

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 3, 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 **3rd day of February 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.

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 Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 20, 2022.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Public Hearing Notices were received from the Towns of Gardiner, Newburgh and Montgomery.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Andy Ghiorse stated he will be present for the Public Hearings in two weeks. He read the three laws and requested some clarification with Short Term Rentals regarding events and the stipulation with the owner occupancy requirement. Mr. Ghiorse also inquired about the Accessory Dwelling Units where one person has to own the dwelling. He inquired about multiple members of an LLC and the language stating the Planning Board is an Advisory Board. Supervisor Valk explained that the goal was for the owners to come forward and get a fire inspection. There was a brief discussion on procedures, complaints, and performance standards.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported the following:

Stein Road

He met with Town Engineer Denis Larios regarding Stein Road. A little progress has been made. They met with Dave Roehers to discuss options concerning the big rock. He is proposing to dynamite the big rock into small pieces so the Highway department can haul it away. Mr. Blazeski reported that there is a lot of material in the lower loop that needs to be removed. The map will be re-done. The issue with the bank needs to be addressed, it needs to be stabilized, which may require more boring. In previous testing, bedrock was hit at six to eight feet. It needs to be determined, and he may request for additional testing. Supervisor Valk inquired if and when Denis Larios will know what specific properties need to be acquired.

Cooper Road

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he and Engineer Dennis Larios conducted a site visit to Cooper Road. They are re-evaluating the project. Mr. Larios will map out the project and get pricing.

Vehicles

Mr. Blazeski advised that the newly purchased truck is running well. It will be going back to Freightliner for some work. The date for the warranty will be reset. He would like to purchase warranties for the engine and the wiring. Details of the warranties were discussed. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Miller to approve the purchase of the warranties.

VOTE: ALL AYE.**Grant**

Mr. Blazeski reported that he is pursuing information for a FEMA Grant for Ulsterville Road. Engineer Denis Larios will be gathering the details and submitting photographs.

284 Agreement

Mr. Blazeski reported that he is currently waiting on a meeting with Callahan. Additional time is needed prior to submitting a plan. Supervisor Valk advised that usually the 284 Agreement comes following the release of the Governor's budget, when the CHIPS funding is announced.

Surplus Equipment

Mr. Blazeski is compiling serial numbers for the surplus equipment that will be available.

General Discussion

Delbe Spath reported that the issue of Third Street still needs to be addressed. He advised that when the street was paved, the blacktop was raised which created a water problem. Jackie Muskulus and Pat Carluccio discussed the issues with the Stein Road project. Mr. Blazeski shared the information he had and will provide further details with them when he receives it.

POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief Gerry Marlatt reported that the shortage of workers nationwide has now hit the Police Department. He explained that the pool of police officers has shrunk and the town is starting to feel those affects. He reported that he recently learned that three part-time police officers gave notice that they are planning on leaving the department. One of those officers covers the detail at the school and that position will be hard to fill. Chief Marlatt advised that he will be meeting with the Police Committee to discuss options. He shared that the department recently was starting to feel relief. This news will create issues since there is no police academy to draw from. Supervisor Valk inquired if a full-time position would help. Chief Marlatt stated that it all comes down to dollars and cents and he will discuss options with the Police Committee.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**LIASION TO HIGHWAY**

No report.

LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

No report.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Valk reported that there was a sewer back up on Lavoletta Street that affected two residential homes. Serve Pro was called in to do the clean-up. The claim will be submitted to the Insurance Company.

PARKS

Councilman DeWitt reported that the ice-skating rinks at the Verkeerderkill and Popp Parks are open for skating. The holding tank will need to be pumped prior to the Curling Event at Popp Park.

SIDEWALKS/LIGHTING

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the recent sidewalk issue has been fixed. They were able to repair with cold patch.

RECREATION

Councilman DeWitt discussed the hiring of a Summer Recreation Director. He made a motion to hire Gillian Batchsingh for Summer Recreation at a rate of \$22.95 per hour. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

TRANSFER STATION

No report.