

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 18, 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 **18th July 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 Miller was excused. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Building Inspector Robert Wallner, and several members of the public. Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins arrived at 7:35 p.m.

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 held on July 14, 2022.

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

Councilman DeWitt stated that the draft minutes taken at the July 26, 2022 meeting at the Pine Bush Firehouse on the New Prospect Fire District seemed accurate. Supervisor Valk stated that because there were only two board members present from the Town of Shawangunk, the minutes were not official.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law #5 was opened by Supervisor Valk at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Valk explained that this law addresses miscellaneous provisions of the Zoning which require clarification or edits based upon practical application and issues found during the review process. Supervisor Valk opened up the Public Hearing for comments. Mr. Valk noted that a memo was received from the Town of Shawangunk Planning Board with comments on the proposed law. He also noted that comments were not received from the Ulster County Planning Board so the law would not be voted on tonight. See Public Hearing Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Town of Montgomery on Local Laws 4 & 5 on 7/20/22 and a Public Hearing Notice Amending the Performance & Buffering Local Law on 8/18/22, a petition received from the residents on Stein Road on 8/3/22, a letter from William Halpern on 8/3/22 regarding Short Term Rentals, letter from Ulster County Department of Environment on 8/8/22 regarding the EMC Chairman.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**Building Permit Refund Request**

Mr. Ben Quartarone addressed the Town Board and explained that he was requesting a refund again. Supervisor Valk explained that the Town Board had previously denied his request for a refund. Mr. Quartarone explained that his daughter put in a pool and woodstove. She does not know anything about permits. The Assessor came around and did an inspection, which she thought was the final by the Building Inspector. The building permit had expired. He stated that it was an honest mistake, she has since sold the house and moved. He feels since it was an innocent mistake, the \$175 fee should be refunded. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman DeWitt to refund the fee since there was a time during COVID that the Town did not have a building inspector. The motion was seconded by Councilman Danon.

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

Supervisor Valk advised Mr. Quartarone that it will take a couple of weeks for the refund to be sent.

Stein Road

Mrs. Jackie Muskulus inquired what was the next step now that the rock has been blasted and moved. Supervisor Valk advised that it needs to be determined how the road can be stabilized. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that ten to twelve borings were done and no bedrock was hit. He thinks the next step would be sheathing. Supervisor Valk stated they were hoping to hit bedrock and that he wants to get a recommendation from the Town Engineer on how to proceed. Following a discussion, Mr. Blazeski sees the next step as acquisition of property and sheathing. Councilman DeWitt stated that shoring will be necessary for any new road that is moved. Supervisor Valk stated that the recommendation from the Town Engineer is necessary. Mr. Valk agreed to contact Ms. Muskulus when he obtains further information.

Air B & B

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Oakes from Bert McCord Drive, expressed their concerns with an Air B & B that has been operating on Bert McCord Drive for the past three years. Specifically, there are unknown renters coming into the neighborhood constantly. He and others in the development have concerns for the safety of their children and inquired when the law will be in place for the operation to stop. Supervisor Valk advised that at this point, this use is not allowed. He further explained that all communities are dealing with these issues. At this point, the Town has ninety of these Air B & B's to deal with. The Town Board has been trying to come up with a law on how to deal with them. A Public Hearing was held, and only one person came out to voice their complaints. After that time, they have started to learn of the many problems. Mr. Valk stated that people deserve to know who is living in their neighborhood. He suggested that the Town Board needs to look at appropriate locations where they should be allowed. He thanked Mr. Oakes for his opinion and confirmed that the Town Board is working on it. Mrs. Malgorzat Oakes inquired how long this would take. She stated that they all have children in the