

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 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 **15th of September 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, Building Inspector Robert Wallner, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Zoning Board Member Ryan Reid 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 Miller and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 1, 2022.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Vision of Wallkill Committee

Pumpkin Smash

Julie Craner explained that she has been learning about various activities across the state in the D.E.C. newsletter. This year she is proposing to hold a "Pumpkin Smash" at the Town Transfer Station. Ms. Craner further explained that holding an event like this would promote the Transfer Station and encourage composting. The residents would bring their pumpkins to the Transfer Station and throw them at a target. The Vision of Wallkill and the Environmental Management Council would provide prizes.

Councilman Danon stated that he spoke to Ms. Craner about the idea and is in support of the event. He spoke to Steve at the Transfer Station to discuss the feasibility of holding the event. Mr. Danon explained that if the event were held on a Saturday when the Transfer Station was open, it would have to be limited to a time frame after the morning rush was over. The event could be held on a Sunday with no impact on any operations. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the event would be held on Sunday, November 6th at 2 p.m.

Halloween

Councilman DeWitt inquired what the plans were for Halloween this year. V.O.W. President Donna Barczak advised that there were several other events taking place this year. The PBA and Lions Club are holding an event at Popp Park, Ostrander is holding a Trunk or Treat, there is a Trunk or Treat in Walker

Valley and Wallkill Reformed Church is holding a Trunk or Treat. The committee reviewed the various plans and decided to join the church event and not hold one of their own this year.

Weekend of Walkkill

Catherine Hupzey introduced herself as a member of the Vision of Wallkill and the Vice President of Ostrander PTO. She inquired if it was acceptable for a local winery to be a vendor selling corked wine at the Weekend of Walkkill. Ms. Hupzey explained that there would not be any wine tasting. Following a discussion, Supervisor Valk agreed that he would inquire with the Town's Insurance Company. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Amthor to allow the sale of corked wine, provided the Insurance Company approved.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Shawangunk Democrats

Ms. Adrienne Perine advised the Town Board that the group did a litter pick up last Saturday along Route 52 in Walker Valley. Ms. Perine reported that on Monday morning it was discovered that there was mail thrown all over the sides of the road. The mail was picked up by a volunteer. The mail contained pornography and had unopened mail with the address of a prison. She is concerned that a bag of mail was dropped. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Police Chief will pursue the incident.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

The Supervisor's Report for August 2022 was received.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report for August 2022 for \$35,033.59 was received.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Supervisor Valk reported that he was working diligently on the budget with Highway Superintendent Blazeski. They have been discussing the reserve of CHIPS funding from last year and utilizing it to fix specific roads. Supervisor Valk advised that the Town Board has to decide how to use the Rescue funds. He also stated that the Town Board might have to override the tax cap. He reported that the fund balance has increased. Between \$20,000 to \$25,000 would be needed for the work on St. Elmo Road.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported the following:

Last year the ditching was done on St. Elmo Road. He estimates that it will need two coats with the total cost being \$125,000-130,000. He estimates \$40,000 is needed from the Fund Balance. Supervisor Valk polled the Town Board members inquiring if they were in support of this plan.

Superintendent Blazeski advised that Gorman backed out of the previous agreement to pave Hardenburgh Road this year. The entire road will be done next year. River Glen will be oil and chipped next year.

Supervisor Valk advised that he and Mr. Blazeski have sat down and discussed the status of various projects. The 284 Agreement will have to be amended. He recommends that the money be pulled from the fund balance for St. Elmo Road. Mr. Valk stated that he thinks its better to do the road than have the money sit in the bank. Supervisor Valk stated that \$20,000-25,000 is needed to complete St. Elmo Road this year. Mr. Valk explained that the Town Board needs to be supportive with the budget plans for next year. Councilman DeWitt voiced his concerns with the time frame and inquired if Mr. Blazeski has met with the residents about the work done in the past three months. Mr. Blazeski has not met with the residents yet and has concerns with the road width. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to amend the 284 Agreement as discussed.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he has an Inventory List that was put together in 2017. This information will be useful when the budget is being worked on. A plan was briefly discussed and the list was distributed to the Town Board members.

POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief Marlatt reported the following:

Staffing

Retirement letter submitted from Sergeant David Passineau, effective September 23, 2022. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to accept the resignation with regrets. **VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Resignation letter was submitted from Part-time Officer Michael Sink, effective September 25, 2022. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Amthor to accept the resignation of Officer Sink. **VOTE ALL AYE.**

Met with Police Committee and conducted interviews. Everyone was in agreement to hire Kevin Donahue. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Amthor to offer Kevin Donahue a position of Police Officer at the rate of pay in the contract. **VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Budget

The Police Budget Worksheet will be submitted tomorrow.