

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19, 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 **19th day of September, 2019** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present were Police Chief Gerry Marlatt and County Legislator Ken Ronk. Councilman Brian Amthor 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 Watkins to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 5, 2019.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A Public Hearing Notice was received from the Town of Montgomery for Amending a Local Law to add "Solar Siting" to the Zoning Law on 10/3/19.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Diane Davis – Viola Avenue

Mrs. Davis spoke to the Town Board about a water problem her mother, Geraldine DeGroot, is having in her basement. Ms. Davis explained that she has spent \$8,000.00 to pump the water out of the basement, but it has no place to go except in the back yard. She is requesting that the pipe be cleaned out. Ms. Davis also discussed the Pippi property at 103 Viola Street where the ditch is blocked and the water has no place to drain off. There was a discussion about the drainage pipes that were just installed by the Town Highway Department draining off the higher properties. It was suggested that if the ditch was lowered, the water would have someplace to go. Ms. Davis stated that she was advised by the Highway Superintendent secretary to come to the meeting tonight to discuss the issue. Mr. Ronk suggested that when the ditch and pipe work at the former EPCO building gets installed, the situation will be improved. Ms. Davis stated that she spoke to Mr. LoCicero who told her he would be out to the property to look at the problem. She also shared that they have lived at the property for 69 years. Supervisor Valk said he will speak to Mr. LoCicero about the issue.

Joanne Warren/SallyAnn Condello – Hamlet Concerns

Mrs. Warren stated she was here to speak to the Town Board about concerns in general with properties in the hamlet that are an eyesore. Specifically, there is a house by the middle school where the grass

has not been mowed and is overgrown. Supervisor Valk explained that that house is a foreclosure and the court fined the owner \$6,000. He stated that the Town is hoping that the bank takes it over quickly, and a new owner is found. In addition, Mrs. Warren brought the following concerns to the Town Board's attention:

The weeds are growing in between the curbs and bricks in front of the Police Station. Mrs. Warren feels this should be ongoing maintenance.

The weeds in front of Sunoco and alongside the fence are a terrible mess and this should be addressed. Supervisor Valk stated that Code Enforcement should go out and address.

The weeds along the river are overgrown and a mess. Supervisor Valk agreed, and said that is Town property as well as the park side of the fence and should be taken care of.

Mrs. Warren inquired if it was possible to have a street sweeper come in and clean the streets. She feels that basic upkeep would help to keep the hamlet cleaned up. Supervisor Valk stated he will check.

Mrs. Warren stated that Walden gives fines to residents for these type of eyesores and for residents that throw their grass into the streets.

On the corner of Orchard and DuBois, there is a car parked close to the fire hydrant and by the stop sign. There are no plates on the car, and she wonders why this continues to go unnoticed. Police Chief Marlatt advised that they respond when calls come in. He will follow up on this.

Mrs. Warren stated that in general people don't shovel their sidewalks, don't clean the snow from their cars and there seems to be no one following up.

Ms. Condello approached the board and passed out photographs of the overgrown weeds and slum landlord properties on Main Street. She advised that the condition of some of these properties is getting worse. Ms. Condello stated it took six months to get the Post Office to pull the weeds and clean up in front and on the side of the building. She stated that officials in Walden told her that it is state code to keep the properties clean or be subject to a \$250.00 fine. Around the Main Street area there are properties that are in need of the grass to be mowed, old cars laying around, and her neighbor has had old furniture laying in the driveway for a long time.

Councilman Miller explained that the Code Enforcement Officer has been going out at the other end of Town. He has been bringing people to court for these types of violations. Supervisor Valk stated that the Town Board can't make the Judge impose fines on these violations. He explained that there is a legal process and he does not agree with the decisions of the Judge at times.

Ms. Condello stated that she has concerns with the Town not enforcing these laws. Investors that don't care are attracted to buying properties in this Town because they know the Town does not enforce the laws. Ms. Condello said she learned that Walden sprays the weeds around the sidewalks and curbs.

Jerry Marlatt shared that in Crawford where he owns a house, the Town sends a Compliance Notice and gives the homeowner fifteen days to cut the grass. There is no court date. The Town checks back and if not mowed, they mow the grass and add the charge to the Tax Bill.

Councilman Miller will speak to Code Enforcement Officer Pirog to address these concerns.

County Legislator Ken Ronk – Walkkill Avenue

Mr. Ronk advised that as the Town's representative he will be pushing the County to re-pave the stretch of road between Bridge Street and the Chinese Restaurant. Mr. Ronk explained that this is the smallest