

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 13, 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 at 14 Central Avenue, Wallkill, NY on the **13th day of August 2020** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present was Police Chief Gerry Marlatt and Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins. Councilman Watkins was excused.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Valk led the Town Board in a 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 Amthor to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2020 meeting.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Blossom & Apple Lane

Mr. Joe Sosler introduced himself as a resident of Blossom Lane. Mr. Sosler referred to his neighbors from Blossom Lane and Apple Lane who were present. He stated that he sent letters to the Supervisor and Councilmen with a petition from the residents. They have several questions for the board as they feel left out from the rest of the hamlet. Mr. Sosler stated that other areas in the hamlet have had road their roads paved and they have been left out. Most of the Town Board members did not receive the letter as they were sent to their home addresses. Mr. Sosler asked to review the list of concerns in the letter so they can receive direction on where to go to get them addressed.

Mr. Sosler inquired where they go to get assistance with cleaning up the entrance to their neighborhood. Councilman DeWitt advised that the New York State Department of Transportation controls the intersection. Carl Conboy from 2 Apple Lane stated in the past the county or state used to maintain, there has been no work since last year and he would like to know what happened. Supervisor Valk will address with the state.

Mr. Sosler stated that the biggest issue is drainage. Every time there is a heavy rain there are problems. He inquired if the Town could have an engineer look at the layout and design a plan to divert the water. Resident, Trisha, explained that the Highway Department started work last year. They created a berm which backs up and drains into her basement. She finds it necessary to dig trenches to direct the water. They have never returned to finish the job. Supervisor Valk explained that the Highway Superintendent

is elected and the Town Board has no power over him. Mr. Sosler stated he will write a letter to him to request the work be done. Mr. Valk requested a copy be sent to him.

The issue of a zombie house at 6 Apple Lane was discussed. The house has been abandoned for several years. Mr. Sosler stated that the house needs to be condemned and removed. The neighbors have tried numerous times to track down the owner with no luck. There are young families in the neighborhood and this house is a danger. Supervisor Valk advised that the Town just can't condemn a house, the property owners need to be notified. He explained that the Code Enforcement Officer can take the owners to court. Mr. Valk will discuss the issue with the Code Enforcement.

Mr. Sosler inquired who would be in charge of providing street lighting at the corners of the streets. They feel lighting is necessary for the safety of the residents. Supervisor Valk advised this would be a Town Board issue. Mr. Valk will speak with Central Hudson, and Mr. Sosler will draw up a map to provide to the Town.

Mr. Sosler stated that the roads are falling apart. He has lived there since 2001 and the roads have never been paved. Their cars are being damaged because of the condition of the roads. Supervisor Valk explained that the Highway Superintendent is totally in charge of the roads. Mr. Sosler stated that the other roads that were paved in the past year were in better condition than their roads are. Mr. Valk explained that funds are limited. He further explained that a referendum was put up to change the position of Highway Superintendent to an appointed position, but it was defeated by the voters. Another resident stated that Mr. LoCicero does not return phone calls. He requested that the Town Board put the referendum up for a vote again. They have been told they were on the schedule in previous years. Pictures of the road, drainage and abandoned house were reviewed.

Mike from Apple Lane stated that the street is the issue, it is dangerous for the few motorcycles in the neighborhood.

Another resident stated that the entrance to Apple Lane is the first impression of the hamlet. The weeds and old rusted signs need to be cleaned up. Supervisor Valk suggested that he will contact the Lions Club to see if they are interested in cleaning up the entrance. Another resident stated that their area is not being taken care of by the Town. They are looking for a solution, the house at 6 Apple Lane must be taken down. They need help. Councilman DeWitt reviewed the photos that were submitted. He suggested if the road was swept, as a resident pointed out, that work may be planned. Mr. DeWitt stated that he would look at the grades and elevations in the area. Supervisor Valk stated he will look into the lights, follow up with the Highway Superintendent and work on the other items. Councilman DeWitt stated that in conjunction with other agencies the Town Board should be able to help with these issues. Mr. Valk stated that they hope to get results. Mr. Sosler requested to be placed on the September 17th agenda for updates.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES

Supervisor's Report

The Supervisor's Report for July 2020 was received.

Town Clerk's Report for July 2020 of \$26,088.75 was received.