

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 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 **5th day of November 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 were Highway Superintendent Joe LoCicero and Police Chief Gerry Marlatt. Councilman Matthew Watkins was absent.

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 of the Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2020.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearings for Special District Assessments Rolls and 2021 Preliminary Budget were opened at 7:02 p.m. See Public Hearing Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Cheryl Fisher dated 10/12/20 was received. Councilman Amthor will follow up with the resident.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent LoCicero reported the following:

The extra \$112,000 in the budget will help out and he thanked the Town Board for their assistance with allocating that.

The highway crew is busy installing pipes, ditching and preparing the roads for next year's work.

The plows and sanders are prepared and ready to go for the winter.

Salt will be purchased in the next few weeks.

At the end of the year, a truck is scheduled to be paid off. He would like to purchase a new loader. The present loader is twenty years old and it goes out on the road to be used for a variety of jobs. The loader is also used to load up the salt at the highway barn. He would like to have the mechanic keep the present loader in running condition to be used to load the salt. At this time, he is looking at a CAT, which is on the state bid list.

The highway crew is working on clearing the northern end of the rail trail after hours. They hope to make enough progress to have it opened up to Birch Road by next year.

The highway crew will be providing assistance with putting up the wreaths for the Tree Lighting scheduled for December 6th.

Supervisor Valk inquired if any board members had any objection to loaning the blue pickup truck to the highway department for now. He advised that the building inspector is not using it, and the highway is down a truck. There were no objections.

POLICE CHIEF/PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Chief Marlatt reported the following:

He met with the Police Committee and discussed the in person learning at the schools. Presently, there is an SRO in the Middle and High Schools and a SPO in the Elementary School. Mr. Marlatt explained that the school is now shut down for two weeks which created an issue for the officers that were scheduled to work. When the schools shut down, the officers are left with no work. He would like to schedule a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss some sort of compromise. Supervisor Valk advised that he will set up the meeting.

He has heard back from Civil Service and was hoping to get the list today or tomorrow. Getting the list will allow him to move forward with filling vacancies.

The Trunk or Treat held on Halloween at Verkeerderkill Park was a huge success. It was well received and there was a good showing of people. In Wallkill, the Lions Club held an event at Popp Park. There were not many kids out in the hamlet Trick or Treating. There were no problems that demanded any extra officers to be on duty.

New vehicle is ordered and is expected in two or three weeks. It should be on the road in about a month once the installation of equipment is completed.

Following an accident, Select Traffic Enforcement was requested for Indian Springs Road. The officers have been going out.

Supervisor Valk requested a list of surplus equipment that the Police Department has. He will contact the company to set up the sale.

Supervisor Valk reminded the Chief and Town Board that the Governor's mandate for the revision of the department's policies and procedures is being pursued. These revisions should include the schools.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Valk advised that the bid openings have been advertised for November 19th. There are two separate bids. TSW-201 is for removal and demolition at the wastewater plant. TSW-202 is for the fiberglass enclosure for the wastewater facility.

PARKS

Supervisor Valk advised that a donation of a refrigerator for the kitchen at Galeville Park was received by resident Joe Doran. The Town Board will send a letter thanking Mr. Doran. A plaque was purchased by Steve Schelin to be placed on the appliance in memory of Mr. Doran's wife.

RECREATION

Halloween

Councilman DeWitt reported that both Halloween events went well. Mr. DeWitt explained that Officer Curt McDermott donated a pumpkin he had won in a guess the weight contest, to the Trunk or Treat at Verkeerderkill Park. In addition, Officer McDermott had won \$150 prize which he donated to the Town Recreation Department. A contest was held during the event and Mr. Charlie Garrison donated a \$25.00 gift card to the winner.

Tree Lighting

Supervisor Valk advised that he has spoken to the Vision of Walkkill group with regard to the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Discussed was a possible abbreviated version due to the COVID restrictions. Also discussed was a possible "drive-thru" with Santa, similar to the Trunk or Treats recently held. The V.O.W. will be discussing at their next meeting.

SIDEWALKS/LIGHTING

Councilman Amthor will contact Mrs. Fisher regarding her request for crosswalks.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

Supervisor Valk advised that the five-year contract with Ulster County Resource Recovery is up for renewal. He has received the contract, but it needs to be reviewed. This topic will be tabled until the next Town Board meeting.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Valk advised that Sexual Harassment and Workplace Violence Training was held today at Town Hall. Many town employees and board members were in attendance.