

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 25, 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 **25th day of January 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Joseph LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Sgt. John Spinato, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, Court & ZBA Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, and several members of the public. Councilman Amthor was absent.

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 Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 4, 2024, and the Organizational Minutes held on January 4, 2024.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Information was received from the Association of Towns regarding the Annual Conference in New York City. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to appoint Supervisor Ronk as the delegate.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Millennium Strategies

Mr. David Jenkins, Director of Operations, spoke to the Town Board about the proposal Millennium Strategies is making to the Town of Shawangunk for grant consulting services. Mr. Jenkins explained that the company has considerable experience identifying and securing grant funding for municipalities. The company was founded in 2005 and currently represents over one hundred and sixty municipalities, counties and school districts, as well as non-profits, located throughout New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio. They have been successful in securing over \$2 billion for their clients. Mr. Jenkins reviewed the scope of services the company would provide. The retainer fee is \$3,300.00 per

month which includes all expenses associated with service to the town. The contract also includes for a mutual 30-day opt-out. Following a discussion and question and answer period, Supervisor Ronk advised that there is money that was approved last year in the budget for grant writing. He stated that the Town Board can approve at next week's meeting if they decide to accept the proposal. Mr. Jenkins stated that he will be the Director of the Account and will have four research people on staff to work with the Town.

US Naval Sea Cadet Corps

LTJG Commanding Officer Jocelyn Fink introduced herself, colleagues and several Sea Cadets to the Town Board. Officer Fink explained the program which accepts students from the age of 10 years old to graduating high school students. She explained that the unit was established over fifteen years ago and is federally funded. The training is based upon Navy teaching. They meet and drill once a month and are requesting the use of the Community Room. Several of the Sea Cadets spoke of their experiences. Following a discussion, it was agreed by the Town Board that the group is welcome to use the Community Room. Officer Fink will contact the Town Clerk to get the dates on the calendar.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Stein Road

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the DEC permits have been received. They are ready to go ahead with the project. They have received verbal agreements from the landowners.

Truck Purchase

Highway Superintendent Blazeski discussed the specifications for the truck and hot box that he submitted to the Town Board members. He is requesting permission to go out to bid for the truck and the Hot Box. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to put the Truck and Hot Box out to bid.

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

Drainage Issue

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that there is a drainage issue at 59 River Glen Road. This is an approved subdivision from 1987. Although there is a proposed drainage easement on the maps, there is no drainage district agreement on file. Mr. Blazeski stated the Supervisor Ronk, Attorney Hoyt, and he went to the site today. There was a discussion with what options are available to resolve the drainage issue. It was agreed that he will review options with the Town Attorney and present them to the homeowner.

Job Opening

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the job was posted on Facebook and he has received some applications.

POLICE CHIEF**Vehicles**

Sgt. Spinato, representing Chief Marlatt discussed the new patrol car that was ordered. He reported that there is a different light bar from the original purchase order.

Computers

Sgt. Spinato previously discussed the purchase or lease of Patrol PC. He reported that there is a three-year warranty for four tablets. The quote included to uninstall the old equipment and install the new. The price difference is \$6,000.00 from the original estimate. Sgt. Spinato reported that Neilson Ford will do the install on Car 584. Councilman LoCicero reported that he spoke to Chief Marlatt and agrees that this type is the most versatile to streamline the work for the officers. He is in favor of the purchase. Supervisor Ronk explained that the units can go from mobile units to the desktops. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to proceed with the purchase as quoted.

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

There was a further discussion on a Tech Grant for non-budgeted items. The grant comes as a lump sum. Four units were budgeted for but the goal is to get all the cars equipped the same.

TOWN LIASION REPORTS**LIASION TO HIGHWAY**