

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 20, 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 **20th day of February 2025 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Members Rich Barnhart and Ryan Reid, Sergeant John Spinato, and several members of the public. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.

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 February 6, 2025.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

A Public Hearing for Local Law #1-25 Volunteer Property Tax Exemption Extension, was opened at 7:05 p.m. See Public Hearing Minutes.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A Notice of Public Hearing from the Town of Montgomery on battery storage systems was received. The Public Hearing is scheduled for February 19, 2025.

Supervisor Ronk reported that a letter was received from Valley Farms advising they are not filing for exemptions and will be paying full taxes on their land in Shawangunk. Mr. Ronk explained that he and Assessor Curt Schoeberl sent a thank you letter.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Food Trucks**

Mr. Jose Rodriguez spoke to the Town Board about placing and operating a food truck at the intersection of Route 52 and John's Estate Road. He explained that the property is owned by the Village Drop Shop. The owner had an electric pole placed there. His operation is similar to a food truck on Route 209 and another side road. The entrance and exit will be on John's Estate Road. Mr. Rodriguez explained that he spoke to the Planning Board Chairman who referred him to the Town Board. There is no provision in the zoning for food trucks. Supervisor Ronk explained that if something is not listed in the zoning, it is not allowable. Mr. Ronk reported that he has been researching regulations for food trucks. Councilman LoCicero stated that he is pro-business and inquired when Mr. Rodriguez was interested in starting the business. Following a discussion on the review and passage of regulations for food trucks, it was agreed to allow the food truck under the Peddlers Law that the Town currently has. It was explained to Mr. Rodriguez that when the Town Board passes regulations, he will be subjected to them. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to issue a Peddlers Permit until specific food truck regulations are passed.

**Snow Removal**

Mr. Delbe Spath discussed the need for improved snow removal around the Town Hall and sidewalks. Supervisor Ronk explained that the Town contracted with a local company and issues are in the process of being resolved. Mr. Ronk also shared that the Town Snow Parking Law also needs to be updated.

**REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS****HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT****Materials**

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski updated the Town Board on the salt situation. They are low and are currently mixing sand and salt to get the job done.

**Pavement Management Group**

Superintendent Blazeski reported that the study by Pavement Management Group is complete, and he expects to get the report tomorrow.

**Highway Complex**

Superintendent Blazeski distributed three quotes from Pest Control Companies. The bids were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the quote from Ehrlich Pest Control for a total fee of \$1,649.36.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

**POLICE CHIEF REPORT****Monthly Report**

Chief Gerry Marlatt distributed copies of the January 2025 Monthly Report.

**Ulster County Cert Team**

Chief Marlatt reported that Sergeant Reynolds tried out for the team and passed.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT**

The January 2025 Monthly Report by the Building Inspector was received.

**HIGHWAY**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received a letter from Mr. McMann requesting one week of comp time. Mr. Ronk explained that it would save the Town money this month considering the amount of overtime put in. It was agreed that this request would be tabled to discuss further.

**PUBLIC SAFETY****Walker Valley Fire Company**

Supervisor Ronk reported that authorization is needed for signing the agreement with PenFlex. He further explained that the administrator for the LOSAP Program is RBC Wealth Management. The annual cost is \$3900. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero authorizing Supervisor Ronk to sign the agreement with PenFlex.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

**Emergency Management Plan**

Councilman LoCicero reported the last update to the Emergency Management Plan was 1996. He has scheduled a meeting with Mike Madison from Ulster County on February 28<sup>th</sup> to rebuild the plan.

**WATER & SEWER****Water Lead Service Inventory**

Supervisor Ronk reported that the lead service inventory is progressing and going well. Mr. Ronk reported they approximately one quarter of the way through, everything thus far has been copper.

**PARKS**

Councilman Danon reported that he received the renderings from the new company. He will distribute them to the Town Board for any necessary changes.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Ulster County Personnel Director has advised him that a new parks position can be created. It will be a non-competitive position. Mr. Ronk stated that the goal is a two-person crew with a CDL being a requirement.

#### SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

No report.

#### RECREATION

##### **Summer Camp**

Camp Director Gillian Batchsingh discussed approving a flyer for summer camp this year. It was agreed that this will be tabled until the next Town Board meeting when Councilman DeWitt is present.

#### RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION

Councilman Danon reported that the backhoe is at the Transfer Station. It has been very helpful in clearing and loading the metal. A meeting is scheduled with Messina Scrap Metal. Researching a new recycling company is on-going. A possible solution to provide shelter for the protection of bins is being researched. Assorted options for cleaning up the area were discussed.

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has spoken to the Resource Recovery Director regarding organic waste and a contract with CATSMO Corp. on Myers Road.

#### PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Supervisor Ronk advised that there will be an Executive Session held at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

#### BUILDINGS

Councilman Danon reported that he has received five quotes from cleaning companies for cleaning the Town Hall. He has reviewed those quotes which included options for weekly or bi-weekly service, cleaning of windows and striping of floors. One company will do the floors for free with a weekly contract. Following a review and discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to hire Hudson Valley Office Cleaning.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

**INSURANCE/PURCHASING****Insurance**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received the yearly insurance renewal. The increase is thirty percent. Mr. Ronk advised that he is researching other options. The existing policy can be canceled early. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the contract with Tokyo Marine.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

No report.

**COMPUTERS**

Supervisor Ronk reported that while he was at the Association of Towns, he met with a tech start up about Planning Board software. He would like to set up a demonstration with the Planning Board Chair and Vice Chair.

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS****Short Term Rental Law**

Supervisor Ronk stated his desire to have a full board present to discuss getting some type of law in place. He requested the board members to continue reviewing the draft law and submit any comments or changes to him.

**Food Trucks**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he will continue to research appropriate regulations for food trucks.

**Plowing**

Supervisor Ronk explained that the new company is improving on the plowing and snow shoveling. He noted that when the park's position is filled, this will be one of the responsibilities.

**NEW BUSINESS****ZEV Grant**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he met with Steve Landsman from the Environmental Management Council to discuss EV charging stations. They discussed assessments and cost estimates. They are applying for a New York State DEC Grant. The grant provides one station with two slots. The location of the station will be on the side of the Town Hall Annex. The cost ranges between \$23-25,000.00. Central Hudson has a grant available to upgrade electricity.

**Planning Board**

Supervisor Ronk explained that interviews were held for two open positions. Six interviews were held with great applicants. He further explained that two people rose to the top. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to appoint Richard Barnhart and Tom Tango to fill the two open positions.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

Supervisor Ronk thanked Mark Watkins for his many years of service as a member and Chairman of the Planning Board.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to appoint Richard Barnhart to the position of Planning Board Chairman.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

Mr. Barnhart thanked the Town Board members, he is committed to doing his best in moving things forward. Mr. Barnhart stated he would like to appoint Planning Board member Ryan Reid as Vice Chair. Mr. Reid was present and accepted the position.

Councilman LoCicero stated he looks forward to a joint meeting with the Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board. Supervisor Ronk advised that he would like to meet with Mr. Barnhart, Mr. Reid, the Town Attorney, and the Town Planning Consultant prior to scheduling the joint board meeting.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Chris Budney was appointed to fill an expired term on the Zoning Board of Appeals last April. That term will expire and it is necessary to appoint Mr. Budney to a full three year term. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to appoint Chris Budney to a three-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

**Environmental Management Council**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Jeff Luoma applied and interviewed for the Planning Board. Because of his knowledge and experience, he would like Mr. Luoma to be a member of the EMC. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to appoint Mr. Luoma to the Environmental Management Council.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were audited.

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>WARRANT</b>	<b>VOUCHERS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL	4	113-141	\$ 64,539.93
HIGHWAY	4	58-77	\$ 259,319.16
WATER	4	11-13	\$ 5,236.78
SEWER	4	27-33	\$ 15,921.17
TRUST & AGENCY	3	7-17	\$ 1,525.00
FIRE DISTRICTS	2	5	\$ 63,799.00

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

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

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

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon approving the current Planning/Zoning Board Secretary to work three days a week. The approval will be based upon a three-month trial period. No health insurance or benefits will be provided during this period.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

**The Executive Session started at 7:54 p.m. and ended at 8:11 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13p.m.

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk



**LOCAL LAW #1 VOLUNTEER PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION EXTENSION**

MINUTES of a Public Hearing held by the Town Board of the Town of Shawangunk, County of Ulster, State of New York, at the Town Office Building, 14 Central Avenue, Wallkill, NY on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025, on Local Law #1 being the Volunteer Property Tax Exemption Extension.

PRESENT WERE Supervisor Ken Ronk, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Alex Danon, Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board members Rich Barnhart and Ryan Reid, Sergeant John Spinato, and several members of the public. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.

Supervisor Ronk explained that this local law amends Chapter 159 of the Code of the Town by amending Article VI, Section 159-10, Town of Shawangunk Local Law #2 of 2024. Mr. Ronk stated this action is a Type II Action under SEQRA. The exemption applies to qualified enrolled members of volunteer fire departments and ambulance service who serve the Town of Shawangunk. The purpose of this local law allows municipalities to extend the partial exemption to qualified volunteers who serve in neighboring jurisdictions outside the Town of Shawangunk.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #1. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:12 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adopt Local Law #1.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye. Councilman Amthor and Councilman DeWitt were absent.**

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk