

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 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 **4th day of March 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 Robert 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.

Supervisor Valk explained that Councilman Miller has been absent from several meetings because he has a family member out of the area needing medical care.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Watkins and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 23, 2021.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A notice from the Ulster County Legislature was received advising that the enrollment period for Agricultural Districts in Ulster County is open from March 1st through March 30, 2021.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Donna Barczak, President of the Vision of Wallkill, was present to explain the group's latest project. Ms. Barczak handed out a press release announcing the VOW'S COWS project. She explained that this project is an extension of the Art Along the Sidewalk project. She explained that Elsie the Cow has been the visual symbol of the Wallkill hamlet. V.O.W. is using the cow theme to create VOW'S COWS to be artistically painted that can beautify Wallkill. Ms. Barczak brought a sample of a wooden cow that was cut out by Lions Club members and primed by Vision of Wallkill members. The cows are 31" tall and 46" wide. The cows are designed to be painted by anyone and displayed in yards or businesses. She displayed a wooden cow that was hand painted by resident Tom Hutt. The cows come with brackets and posts to put in the ground for display. A \$50.00 donation per cow is requested and is available to local residents, businesses and organizations. The project is designed for the cows to be placed outdoors and is suitable for extended outdoor display. Ms. Barczak provided a letter that will be mailed

out to businesses and organizations describing the program. There are pick up days for the cows and on April 15th a group photo will be taken. All cows will be on display in time for the Town Wide Yard Sale on April 24, 2021. This project is intended to be a fund raiser for the Vision of Wallkill to help with programs like the summer concerts.

Supervisor Valk raised concerns that the cows should not contain political statements. Chief Marlatt suggested that some businesses may want to incorporate their business in the display. Ms. Barczak continued to explain that they will provide a list of addresses for the public to go view the painted cows. Supervisor Valk inquired the cost of the summer concert series. Ms. Barczak stated the total cost for three or four concerts range from \$1,800.00 to \$2,000.00. She continued to explain that it is difficult to raise money and several local businesses and residents have been generous with sponsoring some of the concerts. Supervisor Valk suggested that Town could sponsor one of the concerts. Ms. Barczak advised that the offer was very helpful and the concert series will be held four consecutive weeks.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES

POLICE CHIEF/PUBLIC SAFETY

Equipment

Chief Marlatt reported that he submitted a purchase order for ammunition. The normal delivery time in the past has been one to two weeks, it is now a six-to-nine-month delivery time.

Vehicles

The new vehicle has been delivered. They are scheduling a date to install the equipment that is being removed from the old police car.

Agriculture & Markets

Chief Marlatt advised the inspection was conducted, everything was found to be in order and the Town passed.

Police Reform Commission

Chief Marlatt advised that the final meeting was held yesterday, March 3rd. There was one person on Zoom. The meeting will be up on the Town Website. Chief Marlatt explained that during the process, he stepped down from the Chairman position. Leif Spencer filled the position and has been doing a great job with issues and policies. A preliminary draft is due next week. Supervisor Valk advised that it will be available and can be adopted at the Town Board meeting on the 18th. The report is due in Albany by April 1st.

Chief Marlatt explained that the results are not back yet from the survey that was on the website. They will be posted when available. Supervisor Valk said the committee will be kept intact to review policies on an on-going basis. There were problems with the internet with the Zoom meetings. There were about three or four people who were on the Zoom meetings. Chief Marlatt reported that the people who did show up voiced their opinions and all comments were taken into consideration. There are policies that need to be updated. Supervisor Valk reported that there were about seventy responses to the survey. When the report is finalized, it will be a valuable document.

HIGHWAY

No report.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Valk reported that the upgrades are continuing. Mr. Valk advised that the old sludge press building will be upgraded and used for a storage building.

PARKS

Lawn Mowing

Councilman DeWitt advised that the bid packages were released.

Park Grants

Supervisor Valk reported that he is working with the new State Senator on the grants for the park pavilions. The roof on the pavilion at Popp Park needs to get done this year. He is also working on the process of switching funding for the highway grant and the River Road culvert. These items may depend on if the Governor releases the money. He does not want to proceed without getting the money from the state.

RECREATION

Councilman DeWitt reported that he is starting to prepare for summer camp. Several options were discussed on how to safely hold camp.

SIDEWALKS/LIGHTING

Supervisor Valk reported that discussions are continuing with the union representative with regard to the sidewalks.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

No report.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Health Emergency Plan

Supervisor Valk inquired if the board members reviewed the revised pandemic plan that was provided, or did they need additional time for review. It was agreed to table and adopt at the next meeting.