

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2021

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 **1st day of January 2021** at 7:00 P.M.

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

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 Watkins to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 30, 2020.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Vision of Wallkill Sparkle & Shine Awards

Donna Barczak-Myer, President of V.O.W. presented awards for the 2020 Sparkle & Shine Contest. Residential winners receiving the awards were the MacEntee family, the Trantor family and the Lee family. Business winners were My Father Sam's Barber Shop and Hudson Valley Chocolates.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING for 2021

See attached minutes for the Organizational Meeting.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent LoCicero reported the following:

He is in the process of doing an extensive study on all highway apparatus. The listing that existed wasn't in depth enough to get a clear picture. Robin is in the process of getting the information put on a

spreadsheet and will be available for the next Town Board meeting. In Gardiner, the department is on a ten-year rolling plan. If our town were to go on a similar plan, it's clear that we are behind and need to catch up. Mr. LoCicero discussed the need for the plow trucks to be on a stand-alone program from the rest of the equipment. The steel rots out from the salt and the hours on them are an issue. It comes down to what we are paying for maintenance versus the cost of new equipment. He will have a better briefing at the next meeting. As far as the loader that has been discussed, it is the most important piece of equipment. The existing loader has 10,000 hours on it. The front end has had to be rebuilt twice and it needs to be replaced quickly. They are down two trucks, which were purchased in 2003. The third truck is being diagnosed to determine if it's worth fixing. These trucks are needed for parking and other tasks. The cost of a new truck is \$85,000.00 +/- . The cost of the loader is \$161,000.00 on state bid.

Eight hundred tons of salt and stone dust were ordered and delivered this week.

Central Hudson came and changed all the lights in the complex to LED. It has improved the lighting conditions tremendously.

Supervisor Valk inquired with the board members if they felt they were inclined to move ahead with the purchase of the loader. If so, he would get the process going with the bonding. The members were in agreement to move ahead with the purchase. Supervisor Valk will have things ready at the next meeting. Mr. LoCicero noted that the purchase is necessary as renting a loader costs \$8,000.00 a month and he does not want to have to do that. He advised that the loader comes with a seven-year warranty.

POLICE CHIEF/PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Reform Commission

Chief Gerry Marlatt inquired if there were any additional community members that were added to the Police Reform Commission. Supervisor Valk stated that if it becomes necessary, they can expand the members. Chief Marlatt advised that the first meeting with the Police Reform Commission is scheduled for January 14th at 7 :00 p.m. He will advise the members.

Ulster County COVID Vaccination Program

Chief Marlatt advised that Ulster County has prioritized the distribution of the vaccine. He explained that all medical personnel, including volunteer ambulance members are in the first phase. The second phase includes law enforcement. Since our police officers also do medical calls, some are EMT's and all are trained for the medical calls, he will offer a sign up to the officers.

Personnel

Chief Marlatt advised that the recently hired part time officer may need to resign due to personal reasons. The two officers hired to work full time will start on February 1st. The Town Board approved the hiring at the last meeting. Due to scheduling, it was agreed that the effective date would be February 1st, which both officers were agreeable to.

Grant

Chief Marlatt advised that he is working on the end of year closeout for the vest grant. The new grant is for \$5,500.00 and will become effective April 1, 2021. At this time all officers have a vest.

Vehicles

There is no update on the new vehicle. He is still waiting for delivery.

Reports

Supervisor Valk inquired about the annual report that summarizes calls and accidents the department has responded to this past year. Chief Marlatt explained that the report will be submitted at the next Town Board meeting and will include complaints as required by PAUSE. Chief Marlatt explained the procedure for the COVID Hotline Complaints that were received. The complaints came down to the local police departments to follow up on.

DOG CONTROL

Supervisor Valk inquired about the contract with Walden Humane Society with Chief Marlatt. He questioned if they are accepting all dogs as the contract states. Chief Marlatt stated that there is a provision that leaves it up to the person on duty to determine if they will accept the dog. Councilman Watkins stated that the contract states that they agree to accept any dog brought to the shelter by the Dog Control Officer. Chief Marlatt explained that they need to have some place to bring the dogs. Supervisor Valk will follow up and clarify for the next meeting.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Valk advised that the upgrades are continuing.

PARKS

Supervisor Valk provided the Town Board members with a copy of draft contract with the DEC. The proposal allows the state DEC to promote fishing at Popp Park with some improvements to be done. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Supervisor Valk will send a copy of the contract to the DEC to begin opening up communication with them.

RECREATION

No report.

SIDEWALKS/LIGHTING

Councilman Watkins reported that New York State Gas & Electric have changed all of the street lights to LED. Central Hudson has several that need to be replaced. He will provide the information to Supervisor Valk for follow up.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

No report.