

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 20, 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 **20th day of June 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Joseph LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Amthor was absent. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Sergeant John Spinato, 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 Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 6, 2024.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Park Avenue

Mrs. Joan Kirschen introduced herself and requested that the pot holes and sunken area around the entranceway to the library parking lot be filled in. She explained that people who use the Library and the Rail Trail, park along Park Avenue and the potholes are deep. Supervisor Ronk will speak to the Highway Superintendent and request they bring in some millings and fill in these areas.

Strawridge Road

Mr. Phillip Kirschen introduced himself and explained that they have lived in the Town since 1971. They love the community and have concerns with the condition of Strawridge Road on the upper end, where they live. Erosion and potholes have made the road dangerous to drive on and unsafe for school buses. Mr. Kirschen stated that it has been many years since the road has been paved. Mr. Kirschen stated that

they pay taxes and request that the road be worked on. Supervisor Ronk explained that it is not a lack of desire to repave the road. He discussed funding obstacles and explained the CHIPS Funding. Mr. Kirschen inquired if the Town receives any federal funds for highway purposes. Mr. Ronk stated he does not know when and if they will be received. Councilman LoCicero explained that the main issues to be resolved are drainage and the best solution to direct the water. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that this Town Board is not responsible for the condition of the roads. The roads have not been maintained for far too long. Mr. Blazeski explained that the CHIPS Funding the Town received over the years was intended to be matched, and it never was. Supervisor Ronk explained that it is not likely that Strawridge Road will be repaved this year but it is on the radar of the Highway Superintendent.

Live Stream Meetings

Mr. Andy Ghiorse noted that upgrading of computers was on the agenda. He inquired if the Town Board has considered posting the meetings on line. Mr. Ghiorse stated that people may like to listen to the audio or live stream instead of having to come out in person. Supervisor Ronk agreed that once the technology in the building is upgraded, he would like to do that.

C.E. Penny Drive

Mr. James Street from 114 CE Penny Drive introduced himself. He thanked Supervisor Ronk and Highway Superintendent Blazeski for coming to his home and checking out the safety problem with the way the traffic handles the corner in front of his house. Mr. Street also thanked the Police Chief for sending officers over. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that the solution is to place reflective directional signs around the corner. He further explained that the placement of the signs may not be attractive, but necessary to be effective. Mr. Street stated that he understands that but safety of his children and property is the priority.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported the following:

Thanked the Town Board for their cooperation which has allowed for two machines to be working on both ends of town at the same time. Presently they are ditching and mowing Birch Road and Upper Mountain Road.

The new mower attachment on the excavator was used and worked out well.

Mulford and Ralph Brach Drive have been micro-paved. Mr. Blazeski explained that this is the first time using this process. There were a few issues that needed to be addressed. Materials were stored at Popp Park so there was less trucking time involved.

POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief Marlatt had nothing to report.

Traffic Car

Supervisor Ronk inquired about additional scheduling of staff for the Traffic Car for traffic enforcement. Mr. Ronk recognized Officer Rafferty and Office Reynolds for the professional job they have been doing

with traffic enforcement. Chief Marlatt advised that he has scheduled four days a week in July. He has areas of concern that will be covered.

Schedule

Councilman LoCicero directed the Chief submit a schedule of when he is at the Police Station. Mr. LoCicero explained he and others would like to know when the Chief is available. Chief Marlatt agreed to submit a schedule that would be fluid depending on activity.

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

Resignation Letter

Supervisor Ronk discussed a resignation letter submitted by Phil Jamison. The letter states that his resignation will be effective on June 29, 2024. A motion by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to accept the resignation of Mr. Jamison.

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

Supervisor Ronk explained that this resignation was due to a break in service and is expected to return to work on July 14, 2024. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to re-hire Mr. Jamison on that date.

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

Truck Financing

Supervisor Ronk discussed the BAN for the truck purchased last year and is due on July 26, 2024. Mr. Ronk advised that he will do some research so the Town Board can make a decision to renew the BAN with hopes that interest rates come down. The amount of the BAN from last year is \$13,000.06. A decision for the new tandem truck will need to be made. The cost of the truck is \$290,000.00. He will get the rates from several banks with the goal for lower payments and present the information to the Town Board Members.

LIASION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Covered under Police Chief.

WATER & SEWER

Supervisor Ronk reported that the repair of the River Road Pump Station is complete and up and running. H2O did the repair at a cost of \$21,000.00. Mr. Ronk advised that the Clarifier Project is moving along; there are some additional parts needed.