

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 2, 2020

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 **2nd day of January, 2020** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Amthor, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present was Zoning Board Member Roger Rascoe. Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins joined the meeting at a later point.

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

Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 19, 2019 and the Special End of Year Meeting held on December 27, 2019.

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

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

See attached Minutes of the 2020 Organization Meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Phil & Mary Rodriguez addressed the Town Board to voice their concerns with the recent article that appeared in the newspaper regarding the Pallet Barn at 10 Christmas Tree Drive. Mr. Rodriguez advised that the article was filled with misinformation that he would like to clarify the issues after seeing his family attacked on social media. He continued to explain that he lives on Christmas Tree Drive which is a five lot residential development on a cul-de-sac. The homes are single family homes with the fifth lot containing a barn with an attached apartment. The barn was to be used for storage and an apartment, not a venue for weddings, banquets or parties. Mr. Rodriguez further explained that he has been a resident for ten years and is not moving. He explained how the events held have affected his home and family with the events that have been held at the Pallet Barn. There has been loud parties and music with drunken people and cars going up and down the road. He further explained that after the Town investigated complaints, they shut down the barn. Mr. Rodriguez spoke of the claims that the events held at the barn were for charity, which is not true. Of the signatures that appeared on an online petition only about one third of the people are residents.

Supervisor Valk explained that Mr. DeGrootd approached him about a zoning change. Mr. Valk stated he advised Mr. DeGrootd of the process on how to apply for one. Mr. Valk also explained that the Town

Board creates the zoning, so the fate of the Pallet Barn and possible existing zoning rests with the Town Planning and Zoning Boards. Mr. Valk added that they have a difficult task in making those decisions.

Website

Councilman Brian Amthor explained that the Town has been working with Devine Design in creating a website hosted through Word Press. Mr. Amthor explained that the original website was done years ago and was in need of an update. The new website will allow the Town to do most of the updates in house and will be more user friendly. Mr. Amthor displayed a sample of the website which showed a more progressive site with a modern look and brighter photos. He showed how the Town can create messages on the website that will broadcast through social media channels. Councilman Amthor answered questions and listened to suggestions from the Town Board Members and from the public. He advised that the new website will be launched prior to the next Town Board meeting with training to begin next week.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES**HIGHWAY**

Supervisor Valk and Councilman DeWitt agreed they will be meeting with the Highway Committee to discuss plans for 2020.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Miller reported that the Public Safety Committee is meeting next week to discuss plans for 2020.

WATER & SEWER

No report.

PARKS

Supervisor Valk reported that the Lions Club set up the ice skating rink at Popp Park this past Saturday. Sal Patella reported that the Curling Tournament is scheduled for February 8th this year. Mr. Patella explained that the event will be held on Friday night, February 7th, as well as Saturday. The event has grown to the point that more time is needed to accommodate the increased number of teams entering the tournament. There will be one session held on Friday night and three sessions on Saturday. The start time has not yet been determined for Friday, but Saturday start time is 8 a.m.

SIDEWALKS/LIGHTING

No report.

RECREATION

Winter Recreation

Councilman DeWitt reported that the program has not been held during the school winter break. It will resume next week when school is back in session.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

Councilman Watkins reported that the Transfer Station is being cleaned up.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Valk explained that the salary for a part time clerk was approved in the 2020 Town Clerk's budget. Mr. Valk further explained that the clerk would be a third part time Deputy Clerk and is proposing to hire Kristina Rose for the position of Deputy Town Clerk. Following a brief discussion a motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Miller to hire Krista Rose as a Deputy Town Clerk at the starting salary of \$14.58 per hour.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

BUILDINGS

Supervisor Valk reported that a letter was sent to Watchtower thanking them for the completed ramp project, as well as other projects they have worked on at Town Hall.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Valk reported that a policy was adopted about twenty five years ago for the cable television bulletin board. He thinks it's necessary to take a look at revising that policy to include Facebook and other social media outlets.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Contract

Supervisor Valk reported that the Police Contract is being revised. New rates of pay are being established according to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Rezoning Committee

Supervisor Valk reported that the Re-zoning Committee is scheduled to meet next week.