

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 15, 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, Wallkill, NY on the **15th day of August 2019** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present were Police Chief Gerry Marlatt and County Legislator Ken Ronk. Councilman Robert Miller was excused.

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 Amthor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 18, 2019.

VOTE: Councilman Watkins, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman Amthor, aye, Supervisor Valk, aye. Councilman Robert Miller was absent.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter on 7/30/19 from New York State Department of Public Service advising of a proposed gas and electric rate increase. Letter from Brigitte Storti on 8/6/19 requesting relief from parking on Yarwood Road.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

EMC

Mrs. Julie Craner and Mr. Dave Haldeman, representing the Environmental Management Council were in attendance to discuss Battery Storage Facilities. Mrs. Craner explained to the Town Board that she attended a seminar in Kingston sponsored by NYSERDA. Their message was that Towns should create a law as soon as possible. There was a short discussion on creating the law for solar systems. Mrs. Craner will share a copy of a model law and guide book that was provided. With that model law is a checklist that explained reasons to have the law in place. One example used was for the safety of emergency workers. Mr. Haldeman discussed a project in the Town of Ulster, he advised that creating a law will prevent problems down the road.

Danielle Curylo commented on the renewable energy issue. She shared that she lived on the west coast and since renewable energy is so new, she would encourage the Town Board to partner with another community in researching the practices and laws together as a community.

Sunset Trail

Danielle Curylo addressed the Town Board on the condition of Sunset Trail. She stated that it's been three years and so far, no work has been done. She has not been able to get answers from Superintendent LoCicero and inquired what the plan was. Councilman DeWitt noted that he and the Supervisor walked the road at that time. Supervisor Valk stated that he was aware that the road work was planned and will inquire with the Highway Superintendent and get back in touch with Ms. Curylo.

Garrison Park

Mr. Jack Bettens addressed the Town Board. He stated that he moved to the hamlet in 1970. He loves the community and is active with the Wallkill Reformed Church. Mr. Bettens stated that he has concerns with Garrison Park. One concern is that he had been hearing for quite some time that security cameras would be installed. He stated that there are swings missing, broken equipment and broken basketball nets. He has concerns with the overall decay of the park and inquired what the Town Board has done to rectify the situation. He inquired what the intentions were for the park. He is concerned about what the kids can do for recreation. Mr. Bettens also inquired about the \$1,000 donation that was made for the park by the Southern Rotary. He stated that he took the liberty to contact some companies regarding surveillance cameras. He stated that if the Town would purchase some quality equipment, it could last forever. Mr. Bettens stated that he will share the quotes he obtained with the Town Board.

Supervisor Valk stated that the plan was to eliminate the basketball courts in the park, and perhaps build pickle ball courts. The swing set is very old and you can't get parts for it. Mr. Valk explained that when recreation fees are received, the Town can purchase a new swing set. He explained that kids from other areas come into our Town and destroy the equipment. Mr. Bettens suggested there are other ways to get around the problems, maybe the lights can be turned off at a specific hour. He stated that there are basketball courts up at the middle school, and they are not vandalized. Councilman DeWitt stated that the new equipment should be budgeted for. Supervisor Valk explained the recreation fee process and shared that it's been over twenty years since there was a makeover of Garrison Park. Popp Park is also in need of updating.

Mr. Bettens stated there has to be other recreation possibilities for the kids in the hamlet. Councilman DeWitt explained that the summer recreation program was moved from the hamlet to Verkeerderkill Park because the school did not want the program to continue there. The decision to move summer camp was made because the Town owned the park and the expense of busing the kids to the county pool every day would be eliminated. Mr. Bettens thanked the Town Board for their time and stated he will continue to get price quotes and share them with the Town.

Mr. Dave Haldeman inquired about the women who agreed to form a committee for ideas for recreation, as they may be interested in working together with Mr. Bettens. Supervisor Valk will get the names to see if they are interested in doing so.

Mr. Ken Ronk stated he agreed with Mr. Bettens and implored the Town Board to consider leaving at least half of the basketball courts. Mr. Ronk shared that he has many fond memories as a kid playing basketball in the park. He stated that pickle ball courts could get vandalized as well. Mr. Ronk also