

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 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, Walkkill, NY on the **3rd day of October 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk & ZBA Secretary Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Member Rich Barnhart, Highway 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 Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 19, 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on September 19, 2024.

VOTE: ALL AYE.

CORRESPONDENCE

Public Hearing Notice

Supervisor Ronk acknowledged a Public Hearing Notice received on September 18, 2024, from the Town of Newburgh related to Cannabis Uses.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Walkkill Lions Club

Sal Patella and Dave LaSpada, representing the Wallkill Lions Club, announced that the Lions Club is partnering with the PBA to hold a Halloween Event at Popp Park on Friday, October 25th.

Sal Patella and Dave LaSpada advised the Town Board Members that the group is moving forward with purchasing the seasonal ice-skating rink previously discussed. Mr. Patella reported that they have received letters of support which include school activities. They are working on three grants and possible funding streams. Quotes were submitted for three items they were hoping the Town could contribute. One proposal would include site work at the park, including a storage shed, fencing, and audio system in the existing pavilion. Mr. LaSpada advised that Watchtower Farms will offer support. They are expecting two smaller grants, one is a matching grant for \$2,500.00-5,000.00, and the other is a 50% matching grant with an unknown amount at this point. They have started a public fundraising campaign and estimate that with these sources they are at the half-way point to pay for the project. The cost of the kit is \$120,000.00. With the work stated, they would be closer to the goal. Supervisor Ronk inquired if any of the items would qualify for any of the matching grants. The issue of leveling the concrete pad, and the sound system were discussed. Mr. Patella explained that the sound system could be used all year for various activities. Councilman Amthor inquired if they would be continuing this winter as they have in the past. Mr. Patella said they would be continuing as they always have. Mr. LaSpada advised that they will not hear about the grant until March or April. Councilman DeWitt inquired if there was a priority with the items requested. Mr. LaSpada advised that the shed is crucial. Supervisor Ronk stated that some of the items may have to be phased in. Mr. Patella advised that Watchtower is willing to assist, after the funding has been secured. Councilman Danon stated he completely supports the project. Councilman DeWitt stated that the Town Board will have to look at the budget and discuss further. Supervisor Ronk stated that the Town Board will continue to discuss and work on the funding requests.

Assemblyman Brian Maher

Assemblyman Maher was introduced by Supervisor Ronk. He stated that it was an honor to be present tonight to make a special announcement. Assemblyman Maher explained that he represents twenty towns in four counties. Members receive a small amount of funding for capital improvement projects. He was able to obtain \$50,000.00 for a handicap boat launch at Popp Park and \$25,000.00 towards the ice rink discussed previously. Assemblyman Maher also pledged to help maximize funding through other non-profits and would like to be a part of those conversations. Assemblyman Maher presented a check to the Town for \$75,000.00.

Supervisor Ronk thanked Assemblyman Maher on behalf of the Town of Shawangunk taxpayers. He further explained that the boat launch was a dream of many organizations. He thanked Mr. Maher for his assistance and generosity in bringing back funds to our residents. Supervisor Ronk will continue to work with Assemblyman Maher on these projects.

Pavement Management Group

Supervisor Ronk introduced Mr. Howard Mills Vice President of Pavement Management Group. Mr. Ronk explained that Mr. Mills formally represented Shawangunk in the NYS Assembly and was the

former Superintendent of the NYS Insurance Board. Mr. Mills explained how he invested in the company which empowers municipalities to maximize road investments with technology and data. He advised that the Town of Montgomery is utilizing the plan and named many other municipalities who have signed on with the company. Mr. Mills showed an overview of the program. He explained that the process would take one hundred twenty days to analyze the ninety-two miles of roads the Town of Shawangunk has. The cost for the program is \$250.00 per mile, with a total cost of \$27,500.00. Mr. Mills further explained that the company remains engaged with the municipality by updating data. There is a \$500.00 charge every other year for that update. Mr. Mills answered questions from the audience regarding federal grant funding, projections and prices. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that having this information will be advantageous when the Town applies for funding. Supervisor Ronk stated the Town can keep applying for funding when grant opportunities become available. Mr. Mills clarified that the \$27,500.00 fee is not a one-time fee but a charge every two years.

Shawangunk Democrats

Adrienne Gelfand-Perine, representing the Shawangunk Dems, addressed the Town Board and read a letter regarding the disappearance of political signs from private property. It was agreed that the courts have ruled that political signs are a freedom of speech, and everyone is in agreement that theft of all signs from private property is a crime and should not be tolerated.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Roads

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported that the planned pavement jobs on Upper Mountain Road, Riverside Drive, Birch Road and Denniston Road are finished, or just about to be completed.

POLICE CHIEF

No report.

LIASION TO HIGHWAY

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

One-Way Street/Main Street

Supervisor Ronk referred to a letter from New York State Department of Transportation dated September 23, 2024. The letter advises that the state has no jurisdiction, the Town should contact Ulster County for their input. It was also advised that a local law must be passed and filed with the Department of State. Supervisor Ronk advised that he spoke to the Town Attorney who is researching if