

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2024

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 4th day of January 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joseph LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe, Deputy Town Clerk Dale Weed. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Building Inspector John Calaca, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Member Richard Barnhart, Zoning Board Member Ryan Reid, Court & ZBA Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Highway & Planning Clerk, Maryann Longano. and several members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Ronk led the Town Board in a moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 21, 2023.

VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman Amthor, aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

Information was received from the Association of Towns regarding the Newly Elected Town Officials School in Rochester and Albany in January 2024.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Sparkle & Shine Awards

President Donna Barzcak, Sparkle & Shine Chairperson Larissa Burke, and Member Adrienne Perine, representing the Vision of Wallkill, gave an introduction of the holiday decorating program. Certificates were presented to the winners for various residential and business categories. Supervisor Ronk thanked the participants and the Vision of Wallkill Committee for sponsoring the contest.

Stein Road Project

Resident Jackie Muskulus inquired what the plan was for Stein Road in 2024. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that he was out to the site today with two town engineers and two representatives from the DEC. He further explained that the DEC verbally gave approval to allow the town to go into the stream and proceed with the work. Mr. Blazeski will be submitting a sketch to accompany the

application on file. He explained that part of the process is Wilkins Road, which got an Emergency Declaration to clean up the stream. The Town will be saving money by having the equipment for both projects.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR 2024

Supervisor Ronk presented a Resolution for the 2024 year. See attached Organizational Minutes.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Truck Purchases

Highway Superintendent Blazeski updated the status of the new tandem truck that was ordered last year. Delivery is on target; he would like to send two mechanics to inspect the work when it is completed. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to have two highway mechanics do the inspection.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Mr. Blazeski discussed a purchase plan for smaller trucks. He explained that he would like to go out to bid at this time because of the time frame to receive the trucks. He further explained that Trucks 18 & 19 do not warrant further investment of repairs, as they are just not worth it. The Repair Budget is already over trying to keep them in service. He feels the Town has to do a better job with equipment and get on a cycle of purchasing a truck each year. Supervisor Ronk agreed that a Capital Plan is needed. Mr. Blazeski will work on a priority list of equipment needed for the Highway Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero authorizing Highway Superintendent Blazeski to go out to bid for a Tandem Axle Truck.

VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman LoCicero, aye, Councilman Amthor, abstain, Supervisor Ronk, aye.

Best Value Policy

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he has contacted the Association of Towns and received copies of other municipalities of their "Best Value Policies". He explained that this could save the Town money. Supervisor Ronk advised that he has spoken to the Town Attorney who will be drafting a Best Value Policy for the Town.

Bridge NY Grants

Highway Superintendent Blazeski advised that the Town Engineer took a survey of bridges on St. Elmo Road, the Borden Dam culvert, and Bates and Jones Road. He reported that he learned that grants are awarded based upon heavy commercial traffic.

DEC Permits

Superintendent Blazeski reported that he has received DEC permits for the work on both Stein and Wilkins Road.

Work Schedule

Superintendent Blazeski reported that the highway crew has been preparing and are ready for the expected upcoming snow.

POLICE CHIEF**Street Lights**

Police Chief Marlatt distributed an updated list of Street Lights. He explained that officers looked at #106 street lights. There were #11 lights out, he removed #5 lights from the list as they could not be located. Chief Marlatt inquired how often the Town Board would like to lights to be checked. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed upon quarterly checks and reports.

Vehicles

Chief Marlatt advised that the estimate he submitted to the Town Board for the 2024 vehicle was based on the newly purchased vehicle at \$64,332. That was a total price for set up and the warranty. There is a price difference of \$375.88. There was a discussion on ordering a new vehicle. Chief Marlatt explained that there is no information on 2024 models, they may not be made at all and move to producing the 2025 models. He is proposing to purchase a 2023 model, which are in stock. This vehicle would replace Unit 585. The cost to wrap the vehicle is an additional \$1700. Councilman DeWitt stated that the sale of surplus equipment will make up the additional cost. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the purchase order for the new vehicle.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

Computers

Chief Marlatt reported that a company gave a demonstration on upgrading the vehicle computers. There are #4 units that need upgrading which was included in his 2024 budget. He has applied for a grant for the additional units. He added that the cost of the upgrading includes a warranty. Officer Spinato explained that if a three-year lease agreement was agreed to it would include all expenses associated with the computers. Supervisor Ronk advised that Ulster County is upgrading and he will inquire if the upgrade will be compatible. Chief Marlatt advised that this program will far exceed what the county uses. Mr. Ronk will provide the Town Board members with literature prior to approving the purchase.