

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 21, 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 **21st day of March 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, ZBA Member Ryan Reid, 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 and the pledge to the flag.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 7, 2024.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on March 15, 2024.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he received a notice from the Orange County Department of Public Works today, advising that the Bruyn Turnpike/Walkill Avenue Bridge will be closed for approximately twenty-one days starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Dick Parker Award**

Supervisor Ronk explained that this award is given out quarterly each year. Councilman Amthor further explained that the Town Board grants this award to residents who go above and beyond for their

community. This award is the first one that this Town Board will be granting and the decision was unanimous. Supervisor Ronk announced that this quarterly award will be presented to a dedicated and loyal town employee, Steve Schelin. Mr. Schelin was present to accept the award. Mr. Ronk shared a story about one of the many acts of kindness Steve does for our residents. Photographs were taken with the Town Board presenting the plaque.

**Wallkill Lions Club**

Mr. Dave LaSpada, President of the Lions Club approached the Town Board and explained that many of the Lions Club members were present tonight to present a proposal to the Town Board that would change recreational opportunities to the residents. Mr. LaSpada explained that it has been challenging with the recent weather patterns to maintain the Ice Rink at Popp Park. He further explained that it requires a lot of time and expense in building the Ice Rink. This year, it was only utilized for three days. It is evident that they can't rely on mother nature any longer. The Lions Club would like to install an Ice Rink Kit that would guarantee ice from November to March each year. Mr. LaSpada stated that it could be used for many events and have open skating each night. They have researched a portable ice unit system which would be about the same size as the current rink, 48X80. The kit is pre-engineered and without installation comes at a cost of \$110,000.00. Mr. LaSpada stated that the Lions Club would mutually share the expense with the Town and inquired if the Town Board would assist with searching for grant money to help with the financing.

There was a lengthy discussion on the details of the kit and the location of where the components could be placed. Mr. LaSpada explained that the electric would need to be upgraded and concrete 12X12 pads would need to be poured for the chiller units. They would also like to add gutters to the pavilion and level up the floor. If the Town could find a Parks & Recreation Grant, they would match the funding and donate the equipment to the Town. Supervisor Ronk explained that he is looking into the details of investing and owning the equipment with the Town Attorney. Councilman Danon stated that he thinks it would be a great addition. He and his family were able to take advantage of the three days of skating this year. He feels this is a great family service and Popp Park is a good spot. Councilman LoCicero suggested that perhaps Millenium Strategies can assist with researching grant opportunities that the Town can apply for. Councilman DeWitt discussed various options to prevent vandalism to the equipment and offered options for the storage of the equipment when not in use.

Supervisor Ronk inquired if the Town Board Members were in favor of moving forward and are they willing to find the grant money to finance the project. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero in moving forward of locating grant money for this project.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Supervisor Ronk advised that he will meet with the grant writer to discuss the possibilities of applying for a grant.

Mr. Sal Patella addressed the storage issue and stated that the best plan would be on-site storage. Councilman LoCicero agreed that the equipment needs to be protected and the best solution would be on-site storage of some type. The Town Board thanked the members of the Lions Club for attending the meeting tonight and all the work they do for the community.

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS**

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

The February 2024 Supervisor's Report was received.

**TOWN CLERK REPORT**

The February 2024 Town Clerk Report for \$20,108.90 was received.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported the following:

**Stein Road**

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the Stein Road project has made progress this week. They had a crane and belt conveyor truck on site. This equipment was able to place 220 tons of stone instead of dropping the stone in place. Mr. Blazeski will meet with Ulster County Soil & Water next Monday to discuss stabilization ideas at the site. The next step of the project that the engineer has to start is the property acquiring that is necessary.

**Material**

The millings from the cold paving that the department salvaged has passed inspection, and both piles totaling 350 tons of millings can be used for paving.

**284 Agreement**

The 284 Agreement is getting closer to completion, a few more quotes are needed. The crack sealing and hamlet streets will be continued. Roads like Ralph Brach Drive and Mulford Drive will be resurfaced. Roads like Upper Mountain, Denniston, Pirog and others will be oiled & chipped. CHIPS funding is rumored to be reduced by 20% this year.

**Bridge Closures**

Red Mills Bridge will be closing for work, starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. Galeville Bridge will also be closing at some point this year. Supervisor Ronk noted that he has not been notified of a time frame for Galeville but will publish when he is.

**Superintendent Highway Training**

Would like to attend this year, it is unknown if he can attend the entire time as he may have a conflict.

**Paver Bid**

Received one bid on the paver.