

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 6, 2022

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 **6th day of January 2022** at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt and several members of the public.

Supervisor Valk introduced Councilman Alex Danon and Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski to the audience.

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 Amthor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and the minutes of the Public Hearing held on December 16, 2021.

VOTE: Councilman Danon, abstain, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman Robert Miller, abstain, Councilman Amthor, aye, Supervisor Valk, aye.

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Miller to approve the minutes of the Special End of Year Meeting held on December 29, 2021.

VOTE: Councilman Danon, abstain, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman Robert Miller, aye, Councilman Amthor, abstain, aye, Supervisor Valk, aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice of Public Hearings received from the Town of Montgomery on the Ambulance District and the Affordable Housing Floating Zone were received.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Vision of Wallkill – Sparkle & Shine Awards

Donna Barzcak and Larissa Burke, representing Vision of Wallkill, were present to announce and present awards to the winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest for 2021. Certificates and awards were given and photographs were taken. The Town Board thanked the participants and the Vision of Wallkill for sponsoring the contest again this year.

Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner

Mr. Bob Mooney spoke to the Town Board about restoring the \$2,000 in funding for the group that was provided in the past. Mr. Mooney explained what the funding was used for when the Town did provide it. He further explained that at some point, the funding stopped, after inquiring why, he thought they were promised the money during budget talks. He invited the Town Board members to join the Historical Society, which is \$30 per family. Mr. Mooney explained that there will be a special meeting planned after COVID. Mr. Mooney explained that the group has the historic records of the town. They own the Knights of Pythias Lodge and described the past functions of the fraternal organization. The organization has disbanded and now is a museum and is part of the history of the town along with the DuBois House. They offer tours, put on presentations, have speakers and educate various groups to keep the history alive. They need money to maintain the properties and support these functions. They only source of money they receive is through dues and donations. They have fixed costs like insurance, taxes, and utility bills. Mr. Mooney further explained that COVID has hampered donations and they are hoping to get back on the town budget as they were in the past. Supervisor Valk inquired how one would join the group. Mr. Mooney shared that someone could mail the membership fee to PO Box 570, Wallkill. A newsletter is sent out and copies go to Town Hall. Mr. Valk stated that it has been many years since he had a tour and would like to do it again. Mr. Mooney offered to give all Town Board members a tour. He shared that the membership is down, they have only picked up one new member in the last several months. They have a Facebook page that Hal VanAken runs, he has collections, records and research on it.

Karen Dale addressed the Town Board. She said she is present to support the organization. She encourages the Town Board to support it as well. Ms. Dale explained that the Historical Society is the only outreach group in the village to offer these services. She added that the collections and records need to be archived and preserved properly. It is important for the community to be educated and she supports the funding request.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

The Supervisor's Report for December 2021 was received. The Town Clerk's Report for December 2021 for \$14,289.90 was received.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Blazeski discussed a memo dated January 3, 2022 he sent to the Town Board requesting specific financial information. Supervisor Valk explained that the clerk can provide most of the information. The unexpended balance can be given to him in March by the auditors.

Mr. Blazeski met with Gorman to review roads and prepare a report.

Truck #18 needs a transmission and Truck #3 has no turbo and won't make it up a hill.

Arkel and Tenco are developing specifications for new single axle trucks.

The new truck is delayed.

Spoke to Supervisor on COVID guidance. One employee has tested positive. A Best Practice Guidance Policy will be provided tomorrow.

Need to meet with the Supervisor to arrange for sale of surplus property.
Appointed Joe LoCicero as Deputy Highway Superintendent.

POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief Gerry Marlatt reported that he will discuss the Walden Humane Society contract with the board under New Business.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

HIGHWAY

Supervisor Valk advised that this committee will be renamed Liaison to the Highway Superintendent. Mr. Valk advised that the bridge on Hoagerburgh Road will be closed on January 10, 2022 and is expected to take six months for construction.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisor Valk advised that this committee will be renamed Liaison to the Public Safety Committee.

WATER & SEWER

No report.

PARKS

No report.

SIDEWALKS/LIGHTING

No report.

RECREATION

No report.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

Supervisor Valk advised that this committee will be renamed Transfer Station. Mr. Valk also reported that the electronics have been cleaned out and item four must be brought in to level the area.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

No report.

BUILDINGS

No report.

COMPUTERS

No report. This item will be eliminated from the monthly agenda.