

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 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 of November 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Deputy Supervisor Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Building Inspector Robert Wallner, Zoning Board Member Ryan Reid, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Planning Board Member Rich Barnhart and several members of the public. Supervisor Valk was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Supervisor DeWitt 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 Amthor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and the minutes of the Public Hearing held on October 20, 2022.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Public Hearing notices from the Town of Montgomery for Local Law #7, Right to Farm Policy and Local Law #12, Regulation of Wellhead Protection were received on 10/21/22.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearings for the 2023 Preliminary Budget and the Tentative Special District Assessment Rolls were opened at 7:01 p.m. See Public Hearing Minutes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Signs

Adriene Gelfand-Perine addressed the Town Board. Ms. Gelfand-Perine stated that she participated in the Trunk or Treat at Verkeerderkill Park. She stated that the event was well organized and the crowd was very happy. She wanted to recognize the good work. On another note, Ms. Gelfand-Perine discussed the issue of political signs. She reported that Democratic signs in town have been vandalized and stolen. She presented photographs of the signs and locations where they are missing. Ms. Gelfand-Perine requested that the Town Board make a statement that this is not acceptable. Following a lengthy discussion Town Board members stated they do not condone this behavior.

Recycling

Andy Ghiorse discussed the wonderful Halloween events that took place in the Town. He noted that containers should be at these events so cans and bottles could be recycled and not thrown in the garbage. He discussed the need to educate the public. Councilman Danon stated that the Climate Smart Committee has requested the bins as well. He is following up on this.

Drainage District

Michelle Marion from the Rolling Hills Drainage District spoke to the Town Board about the two retention ponds that are part of her development and Drainage District. Specifically, she questioned the retention pond on River Road. Deputy Supervisor DeWitt explained that the area has not been mowed in a couple years. A bid went out and the contractor has started to cut down the mature trees and it will be back in order. There was a discussion on the purpose of the retention ponds and the drainage district. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that the catch basins were filled up and silted in. They now have been cleaned out, and ten feet of pipe has been added. Ms. Marion presented photographs of the map of her development. Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins noted that her house was built too high and dirt was dug and pushed up to her house. The purpose of the Drainage District Fund was discussed. Councilman Miller pointed out that there could be various reasons relating to stormwater that expenses would come from this fund. There was clarification on what expenses are related to a Drainage District and what would be the responsibility of the Highway Department.

Zoning

Richard Barnhart urged the Town Board to adopt Local Law #6 this evening. He noted that the Re-zoning Committee has worked hard on the text changes.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's Report for September 2022 was received.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report for September 2022, for \$28,778.82 was received.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

River Road

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the River Road project is finished. He explained that the project went smoothly and ahead of schedule. Mr. Blazeski said that there were many different entities involved and there are many people to thank; specifically, former Highway Superintendent Marty Hand, the Highway crew, the Ulster County Bridge crew and the public for their patience. He stated that the

highway crew tackled this project, they worked overtime throughout the night and dove in with whatever needed to be done. The replacement of the box culvert was long overdue.

Vehicles

After inquiring on the status of the truck that was ordered, he was able to find out that we are number five hundred in line.

Projects

He will be inquiring with Ulster County if they will be able to assist with shoring up Stein Road. A site visit with them is being scheduled.

The next project to tackle will be Cooper Road.

Discussed the on-going paving throughout the Town.

POLICE CHIEF

Halloween

Chief Marlatt reported that the PBA teamed up with the Lions Club and held a Halloween Party at Popp Park. He reported that it was a good family event. They also had the "Stuff-the-Bus" and all donated food was delivered to the Food Pantry. Chief Marlatt reported that the "Stuff-the-Bus" was also at the Trunk or Treat at Verkeerderkill Park. It was a tremendous turnout and supported by businesses and residents. He stated that trick or treating on Halloween nights had no problems; it was a great family night he is proud of.

Staffing

Resignation

Chief Marlatt submitted a letter of resignation from Officer John Mulrooney. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Miller to accept the resignation effective immediately.

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

Hiring

Chief Marlatt advised that he met with the Police Committee to conduct interviews for a replacement. He is recommending the Town Board hire Stephen Wrubel. Councilman Miller stated that he was impressed with Mr. Wrubel's experience and feels he would be a great addition to the department. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Amthor to hire Stephen Wrubel as a Part-time Police Officer.

Vehicles & Equipment

Chief Marlatt reported that he has picked up a few items from the Federal Program. Some of the items include a 1992 electric van, a Volvo flatbed truck, pallet jacks. Next week he will be acquiring a blow-up boat. Chief Marlatt advised that he has received no word on the new vehicle.