

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 2, 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 **2nd June 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Robert Miller was absent. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Planning Board Member Richard Barnhart, Building Inspector Robert Wallner, 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 May 19, 2022.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A Notice of Public Hearing from the Town of Wawarsing on 6/16/22, and a letter and Public Hearing Notice from the Town of Montgomery on 6/16/22 were received.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Supervisor Valk announced that any members of the audience who wish to address the Town Board with regard to the recent party/event held in the hamlet recently, to please hold off until Police Chief Marlatt arrives. Mr. Valk explained that the Chief will give a report on the event and discuss ideas and tools on how to correct this situation.

Local Business

Roseanne Stockhofer addressed the Town Board and stated that Wallkill needs more businesses. For example, a laundromat and a dollar store are needed. Transportation is needed; in the past there was transportation, and now nothing is offered. She feels this Town has gone downhill and is a disgrace. There is nothing offered to the residents, and they are the ones that pay taxes. In addition, she explained that the streets are dirty; there are ways that they should be cleaned up. The elderly need help with mowing and cleaning up. Ms. Stockhofer advised that she will come to every Town Board meeting to get the laws changed.

Councilman Amthor explained that the Economic Development Committee has been working on many things. He explained that there are projects going on behind the scenes. The Town Board has been working on zoning changes that promote business. One of the problems is our residents don't support businesses. The residents need to step up and support them. Another factor is that not all people are business people. Some of the projects in the process are a hardware store and the City Winery project. Ms. Stockhofer stated that the local residents won't support the winery, it will be too expensive. She questioned why people would want to come to Wallkill and there is nothing here. Councilman Amthor continued that there are other positive projects in the discussion stages, like the Blue-Chip project. Mr. Amthor continued to explain that our Town cannot be like New Paltz or Montgomery, we do not have interstate roads. There is a lot of positive action that is occurring, but it has to be the right type of business.

Councilman Danon questioned the reasons why businesses are not here. Supervisor Valk stated that his wife had a food establishment in the hamlet, there was not enough support to continue. He explained that we need more people in Town to support the local businesses.

Sally Ann Condello stated that we are similar to Gardiner, why can't we have what they have.

Councilman Danon advised that the hardware store, the wine store and the bike shop have all closed in Gardiner.

Supervisor Valk explained that the Town Board has been working on zoning changes that will hopefully attract businesses to Town.

Councilman Amthor stated that another contributing factor that has affected Main Street is the internet. A lot more people are doing business through Amazon; there is no loyalty, it's about convenience.

Councilman Danon further explained that the Economic Development Committee has been meeting and working on programs. He explained that the opening of the Mexican Restaurant has been delayed due to the supply chain. The Libolt project has been delayed due to the high cost of materials.

Supervisor Valk explained that the School Bus Company is located in Town and employs local people. They pay taxes and own several parcels.

Ms. Adrienne Perine stated that bringing arts to the community, will attract people to the area. The beauty of Shawangunk will build a following. Ms. Perine invited the Town Board to a meeting she is having on June 8th. She has invited local historians and painters who will focus on Marion Borden. Ms. Perine explained that an image needs to be built, and Marion Borden needs to be celebrated. She also advised that she is not in favor of a dollar store being located in Town. Another project that the Vision of Wallkill worked on is the dock at Popp Park, a positive thing for the waterfront. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Councilman Amthor stated that people will come if we have something unique and different.

Rosemary Burk explained that she has a small Air B&B which is very successful. We have the ridge, wedding venues, wineries, and those are some of the things that people want to come to the area for.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor' Report for May 2022 was received.