

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 2, 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, Wallkill, NY on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Present were Supervisor Valk, Councilman Amthor, Councilman Miller, Councilman DeWitt, Councilman Danon, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Building Inspector John Calaca, Highway Superintendent Rich Blazaski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, County Legislator Ken Ronk and attached sign in sheet..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tabled until next meeting

PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET 2024

Opened at 7:10pm Supervisor Valk explained the rise in the budget.

Adrienne Gefland-Perine asked why all the elected officials are getting raises when the budget is over the tax cap.

Supervisor Valk explained the reasons for giving raises to everyone.

PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Opened at 7:15pm Supervisor Valk explained the reason for the public hearing.

A resident asked about the retention ponds on the development in Ralph Brach Drive. Councilman Dewitt explained he told the mowing people to wait till the ground freezes because of all the rain. Councilman Danon explained why all the residents of the development have to stay in the district.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

**Pine Bush School Superintendent Brian Dunn**

Pine Bush School Superintendent Brian Dunn explained how the district is doing.

- The school is very strong
- Finances are good
- Closing the learning gaps since COVID
- Dress code is improved
- 94% graduation rate

Things he would like to improve

- Only 5% registered people vote would like to improve that to 10%
- Chronic absenteeism for seniors is 30%
- Strengthen communication

Adrienne Gelfand-Perine asked why the Town Board hired a person with pending criminal charges.

Supervisor Valk answered her question and Councilman Amthor also answered her question.

**Donna Barczak and Kathryn Hupczey from V. O. W.**

They reported that Holidays in The Hamlet will be Dec 2 from 3pm-7:30pm . They will have the Marketplace and Tree Lighting. They trying to improve the lighting, they are looking for a company to put the lights on the tree and the schools will participate. The Lions Club will be putting up the wreaths on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Grand Finale for the event is going to be fireworks. They would like to town to provide the insurance for the event.

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to provide the insurance for the event.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

**Mark Watkins, Chairman of Planning Board**

Mr. Watkins asked about growing cannibis in the Town of Shawangunk. Someone has an interest in purchasing property looking into a micro license to grow the product.

The Board had a discussion about this. Supervisor Valk reached out to the Association of Town for information regarding this subject.

**Peter Brawley – Violations**

Mr. Brawley asked if anything has been done about the Buddist in Walker Valley. Do have permits for the work they are doing. It is a big mess. Something should be done.He was told that someone would contact him but he has not heard from anyone.

The Building Inspector said 25 violations have been issued.

Mr. Brawley asked what if they don't clean it up?

The Building Inspector explained the process..

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS****HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

He recommended that we surplus

1. 2003 Ford F350 Truck
2. Stone Wolfpac 3100 Vibratory
3. 30sa 5X8 Trailer

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Amthor to surplus the equipment recommended by the Highway Superintendent.

VOTE – ALL