

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 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 **15th day of February 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. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Planning Board Member Rich Barnhart, Court Clerk & ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell, 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 in memory of Butch Freer, and the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 1, 2024, and the Special Meeting held on February 7, 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Local Law #1 – Authorizing Best Value Purchasing

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Ronk. There were no comments or questions from the audience. See Public Hearing minutes.

Local Law #2 – Partial Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Service Workers.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:06 p.m. by Supervisor Ronk. Mr. Jim Tremper, representing Walker Valley Fire Company thanked the Town Board for considering this tax exemption. See Public Hearing minutes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one was present to address the Town Board.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Projects

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the Stein Road project is underway. The stream work portion of the project is completed. The Engineer has advised to halt work while a surveyor was called.

The drainage issue on River Glen Road will be fixed by the Town.

Truck Purchase

Highway Superintendent Blazeski distributed handouts with quotes for an F350 pick-up truck with a plow. Mr. Blazeski explained that he would like to purchase this truck, give his truck to the foreman and rotate the trucks in a cycle that will retain resale value. Following a discussion Supervisor Ronk requested that Mr. Blazeski come back at the next meeting with specifics on pricing.

Employees

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he and Councilman DeWitt interviewed several candidates for the vacant HEM position. They are recommending that Matthew Hansen be hired for the position. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to hire Matthew Hansen with a start date of February 26, 2024.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski requested consideration of finding a Planning Board Secretary to take the weight off of the current Highway Clerk.

Grants

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he met with Millennium Strategies and discussed various projects suitable for grants.

POLICE CHIEF

No report.

TOWN LIASION REPORTS

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

Discussed under Highway Superintendent.

LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY**Road Patrol**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received positive feedback about recent police officer enforcement. Mr. Ronk explained that this enforcement reduces the number of complaints the Town Board gets and in addition keeps the public safe. Chief Marlatt advised the goal is to educate the public. Supervisor Ronk requested additional coverage on Strawridge and Reservoir Roads. Chief Marlatt stated he has asked the officers to patrol these roads along with Oregon Trail and others. He explained that with having fifty-eight miles of roads in our town becomes a challenge to cover all roads.

Public Safety Committee Appointments

Supervisor Ronk advised that at the next Town Board meeting on March 7th, he would like to start appointing this committee which will consist of fire, police and ambulance.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk reported that work for both the Clarifier project and the Pump Station Rehabilitation project will start in June.

PARKS

Councilman Danon reported that he has meetings scheduled with three playground equipment companies. Following those meetings, he will put together an order for the parks.

Supervisor Ronk reported that there was some vandalism at Garrison Park recently. A resident had reported the damage, and he was able to go over and clean it up. Councilman Danon encouraged residents to advise the Town Hall of any damage in the parks, that way it can be handled quickly.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**Drainage Issue**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Councilman Amthor brought forward a drainage issue on Third Street. He explained that the sidewalk is at grade with the roadway. At that time, Councilman Amthor had met with an engineer to discuss a catch basin as a possible solution.

Holiday Wreaths/Utility Poles

Supervisor Ronk thanked Vision of Wallkill President, Donna Barzcak, for taking an inventory of the utility poles where the sensors are not working. Central Hudson will be contacted to replace them.

RECREATION