

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 17, 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 **17th day of June 2021** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilmen Robert Miller and Brian Amthor were excused. Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins arrived at 7:30 p.m.

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

Supervisor Valk announced that the approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2021 would be tabled until the next meeting since there are only two Town Board Members that were present at that meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from the Town of Plattekill regarding a Public Hearing on a State Highway Floating Zone on 6/16/21.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Lions Club

Sal Patella, President of the Wallkill Lions Club, advised the Town Board that the Lions Club would like to purchase and install two benches at Lions Landing. The benches would be in memory of members Chris McHugh and Sal Patella Sr. In addition, Sal explained that Paul Mader would like to purchase a bench in memory of his wife Delores. Mr. Patella explained that Councilman DeWitt provided him with a sample of the type of bench that is preferred. Sal further explained that they will most likely have in memory plaques on the benches. The locations for the benches were discussed. At this time, they are requesting that two benches be approved at Lions Landing and one at Popp Park. It was agreed that the Town would make the purchase of the benches, and the Lions Club would reimburse the Town. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Watkins to approve the installation of two benches at Lions Landing and one bench at Popp Park.

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

Councilman DeWitt reported that he has spoken to Mr. Patella about a barrier for the river bank. He has suggested possibly installing a cable and turnbuckle to keep people safe from any possible hazard. The

turnbuckle will not restrict the view of the river. Mr. Patella advised that they have planted a lot of plants on the slope down to the river and suggested possibly posting signs. He further explained that people may climb over the barrier anyway to fish. Supervisor Valk advised that the Town would be making an attempt by putting up signs and the barrier to cover the liability issue. Mr. Paul Mader advised that people are parking their cars and blocking the area. Their cars stick out close to the road. Mr. Patella suggested posting no parking signs on the bollards.

Stein Road

Jacqueline Muskulus and Theodore Dieckmann from 58 Stein Road inquired about the status of Stein Road. They have been told that it is possibly in the hands of the engineer and attorney. Supervisor Valk explained that if easements are needed from them, the highway superintendent should be talking to them. Ms. Muskulus explained that he did, and suggested that they come to a meeting. She further explained that they are located on the bend of the road and are in favor of fixing the road. Councilman DeWitt explained that the road needs to be moved. The rock will be removed and the road moved over. Ms. Muskulus stated she would like to see the plans. Presently, she explained that they are nervous about the steep bank with the number cars that make U-turns. There are signs posted that the road is closed, but people don't pay attention. Supervisor Valk took their contact information and stated that he has the plans and will forward them.

PUBLIC HEARINGS**LOCAL LAW #1 – ZONING LAW TEXT CHANGES**

Supervisor Valk opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. He explained that this Local Law proposes text changes and procedures to the Zoning Law. Ulster County Planning Board sent their comments on the text that refers to voting requirements for the Planning Board. Supervisor Valk advised that the Town of Shawangunk Planning Board has also sent their comments. See Public Hearing Minutes.

LOCAL LAW #2 – TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

Supervisor Valk opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m. He explained that this Local Law proposes a six-month moratorium on the review and development of battery energy storage systems in the Town. Supervisor Valk advised that the Town of Shawangunk Planning Board has sent a letter in support of adopting this Local Law. See Public Hearing Minutes.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICES**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – TOWN CLERK REPORT**

The May 2021 Supervisor's Report was received. The Town Clerk's Report for May 2021 for \$32,989.00 was received.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**HIGHWAY**

Supervisor Valk advised that the two-year maintenance bond of \$9,038.00 for Orange County Enterprises has expired. The bank has requested a release. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Watkins to release the bond based upon default.

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

A letter will be sent to the bank advising them that the maintenance bond has been released.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisor Valk advised that due to the Governor's latest regulations regarding COVID-19, he is recommending that all doors to Town Hall be open to the public. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that sign in sheets for visitors would no longer be necessary. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available for visitors, and anyone who is vaccinated would not be required to wear a mask.

WATER & SEWER

No report.

PARKS**Walker Valley School House Park**

Supervisor Valk advised that he has met with the family of an Eagle Scout who is proposing a project in the park behind the Walker Valley School House. They will be present at the July Town Board meeting to make a presentation.

Verkeerderkill Park

Councilman DeWitt reported that the see-saw is repaired. A new tire swing was installed. The trees have been trimmed, and most items that were noted in the Board of Health Inspection have been addressed.

General Parks

There was a discussion that the walking trails and Rail Trail need to be brush hogged. Supervisor Valk advised that he ordered a 6X10 flag for the flag pole at Verkeerderkill.

Garrison Park

Councilman DeWitt advised that the backboards and rims have been delivered. He will be working on a plan to get the poles installed.