

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 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 **16th day of September 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. Councilman Robert Miller was excused. Also, present was Highway Superintendent Joe LoCicero, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Planning Board Member Richard Barnhart, Councilman Elect Alex Danon, Highway Superintendent Elect Rich Blazeski and several members of the community.

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 – September 2, 2021**

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 2, 2021.

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

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Wallkill Fire Company**

Mr. Eric Orr, President of the Wallkill Hook, Ladder & Hose and First Vice President of the Hudson Valley Volunteer's Firemen's Association, approached the Town Board to address concerns the Town Board may have with the parade being held in Wallkill next summer. He explained that the parade was approved by the Town Board in 2019; it was paused due to COVID. They have been making plans to move forward. Mr. Orr stated that he read comments in the newspaper that the parade may not be approved. He is present tonight to find out if the parade is approved or not approved. Supervisor Valk stated that at a meeting in July the board was advised that an answer would be needed by September. Supervisor Valk stated that the board wanted to revisit the parade plans. They met with the Police Chief who explained that the plan that was laid out was very organized. Councilman Amthor stated that the main concern is the size of the parade and the amount of people that would be in town, and how that would affect the residents.

Mr. Chan Rivera, Director of Municipal Services and Chairman of the State Firemen's Association stated that the parade would not be much larger than the county conventions and county parades. Supervisor Valk inquired if invitations were sent out for companies to participate. Mr. Orr stated, yes, they do send invitations, and they would limit the amount of participation. Councilman Amthor stated that in Lake George, where former parades were held, drew families to vacation to the area at the same time. He

stated that since there have not been many parades lately there is a possibility of a larger response. Mr. Orr stated that they would cap the number of vehicles. He further explained that those decisions will be made in October. They were caught off guard and these things will get worked out. Councilman Amthor and Supervisor Valk both agreed that the planning committee was very organized. Mr. Orr shared that the parade may be re-routed with events ending up at the new firehouse. The original route that the police committee agreed to in 2019 may be changed. Mr. Orr stated that the last parade here in 2012 did not have a lot of people hanging out like the parades do in Lake George. He continued to explain that they have never had a problem, they are trained to assist the police. Supervisor Valk stated his concern with problems that Lake George had with over one hundred fire companies. Mr. Orr stated this parade will not be larger than the St. Patrick's Day Parade that is held in Wallkill. He continued to explain that Lake George was always the community where the parade was held and there have been troubles with personalities and liquor, which were unfortunate. Supervisor Valk stated that there was a resident that came to the Town Board to request a noise ordinance because of a graduation party that was held in the hamlet. Mr. Orr stated that that was an exception. He explained that they need to move forward at this time and need approval. Councilman Watkins inquired how many people would be attending if one hundred companies participated in the parade. If there were two thousand people, he has concerns with access for the residents who live here. Mr. Orr stated that is the same challenge they face with every parade. The parade will keep moving, and the traffic will not be stopped for long. Once the parade is over, there is limited impact. There are sixteen companies that will be assisting with the fire police to control the traffic. It is not a big deal as they are trained to handle this. Once the parade is over, the people go back to their motel or the firehouse. Councilman Watkins stated he has no problem with the parade, he just has questions. Mr. Orr stated that they are more prepared now than in 2019, they have vetted every scenario. Councilman Amthor explained that he is not against the parade, all of his remarks from the last meeting did not make the newspaper article. Mr. Orr explained that he thought that everything was addressed.

Chief Marlatt distributed copies of the fire code and advised that crowd managers are needed and inquired if they had them. Mr. Orr stated that he will provide the names of the managers. He stated for now they need to move forward and will work through any questions or issues the town has. They need approval at this time. Chief Marlatt stated that they need to cover every avenue and work through the issues. Mr. Orr stated that they are willing to attend every meeting and address any issue that needs to be resolved.

Councilman DeWitt explained that there are two Town Board members on the Safety Committee. Typically, the Public Safety Committee would present a plan to the Town Board, making a recommendation. To date, he has not seen a plan for the parade. Mr. DeWitt stated the committee needs to come forward with a plan. Mr. Orr stated that it is the same plan as 2019, which was approved. Supervisor Valk explained that Mr. Orr previously came to a meeting to request approval for next year. The Town Board was told that an answer was needed by September. Mr. Orr stated that the Police Chief and Councilman Amthor have the plan. Councilman Amthor stated that they will work things out to approve the plan. The next meeting is scheduled Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The Chief, Mr. Orr and the Public Safety Committee will be in attendance.

There was an inquiry if there was a budget for the parade. Mr. Orr said they have a \$15,000.00 budget.