

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 16, 2025

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 **16th day of January 2025 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Alex Danon and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman DeWitt was absent. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Member Ryan Reid, Sergeant John Spinato, 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 Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 2, 2025.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on January 2, 2025.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT

The Supervisor's Report for December 2024 was received.

TOWN CLERK MONTHLY REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report for December 2024 for \$19,555.58 was received.

BUILDING INSPECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

The Building Inspector's Report for December 2024 was received. Also provided was a year-to-date comparison from 2023 to 2024.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported that Pavement Management Group has completed videos of each town road. Inspections will be completed by January 24, 2025. The report is expected to be finalized by that date.

Mr. Blazeski distributed quotes for the purchase of a Case 590 backhoe, Tractor and Mower. Supervisor Ronk explained that these items were budgeted for in the Equipment Budget for 2025. Mr. Blazeski explained that the Backhoe is available at this time, but the mower will take three months before delivery. The quotes were reviewed and discussed. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and second by Councilman Amthor authorizing the Highway Superintendent to order the Case 590 Backhoe from Hoffman Equipment.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero authorizing the Highway Superintendent to order the Tractor/Mower at this time.

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

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Marlatt distributed copies of the December Monthly Police Department Report. The report was discussed and explained.

Chief Marlatt reported that Ulster County offers free Supervisor classes that both Sergeants will be attending at the end of January, February and March. The classes are held in Kingston.

Officer McDermott has been coordinating Multi-Jurisdictional Training with the Ulster County Sheriff's Office and Town of Plattekill. The training will take place at the Wallkill High School on February 22nd and March 1, 2025. He is waiting final approval from the Sheriff.

Officer Wolpert has expressed an interest in attending SRO Training, which is scheduled for March 3-7th, 2025.

Chief Marlatt met with the Police Committee to discuss the Tech Grant the Town received. They discussed options and priorities and decided to purchase radar units. These units will be set up in all cars.

Five new tasers have been ordered.

Three out of nineteen officers are trained in Breathalyzer Testing. He will be setting up training for additional officers to get certified.

Submitted letters to the Supervisor from various community groups and members for actions by members of the department.

Dog Control Officer Report was received with all positive remarks.

Chief Marlatt requested going into Executive Session to discuss a personal matter.

HIGHWAY

Councilman LoCicero reported that the signs for the One-Way Street have arrived. Mr. Blazeski will follow up on the installation. Supervisor Ronk will coordinate with Ulster County for the scheduling of the large electronic message sign which will advise residents and vehicles of the new directional pattern.

PUBLIC SAFETY

No report.

WATER & SEWER

Water Lead Service Inventory

Supervisor Ronk discussed the marketing materials provided by Delaware Engineering for the Water District Notifications regarding the Lead Service Inventory. This information will be publicized on the Town Web-site. Following a discussion on the materials, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize the Supervisor to approve the materials provided.

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

Sewer South Project

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Hall Annex is being cleared out to make room for the equipment that will be brought in for the Sewer South project.

Supervisor Ronk explained that he has received the contract with Green Meadows which needs to be signed. Following a discussion on the contract, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract for the Sewer South project.

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

PARKS

Councilman Danon reported that vandalism to the ice rink at Verkeerderkill Park was reported.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the weather looks promising for the upcoming Curling Tournament.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

Supervisor Ronk reported that he and Councilman Amthor will be touring the sidewalk district tomorrow. They will identify sidewalks that are in need of repair.

RECREATION

No report.

RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION

No report.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Ronk advised that there will be an Executive Session held at the end of the meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues and a personnel matter.

Supervisor Ronk reported that Judge Voss has requested hiring a part-time court clerk to replace retiring clerk Nancy Glassen. Judge Voss is recommending Risa Siper for the position. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman Danon to hire Ms. Siper at the rate of \$21.50 per hour with a start on January 27, 2025.

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

BUILDINGS

Supervisor Ronk will contact the electrician to repair the light out that is not working in the holding cell at Town Hall.

Councilman Danon suggested acquiring prices to the cleaning of Town Hall. He suggested getting input from the employees who work in the building for the particulars. Supervisor Ronk agreed to put out an RFP for the services.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk reported that he will be purchasing web cameras for the departments that are in need. The price for new monitors at this time was \$150.00 versus \$30.00 per camera.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING

No report.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS**Snow Plowing & Shoveling**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Councilman DeWitt contacted the company that contracts with the Town for the lawn mowing. They would be interested in providing their services for the plowing and shoveling at Town Hall, Garrison Park, Popp Park, Stewart Crowell Bridge, (including the sidewalks) for \$2,000.00 for the remainder of the winter. Following a discussion about the areas that need to be addressed, it was agreed to add Town Hall Annex and the Police Department areas to the list. It was also agreed that Town Hall and the Police Department must be plowed and shoveled prior to opening time, and the other areas within twenty-four hours. Supervisor Ronk will follow up with negotiating a price of up to \$2,500.00 for all areas discussed. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to hire King Hill Farm for these services for the remainder of the 2025 winter season.

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

Short Term Rental Law

Supervisor Ronk and the Town Board members reviewed and discussed the sections of Introductory Local Law 4. The number of bedrooms, fines, neighbor notification, renewals, number of licenses, and inspections were all debated. Supervisor Ronk will update the changes that were discussed and present prior to the next Town Board meeting.

Food Trucks

Supervisor Ronk reported that there has been no decisions for food truck regulations. He advised that this needs to be addressed soon.

NEW BUSINES**Town Contracts**

Walden Humane Society

Supervisor Ronk explained that he is seeking authorization from the Town Board prior to signing the yearly contract. The contract has a built in thirty-day termination clause. There was a discussion on kennel options for after hours. It was agreed to research options that may be available, possibly sharing with another town. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to sign this year’s contract and continue to research kennel options.

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

Supervisor Ronk presented the 2025 contracts that were approved in the 2025 budget. The following contracts were reviewed:

Walker Valley Seniors, Wallkill Senior Citizens, Historical Society of Gardiner & Shawangunk, Walker Valley Chemical Engine Company, Wallkill Volunteer Ambulance, and Pine Bush Ambulance Corps.

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the 2025 contracts.

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

DeGroot Drive

Supervisor Ronk explained that the deed to the new town road off of St. Elmo Road is ready to be filed. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to authorize the Supervisor to sign the deed for DeGroot Drive.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

ACCOUNT	WARRANT	VOUCHERS	AMOUNT
GENERAL	2	13-56	\$ 144,780.38
HIGHWAY	2	4-17	\$ 116,345.66
WATER	2	3-7	\$ 137,232.68
SEWER	2	3-14	\$ 43,867.56
TRUST & AGENCY	1	1-4	\$ 1,923.70

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon that the claims be paid as audited.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining and a Personnel issue.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to enter back into the Regular Meeting.

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

The Executive Session started at 8:18 p.m. and ended at 8:42 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk