

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 18, 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 18th **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 were Highway Superintendent Joe LoCicero and 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.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 4, 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 Department of Public Works was received 3/8/21 advising that the bridge at Indian Springs Road and Oregon Trail will be closed.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Park Avenue**

Adrienne Gelfine-Perine inquired if the Town Board was aware of the status of the project planned along Park Avenue. She explained that the Weekend of Wallkill on September 18<sup>th</sup> was planning on using the area to set up as long as construction was not started. Highway Superintendent LoCicero advised that he has been in touch with the owner who is in the process of gaining investors. He does not think there is a clear start time with the price of lumber being so high. He will touch base with the owner and inquire.

#### **Wallkill Bridge**

Delbe Spath expressed his concerns with the width of the lanes on the bridge after snowstorms. The last snowstorm the county did not blow the snow over the wall which is what they said they would do. Supervisor Valk said he would discuss this with County Legislator Ken Ronk.

**PUBLIC SAFETY****Police Reform & Reinvention Plan**

Supervisor Valk announced that a draft plan was submitted to the Town Board from the committee. The plan has been posted on the Town Web-site and will to be submitted to the state by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Valk introduced Leif Spencer, Chairman of the Police Reform and Reinvention Committee. Mr. Spencer thanked the Town Board members for appointing him to the committee. He stated that at first, he was a little hesitant seeing the one-hundred thirty-nine-page document from the state. When he saw the quality of other committee members that were appointed, he was glad he accepted. Mr. Spencer reported that the committee would like the community to know that Shawangunk is a good, safe community, with a lack of crime. The Police Department and community work together. The Reform and Reinvention Committee worked well with each other. Many different opinions were brought forth and discussed. They never argued and all viewpoints were brought to light. The committee found areas that need to be addressed and policies that need to be updated. He is pleased that the committee will be kept intact and meet periodically to review changes that may have occurred with laws, regulations and the community. Mr. Spencer acknowledged and thanked the committee members that were present. They were: Rich Barnhart, Paul Mader, Rebecca Mantello, Margot Hanstein, Chief Marlatt, and Brian Devencenzi.

Supervisor Valk stated that he sat in on a few of the meetings and was impressed with the informative and respectful discussions. The product is impressive and he appreciates the hard work the committee did. He is also thankful for the participation by the public. They attended meetings, submitted input and filled out the on-line survey.

Committee Member Paul Mader thanked Leif Spencer for all of his work in putting the document together. He stated that it was a pleasure to serve on the committee.

Councilman Watkins thanked the committee for working together and having such a positive outcome. Chief Gerry Marlatt stated that he would like to elaborate on thanking Leif Spencer for the timely manner and endless hours he spent putting together the plan after all of the input was received. Chief Marlatt explained that there are hundreds of laws and policies that are constantly changing. He is pleased that there is a commitment for additional training. The officers are always looking to do better and in the end the community benefits. He is pleased that the committee has agreed to stay together. He thanked the committee members, the Town Board, and the residents who all worked together. He stated that there was no guidance from the state, they wanted municipalities to work out a plan for themselves. Chief Marlatt explained that at first, he did not know what to expect, but is glad that this process took place.

A motion was made by Councilman Watkins and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adopt the Town of Shawangunk Police Reform and Reinvention Plan.

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