

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 16, 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, Walkill, NY on the **16th day of May 2019** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present were Police Chief Gerry Marlatt 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 Miller and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 2, 2019.

VOTE: Councilman Watkins, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman Miller, aye, Councilman Amthor, abstain, Supervisor Valk, aye.

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Watkins to approve the minutes of the Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing held on April 25, 2019.

VOTE: Councilman Watkins, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman Miller, abstain, Councilman Amthor, aye, Supervisor Valk, aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations were received from the American Legion for the Memorial Day Parade & Services to be held on May 27, 2019. Invitations were received to attend Eagle Scout Ceremonies for Aidan Banks on May 25th and for Conor Byrne on June 8, 2019.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Supervisor Valk introduced Mr. Noah Nadelson from Munistat. Mr. Nadelson thanked the Town Board for the invitation to attend the meeting and explained that Munistat is a Municipal Financial Advisory Service who worked with the Town to get the bonds for the Town Hall Building in 2009. He explained that there has been several changes in regulations over the years. The Town had a 10 year call option in 2009 on the Town Hall and a 9 year call option on a 2010 Sewer Bond. Both of those bonds can be called on November 1st. The process can start 90 days in advance. Mr. Nadelson discussed the options, timeline, and the process to refinance the bonds. A chart showing the savings and costs associated with the process was reviewed. Following a discussion a motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Watkins to call the Sewer Bond and pay it off as the money is available.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Mr. Nadelson discussed the disclosures that are required by municipalities when calling in bonds. He confirmed that the Town Board is interested in proceeding with calling the bond and will be in touch with the Supervisor with the necessary information. The Town Board thanked Mr. Nadelson for coming to speak with them.

New York Planning Federation Conference

Mr. Roger Rascoe was present to give a report on the New York Planning Federation Conference he attended this month. He thanked the Town Board for the opportunity to attend. Mr. Rascoe explained that he attended eleven different sessions. Some of those classes were Design Based Zoning, SEQRA Regulations, Hamlet Revitalization Planning, Zoning Trends, Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Code and the relationship between the two of them. Mr. Rascoe explained the new concepts with today's zoning. He stated that small hamlets are struggling all over the United States with their attempt to attract business back to the communities. He learned that there is 28 square feet of retail space for every person in the United States, compared to Australia, who has 14 square feet, and overall, another country has 10 square feet of retail space per person. Mr. Rascoe explained that the trend today is that people are shopping on line through Amazon, or they are shopping in big box stores, not on Main Street. He learned that people go out for "the experience" today. He stated that places in our town, such as the prisons, Watchtower Farms, the schools, the Wallkill River, are reasons why people visit our town. Mr. Rascoe shared that "form based zoning" is getting popular. The Town can provide the overall perimeters in the zoning code. The Town Board would be part of the process. Choices can be offered in some of the zoning districts. Mr. Rascoe provided materials for recreational opportunities. He spoke to some sales people at the conference who would be willing to assist the Town Board with ideas of how to convert some of the recreational equipment at the parks which was brought up by the public at the planning workshops. Mr. Rascoe stated that overall, attending the conference was a valuable experience.

Wallkill Ambulance Service

Ms. Ingrid Malloy discussed a complaint that she is requesting assistance with from the Town Board. Ms. Malloy explained that there was an accident on her farm where a child got hurt. The Wallkill Fire Department, two Police Officers and the Ulster County Sheriff showed up and all did a great job. She explained that the child couldn't be moved until the ambulance got there. The Wallkill Ambulance never came and finally Pine Bush Ambulance showed up to do the transport. She does not find this acceptable and asked the Town Board to take some sort of action.

Supervisor Valk explained that Mobile Life provides coverage from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It is up to the local volunteer ambulance to cover weekends and nights. Ms. Malloy stated that this is not acceptable since the taxpayers pay for them to take care of the residents. She expects them to provide the coverage. Supervisor Valk stated it is an issue that needs to be addressed. Councilman Watkins explained that there were problems before Mobile Life came on board but since they are coming into the communities, the others have stepped up to the plate. Supervisor Valk explained the expense of an EMT. The cost for Wallkill Volunteer Ambulance would go from \$80,000 a year to over \$300,000 a year.