

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 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 **20th day of February, 2020** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Brian Amthor was absent.

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 February 6, 2020.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Wallkill Fire Department

Chief Nick Walker spoke to the Town Board about the recent struggles emergency services has with volunteers. Chief Walker explained that he has been discussing possible solutions with Doug Foster of the Wallkill Ambulance Corp. He further explained that Wallkill Ambulance, like many others, has difficulty getting available volunteers available to respond to the scene for medical calls. Since both groups have dual members, they began discussions on how the members of the fire company could help. Chief Walker explained that the fire department members have agreed to take on more responsibility. They have come up with a temporary plan, on a trial basis for ninety days, starting March 1st to respond to medical calls. Mr. Walker further explained that the volunteers are certified in CPR, AED and Narcan. They will have medical bags identical to those carried by Wallkill Ambulance. They will be responding with a fire truck or 350 pickup truck and will not be transporting any patients. After approaching Ulster County, it was agreed that the Fire Department will be dispatched to all Tier 2 or ALS calls. Chief Walker explained that this change will add 200 calls, to the roughly 175 calls they receive for fires and motor vehicle accidents every year. Supervisor Valk stated that this is a big step and commended the Chief for initiating this arrangement. Chief Walker said he will return in three months to report on the change, and in addition, they are hoping to receive feedback from the public.

Viola Street

Jesse Miller inquired if the Town Board could look at installing additional stops signs on Viola, First and Second Streets. Mr. Miller explained that with the ball fields, it creates an unsafe situation with the

additional traffic and children in the area. Councilman Miller agreed to discuss this situation with the Police Chief to get his input.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES

POLICE CHIEF

No report.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisor Valk advised that another civil service list has been requested from Ulster County.

HIGHWAY

Lieu Time

Supervisor Valk advised that a letter has been received requesting for the third week of overtime be converted to compensatory time, as per the CSEA contract. Mr. Valk is recommending approval based upon the endorsement from the Highway Superintendent. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to allow for the conversion of the third week of overtime to compensatory time.

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

Stein Road

Supervisor Valk advised that the Town Engineer, Brinnier & Larios, is sending down a structural engineer to evaluate the situation.

Strawridge Road

Councilman DeWitt explained that he has been researching options for the portion of Strawridge Road where it narrows over the aqueduct. One of the options that would resolve the issue may be to place signs at each end advising that it is a one lane road ahead with yield sign. He feels this may be the way to go with the cost being for only six signs. His understanding is that having the road well marked takes away the liability. Supervisor Valk added that the signs could have some solar lighting which would be a good warning at night. Councilman DeWitt added that a photo cell could be put on the yield signs. Supervisor Valk will follow up and speak with Highway Superintendent LoCicero. Mr. Andy Domenech suggested reducing the speed. The discussion will be continued at the next Town Board agenda.