by law so every property owner located in a special district has the opportunity to see what those rates in the budget are. The Special Districts are water, sewer, sidewalk, lighting, and several drainage districts.

Supervisor Ronk announced that both Public Hearings will remain open for any comments or questions from the audience.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Ronk advised that it was necessary to go into an Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining for the Highway Department. The Town Labor Attorneys will be in attendance. 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 Danon. **VOTE: Councilman Voss, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Danon, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor was absent.**

The Executive Session started at 7:16 p.m. and ended at 7:53 p.m. No action was taken.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Highway Collective Bargaining Agreement is effective for the time period from January 1, 2024, to December 21, 2026. There were a few small changes made for compensation. For 2024, a 5% salary increase, for 2025, a 4% salary increase, and for 2026, a 4% salary increase. The retroactive pay will be paid by December 11, 2026, to retirees or families. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to adopt the Agreement as discussed. **VOTE: Councilman Voss, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Danon, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor was absent.**

Supervisor Ronk stated that this has been a long disappointing process and he is happy that the agreement has finally been reached.

WORK SESSION

POLICE CHIEF

Sergeant Spinato, on behalf of Police Chief Marlatt, reported the results of the Auctions International sale. The bids were reviewed. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to accept all the bids, except for the Volvo Flatbed.

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

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

In the absence of Superintendent Blazeski, the items that were listed by the Highway Department were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to accept the bid of $1,325.00 for the 2009 Dump Truck, and $2,475.00 for the 2013 Dump Truck.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Personnel

Building Department
Councilman LoCicero reported that he and Councilman Voss interviewed a candidate for a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. The interview went well and he will be recommending this person for the position who will be available to start January 1, 2027.

Police Chief
Supervisor Ronk reported that interviews for a full-time Police Chief are scheduled for November 19, 2026, starting with a Special Meeting at 2:00 p.m. The interviews will be conducted in Executive Session.

H2O Innovations Contract
Supervisor Ronk reviewed the three-year contract drafted by H2O Innovations. H2O Innovations is the company who operates the Town Water and Sewer Department. Mr. Ronk reported that this is the result following negotiations. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Voss to approve the three-year contract as discussed, pending review by the Town Attorney.

VOTE: Councilman Voss, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Danon, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor was absent.
Supervisor Ronk is hopeful the final contract will be available by the next Town Board meeting on November 19, 2026.

Stop Signs/Viola Street
Supervisor Ronk reported that he received a phone call from Wallkill School stating that the new stop sign on Viola is difficult to see when dark. It was suggested that reflectors be installed. Following a discussion, it was agreed that it will take time for residents to become familiar with these new stop signs.

Popp Park
Supervisor Ronk reported that he is meeting with Town Engineer Dennis Larios, Arrow Plumbing, and Trevor Hunt to determine what needs to be done to hook up to the new sewer line at the park. Mr. Ronk is also meeting with other residents to discuss hooking up.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the replacement of the electric will begin tomorrow as well. JPT will be doing the trenching for the Town. A section of the sidewalk will need to be cut. Mark Calderone of MC Electric will be laying the new wire down and Central Hudson will be there to inspect and hook up.

NEW BUSINESS

Environmental Management Committee
Supervisor Ronk discussed a memo received from Chairman Dave Haldeman who is requesting the Town Board consider restarting the Climate Smart Committee and form a Tree Committee. Mr. Haldeman has residents interested in serving on these committees. In addition, Mr. Haldeman has requested that the Town Board share reports of the algae blooms in the Wallkill River. He is also suggesting that signage be posted at Popp Park and other fishing access areas along the river.

Film Shooting at Borden Estate
Supervisor Ronk discussed a request from a film company to use part of the Rail Trail for shooting a portion of the movie, "Butcher & Blackbird". The company will be filming in early December at the Borden Estate. They are requesting to use a portion the Rail Trail. They have inquired the removal of the bollards and a bench on the Shawangunk portion of the Rail Trail. Mr. Ronk reported that he spoke with the Town Attorney about fees, escrow and insurance. He is suggesting that the film company post a $5,000.00 bond in escrow for any possible damage, and one million liability insurance policy naming the Town. All Town Board members were in favor of Supervisor Ronk sending these requirements in writing.

Ulster County Department of Motor Vehicles

Supervisor Ronk reported that County Executive Metzger recently announced at a community function that the DMV will be opening an office in the Community Room at Town Hall in January. Mr. Ronk advised that CE Metzger mentioned to him some time ago that Ulster County was looking to discontinue the mobile bus service and set up at fixed locations. Following a discussion on the feasibility of using the Community Room and a discussion on other options, Supervisor Ronk will follow up with the County Executive.

911 Workers Bill

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received a request for the Town Board to send a letter to the Governor in support of signing this legislation. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss to send a letter of support to the Governor.

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

Fireworks for Holidays In The Hamlet

Supervisor Ronk reported that he met with the Vision of Wallkill Committee to discuss whether the Town could sponsor the fireworks this year. Mr. Ronk explained that the $5,000.00 that was in the 2026 budget was spent on fireworks for the 250th Anniversary of America celebration. He discussed with V.O.W. the possibility of the Town covering half of the fee if they could raise the other half. Councilman LoCicero stated that he is not in favor of spending $5,000.00 for the show that has been proposed by the Fireworks Company. Mr. LoCicero stated that the show that was put on in July by the company was a total embarrassment for the Town. He feels that the company should put on a double show for $2,500.00. Councilman Danon stated he is in agreement. Councilman LoCicero stated there are other companies that can be contacted.

Hudson Valley Greenway Resolution

Supervisor Ronk discussed a planning grant program for the Hudson River Valley Greenway in the Town of Shawangunk. The grant is a match. $10,000 is being requested with a $10,000.00 match equal to or greater than the amount being requested. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve Resolution #11-2026 applying for a grant under the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant Program.

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

2027 BUDGET
Special Districts – Harrier Ridge & DeGroodt Drainage Districts

Supervisor Ronk reported that the amounts need to be amended from the Tentative Budget for these districts. It was brought to his attention that the amounts agreed to in the original contracts have a charge for the first year per parcel. For Harrier Ridge, the charge is $225.00, and for DeGroodt Drainage, the charge is $175.50 per parcel. He spoke to the Town Attorney on these amounts, and it was suggested that they be applied for the first year. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to revise these amounts from the Tentative Budget to the Preliminary Budget.

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

Supervisor Ronk reported that he spoke to the Town Assessor regarding his budget request for 2027. He advised him that the Town Board has agreed to a $5.00 per hour raise and the hiring of another staff member for the Assessor's Office. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss to increase the Part-time Assessor per hour rate to $50.00. Supervisor Ronk stated that Assessor Schoeberl is an invaluable member of the Town Team and one of the best Assessors in the State. He feels the Town cannot afford to lose him.

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

Supervisor Ronk inquired if there were any comments or questions from the Town Board Members or the audience on the 2027 Budget. Hearing none, a motion as made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to close the Public Hearings for the Special District Assessment Rolls and the 2027 Preliminary Budget.

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

The Public Hearings were closed at 8:47 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss to adopt the rates for the Special District Assessments for 2027.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to adopt the 2027 Tentative Budget, with the changes agreed to, as the 2027 Preliminary Budget.

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

Sewer District Inquiry

Mr. Michael Blythe introduced himself and his son David to the Town Board. He explained that he owns property on River Road and is interested in doing a minor subdivision. He displayed a map of the property and explained that his 3.18-acre parcel is outside of the sewer district. He currently has an existing home and has sold a home in the past, both of which have outside user agreements with the town for sewer services. Prior to spending money and going before the Planning Board, he is inquiring if the Town Board would be agreeable to an additional home being another outside sewer district user. Following a brief discussion, the Town Board members had no objections and conveyed they would be open to an outside user agreement.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

ACCOUNT	WARRANT	VOUCHERS	AMOUNT
GENERAL	20	825-883	$ 54,505.49
HIGHWAY	20	356-375	$ 90,862.05
WATER	20	85-88	$ 1,931.16
SEWER	20	146-155	$ 42,124.55
LIGHT	11	11	$ 2,253.49
TRUST & AGENCY	17	153	$ 1,451.00

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Voss 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 Danon 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 8:55 p.m.

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk