

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 3, 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 **3rd day of April 2025 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Brian Amthor was absent. Also present were Highway Superintendent Richard Blazeski and several members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Supervisor Ronk led the Town Board in a moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

Supervisor Ronk explained that this was the first Town Board meeting with a new format. He explained that the first meeting of the month would be a work session to work on specific issues. The bills would be reviewed, new business and privilege of the floor will also be on the agenda. The meeting would be open to the public.

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 March 20, 2025.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Kristina Kucker/Red Barn Road

Ms. Kucker advised the Town Board that she had been sending messages to the Town for two years. She was inquiring when Red Barn Road would be fixed. She has not received a response. Ms. Kucker explained that the road is in disrepair. Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski explained that there are no plans in the near future to do anything on Red Barn Road except fill in potholes. Supervisor Ronk explained the budget issues and the struggle the town has with ninety-two miles of roads. He further explained that every resident thinks their road is in the worst shape. The town and state have underfunded road repairs for years. Mr. Ronk explained that this year the town has made an investment and contracted with Pavement Management Group. The company makes a complete inventory of every town road. They inspect and rate each road. They provide a status and a plan of treatment for each road. Mr. Ronk

explained that in addition to that, the Town Board has made an extra investment in the highway budget. He is hopeful that they will be able to double that investment next year. He explained the cost of repairing specific highway work. He also explained that the way roads were built years ago just cannot handle the amount of traffic and size of the trucks that are on the roads today. Highway Superintendent Blazeski explained that with the combination of additional financing and the expertise of the study, this will set the town up for the future. When roads are built today, they will hold up for twenty years. He also explained that he would like to put on a presentation of the study for the public. Ms. Kucker suggested the study get posted on the website.

Mr. Blazeski stated that Red Barn Road was rated at 33% in the study, which is not the worst category.

Ellen Turner/Roads

Ms. Turner shared that she was on Red Mills Road in the Town of Crawford, which is a mess. She drives to West Point often and has found that the roads all over are in bad shape. It is not just the roads in the Town of Shawangunk.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

284 Agreement

Mr. Blazeski reported that the 284 Agreement he previously submitted was a draft. He received the final numbers yesterday which he will apply to the plan. He will have the Final 284 Agreement for the Town Board at the next meeting.

Pavement Management Plan

Mr. Blazeski reported that he can see the program from his desk, and he already has a three-year plan.

Route 52

Mr. Blazeski reported that the New York State Department of Transportation will be doing work this summer. They have advised him that the road will be closed by Lake Shore Drive. They will advise him of the detour route when it is available.

Equipment

Mr. Blazeski advised that the GradeAll has a leak and will be addressed.

WORK SESSION

Short Term Rentals

Supervisor Ronk distributed copies of sample laws from various other towns. He also referred to the

draft law that the town currently has been reviewing. The Board Members reviewed and discussed the drafts and concluded that the Town of Rhinebeck law addressed many of the issues that have been raised since proposing the STR law. Many items were discussed and debated. It was agreed that Supervisor Ronk will merge the items discussed and revise for the board review.

Food Truck Law

Supervisor Ronk distributed copies of sample laws adopted by other towns. The Board Members reviewed and discussed the various laws. It was agreed that the sample from the Town of Red Hook was most compatible with our town. Supervisor Ronk will mark up the law and create a draft for the board’s review.

Franchise Agreement

Supervisor Ronk distributed copies of the Time Warner Cable Franchise Agreement. He explained that the Public Service Commission negotiates the contracts. Mr. Ronk explained that the fee is the same, five percent of the annual gross revenue. It is a fifteen-year term. The Board Members will review the agreement and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

Dumpster Law

The review of the proposed dumpster law will be tabled until the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mowing Bids

Councilman DeWitt reported that he has reviewed all bids that were submitted for the 2025 mowing. There were six companies that submitted bids. After review and discussion, it was agreed to accept the following bids:

Wallkill Parks & Municipal Areas – Kings Hill Farm, LLC –	Areas 1-11	\$390.00
	Area 12	\$600.00
New Prospect Cemetery - Kings Hill Farm, LLC		\$400.00
Walker Valley Schoolhouse – Kings Hill Farm, LLC		\$ 20.00
Verkeerderkill Park – Wallkill Valley Landscaping	Areas 1-2	\$220.00
Retention Ponds/Basins – Wallkill Valley Landscaping	Areas 1-7	\$605.00
Galeville Park – Ruger Property Maintenance	Areas 1-5	\$375.00
Area Cemeteries – Ruger Property Maintenance	Areas 1-3	\$ 75.00

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to accept the bids as discussed.

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

Electric & Plumbing/HVAC Bids

The discussion on releasing these bids will be tabled.

NEW BUSINESS**UCERT**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Sergeant Reynolds has been invited to join the SWAT Team. It is required that the Supervisor sign an Intermunicipal Agreement with Ulster County. Mr. Ronk will provide the contract for the Board's review next week.

Supervisor Ronk reported that specific equipment will be needed that will total approximately \$3500.00. This expense will come out of the Police Budget. Councilman Danon inquired how the town benefits by Sergeant Reynolds joining the team. Supervisor Ronk explained that he will be receiving extra training and will be bringing that training back to the department. It also raises the profile of the Police Department.

Supervisor Ronk discussed the possibility of obtaining another police car for one dollar from the Town of Plattekill. Sergeant Reynolds is in the process of working out the details to purchase the Ford Explorer.

Building Department

Supervisor Ronk reported that he and Councilman LoCicero interviewed Mr. Ed Diller for the Code Officer position in the Building Department. Councilman LoCicero explained that Mr. Diller was a firefighter and ran the Codes Department for the Newburgh Fire Department. Mr. Diller also worked part-time for the Town of Plattekill and has extensive experience with the Building Department. He is familiar with the software program, CivicGov, which is currently being utilized. He is retired and is interested in working two or three days a week. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to hire Ed Diller, as a part-time Code Enforcement Officer at the rate of \$30.00 per hour, starting the week of April 21, 2025.

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

Supervisor Ronk stated he will ask Mr. Watkins to come into the office to update Mr. Diller on any open cases.

Legal Issues**Law Firm**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there is a frivolous lawsuit for taxes filed against many town officials at both the town and county level. Because this is before the Federal District Court, our Town Attorney, Mr. Hoyt cannot handle the case. Mr. Ronk is proposing to sign an engagement letter with Cook, Kurtz & Murphy for \$200.00 per hour to represent the town. The firm also represents Ulster County. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the engagement letter.

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

Small Claims

Supervisor Ronk reported that our attorney, Rich Hoyt, was successful with the motion to dismiss the lawsuit for failure to file a Notice of Claim. The case was heard in the Plattekill Court.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Resolutions were offered by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman LoCicero for the following Budget Transfers:

INCREASE 1220.200 TO DECREASE 1990.400 \$491.67

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	7	216-251	\$ 131,277.97
HIGHWAY	7	114-138	\$ 41,300.39
WATER	7	24-26	\$ 1,764.00
SEWER	7	54-60	\$ 135,821.50
TRUST & AGENCY	6	42-	\$ 400.00

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

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

Amazon

Supervisor Ronk reported that he attended a Zoom meeting today that qualified the town to get a free Amazon Prime Business account. This will allow the town to receive discounts.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk