

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 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 December 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, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Councilman Elect and Planning Board Member Alex Danon, and Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins. Councilman Miller was absent.

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

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #2 of 2021 CANNABIS OPTING OUT OF ALLOWING CANNABIS RETAIL DISPENSARIES AND ON-SITE CONSUMPTION.

Supervisor Valk read the Public Hearing Notice and opened up the floor for public comment: See Public Hearing Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mask Mandate

Mrs. Adrienne Perine commented that there is a mask mandate in New York and there are people present that are not wearing them. Ms. Perine noted that there is a \$1,000 fine for non-compliance. She urged residents to follow the mandate.

Mr. Anthony Mantello inquired what the mandate was. He stated that he was shopping today and at other businesses in town, people were not wearing them. Supervisor Valk stated that while in New York City yesterday, your vaccination card was checked at the door and masks were not required. There was a discussion on what the policy is.

Mrs. Kelli Greer stated that the Town Board members were not wearing a mask. Councilman Watkins stated that he wore a mask into the meeting, he was comfortable at his desk not wearing one because he was socially distanced.

Mr. Anthony Mantello stated that it is a mandate and everyone is required to wear a mask. Following a discussion, it was agreed that everyone would wear a mask.

Farmers Market

Mrs. Rebecca Mantello inquired as to what would be involved to have a Farmers Market. She stated that there was one in town previously. Supervisor Valk suggested that possibly finding a community group. Councilman DeWitt stated that depending where it was held would depend who or what board it would go through. Kelli Greer noted that the Town of Crawford gave \$500 to the Farmers Market in Crawford.

Road Clean Up

Kelli Greer stated that she would like to get a group together to clean up Hardenburgh Road. Highway Superintendent LoCicero explained that they have always provided a truck in the past to load the bags of garbage on. He explained that she should advise when they plan to do this and he is sure that Rich Blazeski will assist. Mrs. Greer stated that it probably will be in the spring time. Chief Marlatt added that when the Walker Valley Band does road clean ups, the Police Department always provided a patrol. Supervisor Valk explained that the New York State DOT provides the bags and does the pick up on state roads.

Councilman Watkins left the meeting at 7:35 p.m. for medical reasons.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent LoCicero reported the following:

Job Opening

Highway Superintendent LoCicero reported that the hiring committee has recommended the hiring of Jeremy Smit, at the entry level rate, on December 20, 2021. He will be hired as an HMEO.

Vehicles

Mr. LoCicero reported that the new truck currently is in New Hampshire. Councilman Amthor reported that the truck is expected to be in Gardiner on Friday or Monday.

General

Mr. LoCicero reported that the crew is currently working on ditching and getting the trucks ready for winter. The Salt Shed has salt. He has been working with the new Highway Superintendent for the past several months and he is ready to take over. Mr. LoCicero stated that it has been an honor and a

privilege to serve as Highway Superintendent the past six years, he has enjoyed the job and will miss it. He thanked the Town Board members for their assistance.

Stein Road

Mr. LoCicero explained that he received a print out of the plan from the Engineer. This design moves the road over sixty feet. He feels that this plan does not fix the problem and would like to talk to the Engineer to review other options. Councilman DeWitt noted that the slope will be changed. Mr. LoCicero stated that he would like to see the entire plan along with a budget. He will call the Engineer and schedule a meeting. Resident Jacqueline Mukulus stated that she is looking for more details. Mr. LoCicero gave her a copy of the plan he received for this project, and agreed that she should be involved with the planning.

POLICE CHIEF

Crossing Guards

Police Chief Gerry Marlatt reported that there is currently a shortage for School Crossing Guards. They received only one application and he would like to schedule the interview for it at this time. He would prefer to do this at this time so they can get someone in place.

Social Media Threats

Chief Marlatt explained that the School District has put out an "all call" on the Tic-Tok challenge. They wanted to notify parents about the posing on social media so they can talk to their children.

Parking Lot & Station Garage

Chief Marlatt explained that they have cleaned out the garage and found items that they no longer use. He would like to dispose of those items and inquired about the Auctions International contact. Chief Marlatt advised that Ron DeGroot donated blacktop to fill in the pot holes in the parking lot. A letter of thanks will be sent.

PBA Holiday

Chief Marlatt explained that there is a "Cookies & Santa" event in the Community Room this Saturday from 4-6 p.m. which will be hosted by the PBA.

Livestock Issue

Chief Marlatt explained that the department have been dealing with a problem that is getting progressively worse. In Walker Valley goats continue to be on the loose. On Plains Road, its horses, cows and goats. He is inquiring if there is something in the zoning to deal with this, and if not, it's worth exploring. Owners should be responsible for maintaining proper fencing.

Budget

Met with the Bookkeeper this week and they are well under budget.