

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2019

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, 14 Central Avenue, Walkkill, NY on the 17th day of January 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present was Planning Board Members Mark Watkins and Rich Barnhart, and Zoning Board Member Roger Rascoe.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Emergency exits were announced by Supervisor Valk, followed by a brief moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Miller to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 3, 2019, and the Organizational Meeting held on January 3, 2019.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

CORRESPONDENCE

A SEQRA Notice of Determination was received from the Town of Mamakating regarding the Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Amendments of January 4, 2019.

Letter from Delbe Spath addressed to the Supervisor, Town Board and Highway Superintendent, regarding a water issue in his back yard.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Historical Society

Mr. Bob Mooney, representing the Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner, approached the Town Board to discuss concerns and needs of the organization. Mr. Mooney distributed a brochure and newsletter prepared by the Historical Society. He announced that the Historical Society has a web-site which has all of their collections listed. Mr. Mooney discussed the mission statement and history of the organization. He advised of the buildings they currently own. He discussed the projects that they have completed, as well as the ones they continue to work on. The fundraising efforts and restoration project for the DuBois Museum were explained. Mr. Mooney inquired as to why the \$2,000 in funding that was previously received from the Town, stopped. Supervisor Valk advised that the reason it had been discontinued was due to the economy and the Town Board had to find ways to tighten their belt. Mr. Mooney advised that the group was hoping to get back on the list to receive funding like other groups in the Town. Supervisor Valk thanked Mr. Mooney for his informative presentation.

Water Issue

Mr. Delbe Spath explained that he sent a letter to the Town Board regarding his water issue at the Planning Board's suggestion. He discussed the water problem he is having on his property. Supervisor Valk stated that the issue needs to be resolved by the Highway Department. Mr. Spath said the water runs off of Route 208, down Third Street. He said when the road got re-paved, it made the situation worse. Councilman DeWitt advised that he went up to the property to look at the problem. He explained that there are several reasons for the water problem. Mr. DeWitt discussed options such as raising the sidewalk, milling the sidewalk or creating a swale at the end, so the water doesn't dam up. It was agreed that the sidewalk committee will work on improvements in the spring so the water will be re-directed.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

The Supervisor's Report of December 2018 was received. The Town Clerk's Report of \$11, 994.94 for December 2018 was received.

POLICE CHIEF & HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

There were no reports from either department for this meeting.

REPORT OF TOWN COMMITTEES

PUBLIC SAFETY

No report

HIGHWAY

Street Trees in Subdivisions

Supervisor Valk explained that the Planning Board and Highway Superintendent are requesting the Town Board amend the driveway specifications regarding trees in subdivisions. Mr. Valk read the sections that are being proposed in a memo dated December 5, 2018 and signed by Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Highway Superintendent Joseph LoCicero, and Town Engineer, Joe Mihm. Councilman Watkins stated his concerns with eliminating an arborist. Chairman Mark Watkins explained that it's not just the Planning Board or Highway Superintendent making the decision, the Town engineer will also be involved. Councilman Miller stated he has no problem with shortening the process. Supervisor Valk is concerned with planting trees in the town right of way. Councilman DeWitt is concerned with liability if the Highway Superintendent makes the decision, rather than an arborist. Following the discussion Supervisor Valk agreed to re-work the language and table the decision on this proposal until the next meeting.

WATER & SEWER

No report.

PARKS

Supervisor Valk announced that the ice skating rinks at Popp Park and Verkeerderkill Park are frozen and operating. Mr. Valk advised that the Town of Montgomery closed their Rail Trail without any consultation or notification. Mr. Valk further advised that the Shawangunk section of the Rail Trail remains open.

SIDEWALKS/LIGHTING

Supervisor Valk advised that the Sidewalk Committee is compiling a list for work to be performed in the spring.

RECREATION

No report.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

No report.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Valk discussed a proposal of increasing the amount of sick days from nine to ten, for the eight full time, non-union town employees. Councilman Watkins suggested an incentive program for employees who do not use the days. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Watkins to increase the sick days to ten and consideration of a possible reward program will be given at a later date.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

BUILDINGS

No report.

COMPUTERS**Building Department Software**

Supervisor Valk advised that the software company the Town is purchasing the building software from is requesting \$12,000 up front. Following a discussion on a payment plan, a motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Miller to pay only 25% up front, 50%, 75% and 100% at specific stages until the work is completed.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Town Website

Councilman Amthor advised that there will be a report on the website update next month.