

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 21, 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 **21st day of January 2021** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present were Highway Superintendent Joe LoCicero, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, and Zoning Board Member Roger Rascoe. Councilmen Miller and DeWitt were 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 Watkins and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve both the minutes of the Regular Meeting and the 2021 Organizational Meeting held on January 7, 2021.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Shamrock Scramble

Mr. Bob Garrison spoke to the Town Board about the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Shamrock Scramble. The events are two months away and the committee is seeking guidance from the Town Board about holding the events during the pandemic. He discussed the possibility of holding the race by spacing the participants apart, or rescheduling the race until later in the year. Following a discussion, the board members agreed that although they would like to see the events held, it would be best for the safety of the public to hold off for another year. Supervisor Valk suggested that perhaps the race could be held in conjunction with the W.O.W. weekend scheduled in September.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent LoCicero distributed copies of a Vehicle Replacement Schedule he prepared following an extensive study on all highway apparatus. Mr. LoCicero reviewed the chart and explained how the hours were converted to mileage. He discussed the 2003 Ford one-ton trucks that are listed as out of service. They are the trucks he is looking to replace. Mr. LoCicero explained that he has been discussing equipment issues with other highway superintendents. It was brought to his attention that

the Hook & Go may be the best option for these trucks. He will be researching these numbers and come to a conclusion shortly. The maintenance schedule for the equipment is located in another set of books kept at the highway garage. He will share that information to any board members interested in seeing them. Mr. LoCicero explained that the town needs to start moving in the direction to come up with a plan. He pointed out that one of the problems is that the equipment is rotting from underneath because they are parked on the dirt and the moisture creates the rotting. Mr. LoCicero stated that this document is a living document and can be changed. Supervisor Valk stated that in the thirty years, this is the first equipment plan that he has ever seen and thanked Mr. LoCicero. He also thanked him and the highway crew for taking down the wreaths, tree lights and for their assistance with the installation of the community clock at the Rail Trail.

Ms. Ellen Turner thanked Mr. LoCicero for the snow removal during the last storm. She stated that this is the best she has seen in her thirty years of living here.

Supervisor Valk explained that the Bonding Resolution for the loader must be tabled until the next meeting as a super majority by the board is needed.

POLICE CHIEF/PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Reform Commission

Police Chief Marlatt reported that the committee members met on January 14th and January 21st. Two new members have joined the committee. They are Curtis Johnson and Rev. Stan Seagram. Chief Marlatt requested that a press release be submitted to the Wallkill Valley Times and be posted on the Town Website. Supervisor Valk explained that this will be an on-going project. Once the guidelines are established, they will be reviewed each year. The New York State model will be followed. Chief Marlatt felt that by next week a public meeting could be scheduled. Ideas can be gained from the public. He feels that the committee is making good progress, he is pleased that the members are taking such an active role and interest with reevaluating policies and making sure they are up to date and up to current standards. Supervisor Valk stated that Ulster County circulated a draft plan. This plan can be used taking into consideration that every community is different. Supervisor Valk advised that the reporter from the Wallkill Valley Times is working on an article. Councilman Amthor will work on getting the release on the Website.

Report

Chief Marlatt advised that he is still working on the year end report. He is waiting for the official report from DCJS to include.

Potential Violence

Chief Marlatt explained that Supervisor Valk forwarded him an email from a political party who was concerned with potential violence on Inauguration Day. Chief Marlatt reported that he met with the Ulster County Sheriff, State Police and multiple chiefs to determine if there were any threats. The Sheriff worked with local chiefs and had a plan in place. The only unverified threat was at the Capitol in Albany. He had an extra officer on patrol that day. There were no incidents in the Town or the County. Supervisor Valk stated that he is hopeful that the friction in our area will pass. He is working with some