

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

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, Walkkill, NY on the **21st day of September 2023, 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 and Court Clerk/ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell. See Sign In Sheet.

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 Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 7, 2023.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Volunteer Fire & EMS Exemption**

Supervisor Valk explained that Assessor Curt Schoeberl sent a memo to the Town Board members regarding the time frame involved with opting in for this new law. Mr. Valk advised that he will ask the Town Attorney to put together the law for the town to adopt. He also noted that many other municipalities have adopted the law so it should move along quickly.

## **REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS**

### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

The Supervisor's Report for August 2023 was received.

### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's Report for August 2023 for \$33,888.47 was received.

### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Supervisor Valk advised that the Bucket Truck being purchased from Town of Crawford has been paid for and is ready to be picked up. He inquired if the highway crew would be willing to assist with putting up the veteran's banners in Walker Valley. Highway Superintendent Blazeski advised that the crew has not been trained yet. Councilman DeWitt advised that the Walker Valley Sportsman's Club purchased banners and has volunteers that will be putting them up.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported the following:

Sidewalk project in the hamlet is going well. There is a water issue at First and Lavoletta. The Town Engineer inspected the area last week and has approved a design change for a catch basin.

Paving is completed. Oil & Chip was done last week and went well.

There is an issue with dumpsters throughout the town that needs to be addressed. He met with Councilman DeWitt to discuss solutions. Mr. Blazeski explained the problem is when dumpsters are located on the sides of the roads, and not in driveways, the garbage trucks are breaking up the sides of the town roads. Supervisor Valk stated that if the dumpsters are not located on the resident's property, then there is a violation with access. Mr. Valk stated that he would have to inquire with the Town Attorney before proceeding with a solution.

A plan for the Stein Road project has been discussed with the Town Engineer and Supervisor Valk. The engineer came back with a quote and plan for borings. He has been tied up with other projects and will get back to this one. Acquiring land is still part of any of the solutions. The engineer has advised that this project is a prime candidate for a stabilization grant. Resident Jackie Muskulus explained that the sheets that were installed are now eroding more with all the rain. The road is caving in on the other side. She inquired how the erosion of the road can be stopped. Mr. Blazeski explained that the blocks need to be removed and relocated as a barrier. He explained a procedure for the underground erosion which will be addressed and continue during the weather.

Problems with Haessig Glen Road and Malloy Road are being worked on prior to moving back to Stein Road.

**POLICE CHIEF**

No report.

**LIASION TO HIGHWAY**

Discussed under Highway report.

**LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Supervisor Valk discussed a request by Police Chief Marlatt to recommend part-time Police Officer Daniel Montalto to a full-time position. Special legislation is needed for him to be eligible to take the civil service test. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to send this request to our state representatives.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**WATER & SEWER**

**Water Clarifier**

Supervisor Valk reported that the bids were opened for the replacement of the clarifier at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Town Engineer will review the bids so the award can be made at the next Town Board meeting on October 5, 2023.

**Pump Station Rehabilitation**

Supervisor Valk reported that the bid package for the rehabilitation of the Pump Station at the Sewer Plan has been prepared. The proposed bid opening date is set for October 26, 2023. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize going out to bid as proposed.

**VOTE: VOTE AYE.**

**Water Line**

Supervisor Valk reported that the new water line has been completed on First Street and the residents are all hooked up to it.

**PARKS**

Councilman DeWitt reported that the Lions Club have repaired the ceiling and soffit at Popp Park today.

Councilman DeWitt reported that the toilets at Galeville Park have been repaired. The pump at Galeville has been tampered with which turned the pump off and created the plumbing issues.

Councilman DeWitt reported that with the heavy rains there are washouts and dead trees that need to be addressed.

**SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**

Councilman Amthor advised that a resident has requested sidewalks in Walker Valley. Supervisor Valk advised that a Sidewalk District would need to be created.

Councilman Amthor thanked Highways Superintendent Blazeski for overseeing the sidewalk project currently being worked on.

Councilman Amthor explained that there are water issues on Third Street. He is recommending a new project that would extend the sidewalk's and address the drainage. Supervisor Valk advised that this project would need to be separate from the current one project and would need to go out for competitive bid.