

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 4, 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present was Police Chief Gerry Marlatt. Councilman Miller 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 Amthor and seconded by Councilman Watkins to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 21, 2021.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A notice of Public Hearing from the Town of Gardiner was received. The hearing addresses Short Term Rentals and will be held on February 9, 2021.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no questions or issues brought to the attention of the board.

### **REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES**

#### **POLICE CHIEF/PUBLIC SAFETY**

##### **Police Reform Commission**

Police Chief Marlatt reported that the committee had their third meeting tonight. There have been some members added to the committee. Richard Barnhart, Retired Police Chief from SUNY New Paltz, Rebecca Mantello, who lives in Shawangunk and works at a law firm, and a representative from the Ulster County Public Defender's Office. Chief Marlatt reported that they are going through the Guidance Book from New York State. They are reviewing many requirements, policies and procedures. Items like cameras and training may be incorporated into the department in the future. They will be addressing mental health issues. Statistics from 2018 through 2020 are being compiled for the committee's use. Call volumes, the types of calls, the make up of staff and the residents needs will be

drafted into a document for the Town Board's review. Supervisor Valk advised that the report must be submitted to New York State by April first. He also advised that the State Police are exempt from this report. Mr. Valk suggested that a special meeting at the end of March may have to take place to meet the deadline. Chief Marlatt advised that they have been discussing options for public meetings. There are two public meetings scheduled, one on February 11<sup>th</sup> and the other on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. In addition, they are working on setting up a Zoom Meeting for those residents who do not want to attend in person. There will be a link on the Town Website that Councilman Amthor will be setting up. A survey to get feedback from the residents will also be part of the program. Chief Marlatt advised that if the report is not filed by April 1<sup>st</sup>, a mediator will be appointed at the Town's expense and the Town could possibly lose state funding.

**Resignation**

Chief Marlatt advised that he has received a letter of resignation from part time Officer Robert Sisco, who has resigned for personal reasons. A motion was made to accept the resignation by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Watkins.

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

**Vehicles**

Chief Marlatt reported that he has had no luck after placing numerous phone calls to the representative at Buyer Ford for an update on the delivery of the new vehicle. Councilman Amthor will follow up with the company.

**Agriculture & Markets**

Chief Marlatt reported that there was an Annual Inspection meeting scheduled this past Monday with Joyce from New York State Ag & Markets. Due to the weather, it was cancelled and will be rescheduled. Mr. Marlatt advised that he welcomes the inspection as everything is in order.

**Cares Act Funding**

Chief Marlatt inquired if the Town has received any funding from this act which is available to municipalities for expenses related to the pandemic. Supervisor Valk will follow up on this funding opportunity.

**Surplus Equipment**

Chief Marlatt inquired on the timetable for surplus equipment. Supervisor Valk advised that the Highway Department also has some items. He will schedule it when the weather is warmer.

**Equipment**

Chief Marlatt advised that he purchased a defibrillator on the surplus site for \$35.00. It appears to be brand new and the same type the Town currently has. He also purchased a Biometric Time Clock that will be put in use. Supervisor Valk advised the Chief to put in a voucher for reimbursement.

**HIGHWAY**

Supervisor Valk advised that the Highway Superintendent will not be in attendance tonight. He reported to Town Board that he has obtained a quote for a \$161,000.00 loan from the Bank of Greene County for