

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 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 **19th day of October 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, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, County Legislator Ken Ronk, Zoning Board Clerk/Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, and attached 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 Amthor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 5, 2023.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

PUBLIC HEARING

LL #3 OVERRIDE OF TAX CAP LEVY

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:02 p.m. Supervisor Valk read the Public Notice for LL #3. He explained that this local law is necessary to override the tax levy limit of 2% for 2024. If the 2024 budget does not exceed the tax cap, then no action will be necessary.

No one spoke at the Public Hearing.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Stein Road

Mrs. Jackie Muskulus inquired if there was any progress on the borings and if they were done. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that he and the Town Engineer have met and discussed the project. Mr. Blazeski stated his opinion is to move forward and stick to the road stabilization plan they had originally discussed. In his estimation, the project would cost about \$50,000.00. He explained that the Town Board must decide if they want to do the borings at a cost of \$19,000+/- . He stated that if the Town were to apply for a mitigation grant, the full process would need to be followed.

Supervisor Valk inquired what the next step is. Mr. Blazeski explained that the Town Engineer is contacting Larry Marshall for a survey of the property that would need to be acquired. Supervisor Valk stated the Town Board would need to review the options and discuss at the next Town Board meeting.

Pine Bush Area Ambulance District

Mrs. April Greico inquired if there was an update on the Pine Bush Ambulance contract. Supervisor Valk explained that they have received a draft which will be reviewed in an Executive Session of the Town Board tonight. If there are any changes to be made, they will revise the contract and send out to the Ambulance Corp.

Property Violations

Mr. Peter Brawley spoke to the board about the condition of property located at 25 Oregon Trail. He inquired about a violation given to the property owner over a year ago. He questioned if it has been followed up on. Mr. Brawley submitted photographs of the property. Mr. Brawley also inquired about the Monastery on Oregon Trail. He inquired if they had building permits and if they have been renewed each year. Supervisor Valk advised that the Building Inspector went out to the property, and they do have a Building Permit. Mr. Brawley reported that they do construction during the night, he hears their heavy equipment running at 2:00 a.m. He inquired what was on the original plan, and how many structures were approved. Mr. Brawley stated that the property is a pigsty with piles of debris all over the place. He advised that he brought a shed to his property to store his house contents while doing construction. The very next morning, there was a building permit application in his mailbox. Mr. Brawley feels that someone is not doing their job in the Building Department. Supervisor Valk explained that there has been a turnover in the Building Department. He advised that the Town Board will be appointing a full time Building Inspector to the position tonight. Supervisor Valk advised that he will speak to the Building Inspector and have him contact Mr. Brawley directly.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported the following:

The two new single axle trucks are now registered.

Sidewalk project is complete. The catch basin at First & Lavoletta seems to be working as best it can. Additional work by Cottage Street is also resolved.

The drainage on the DeGroot subdivision is not working properly. Inspected today with Town Engineer. Supervisor Valk advised that there is a Maintenance Bond on file if needed.

The radius at Wildrick Road turn around is 63', not 65'

Significant savings are being realized with the shoulder work being done. They were able to crush 4500 tons of material.

Working on Sinsabaugh Road.

Will be sharing services with Town of Montgomery for work on Cooper Road. Some type of cover needs to be done prior to winter.

POLICE CHIEF

Chief Gerry Marlatt reported the following:

The new cruiser is in and being outfitted with radio updates and is being lettered.

Received notification from Department of Criminal Justice advising that the Police Department is in compliance. They passed the mandatory certification which will be in effect until 2026. This certification is necessary to have the ability to hire new officers.

Quotes were submitted to the Police Committee for medical bags.

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

Discussed under Highway report.

LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Discussed under Police Chief report.

WATER & SEWER

Water & Sewer Rates for 2024

Supervisor Valk distributed a fee schedule of proposed rates for 2024. The water residential rate will increase from \$18.00 for the first 5,000 gallons to \$20.00. The water commercial rate will increase from \$35.00 for the first 5,000 gallons to \$40.00, and from \$9.50 to \$10.00 for each additional 1,000 gallons. The sewer rates will not change. Following a discussion on the rate changes.

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Miller to adopt the new rates for 2024.

Rate schedule is attached to minutes.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Supervisor Valk advised that there have some billing issues with the new company that will be addressed.

Supervisor Valk advised that the Pump Station Rehabilitation Bids will be opened next Thursday.

PARKS

Verkeerderkill Park

Councilman DeWitt reported that there are a few washouts that need to be taken care of prior to the Halloween event. There are also a few trees that need to come down.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

Sidewalk Project

See report given by Highway Superintendent under Highway.