

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 18, 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, Walkill, NY on the **18th day of September 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, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Sergeant John Spinato, Planning Board Member Ryan Reid, Court Clerk 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 August 21, 2025.

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

Approval of the Minutes from September 4, 2025, meeting was tabled until the next Town Board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received on 9/16/25 from The Town of Montgomery regarding a Public Hearing on zoning changes to be held on October 15, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING Introductory Local Law #4 – Tax Cap Override

Supervisor Ronk announced that a Public Hearing was being held to allow for the provision of overriding the tax cap, if necessary. He explained that part of that process is passing a local law prior to adopting the budget. Supervisor Ronk inquired if there was anyone from the audience that had any comments or questions. He advised that the Public Hearing would remain open until the end of the meeting. See Public Hearing Minutes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

The Supervisor's Report for the month of August was submitted.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's Report for August for \$25,883.35 was submitted.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The Building Inspector's Monthly Report for August was submitted and reviewed. Supervisor Ronk commented that the revenue for fire inspections has increased because of the hard work of Mr. Diller. Mr. Ronk reported that the application is ready for Short Term Rentals. The Building Department will begin sending out notification letters to the STR's that are known at this time.

POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief Marlatt distributed copies of the August Monthly Report for the Police Department. Chief Marlatt reported the following:

Officer Asprea has started to work full-time, which has been a help with scheduling.

Sergeant Aaron Reynolds has submitted a letter of resignation, effective October 4, 2025.

Chief Marlatt will begin by calling the unofficial list for possible candidates.

Waiting for the background check to be completed so David Leandro can start,

Setting up an interview for another full-time position. May have someone interested and looking to work the A & C Lines.

Attended the Ulster County Community College Police Academy "Meet & Greet". He met some good prospects at the event.

Assisted with the Keator motorcycle fund raising event.

Will assist with the "Weekend of Wallkill" event this weekend. Sergeant McDermott will be providing assistance with parking and street closures. He is coordinating with Bill Davidson from Wallkill Fire Police.

Submitted request for funding with the STOP DWI Campaign. It is expected that Town will receive the funding, the amount depends on who else applies.

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has been getting many complaints from residents that traffic laws in the hamlet are being ignored. A few of the complaints were discussed. Chief Marlatt advised that he has instructed the Sergeants that they have an obligation to go out. Supervisor Ronk noted that with sixteen eight hour shifts a week, there should be more enforcement. Chief Marlatt agreed and stated that he will put out an email that improvement needs to be seen. He may also need to get daily activity reports.

Chief Marlatt reported that they were able to catch the dirt bike rider on Route 208. He was turned over to the Sheriff, who charged him.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he was at the scene of a motorcycle accident recently. He wanted to compliment Sergeant McDermott on his professional actions and handling of the situation. He explained to the Chief that Sergeant McDermott did a great job.

Chief Marlatt inquired with the Town Board about what price is desired for the Volvo Flatbed. There was a discussion on the procedure for a private sale. Supervisor Ronk will inquire with the Town Attorney about the proper process to be followed.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported the following:

The crew has been performing routine highway work along with mowing in the hamlet area. Councilman DeWitt stated the price of salt is up. He stated last year it was \$65.00 per ton and this year it is \$74.50. Mr. Blazeski said the increase in price of salt is up all over. Supervisor Ronk advised that the snow removal line in the 2026 budget has increased by \$25,000.00

Chief Marlatt inquired about the status of the traffic light at the intersection of Quannacut Road and Route 52. Mr. Blazeski explained that New York State Department of Transportation has jurisdiction on the traffic light. The supervisor on the job has it set up with a temporary camera that activates the light. After the paving job is completed on Route 52, magnets will be installed on the pole which will activate the light.

TOWN LIASON REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisor Ronk reported that through the Ulster County Stabilization Plan, the county is giving \$35,729.02 to the Town of Shawangunk to support and enhance EMS services for the Pine Bush side of town. There was discussion on how the monies will be distributed. Mr. Ronk advised that an Intermunicipal Agreement needs to be in place to prove the funds were used for this purpose. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Danon to send half of the funding to the Pine Bush Ambulance to offset increases.

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

WATER & SEWER

Water Issue

Supervisor Ronk reported that there was a boil water advisory in effect this week. Mr. Ronk explained that further testing was done, and he is hopeful that tonight the advisory will be lifted by the Ulster

County Health Department and our Town Engineer. Mr. Ronk further explained that the advisory may have been a result of a sampling error in the laboratory.

Sewer Repair

Supervisor Ronk reported that the sewer line and curb box on Church Street were repaired. The bill was sent to the insurance company that caused the problem.

Sewer Pump Issue

Supervisor Ronk reported that following a meeting with Town Engineer Dennis Larios, it was determined that pump failure cannot be considered an emergency, and the project must go out to bid. Mr. Ronk further explained that if both pumps were to fail, it would then be considered an emergency. If that were to happen, bypasses and rental pumps would be available for a significant price. At this time, the screw pumps need to be replaced or repaired. Mr. Larios will be evaluating the options and will work on a solution.

PARKS**Playground Equipment/Community Build**

Councilman Danon reported that a Community Build will be held next month at Garrison Park on October 11th and 12th. He has met with the sales representative from the equipment company at Garrison Park and Verkeerderkill Park. He will be working with our Parks Supervisor, Trevor Hunt, in lining up the necessary tools and manpower that will be needed. Some of the preliminary work will be done by Trevor. Beck's Hardware has offered assistance. Watchtower will be trucking in the mulch. After the building is completed at Garrison Park, one will be scheduled for Verkeerderkill Park. There is more extensive work that needs to be done.

Municipal Works Supervisor

Supervisor Ronk gave an update on the progress that Trevor has made since he started working. Mr. Ronk reported that the machines and equipment have been serviced. The storage building has been cleaned out; the three park vehicles now have room to be parked in the building. This week Trevor has cleaned out the weeds and brush from around the Town Hall Annex. He trimmed the bushes and trees at Garrison Park and cleaned the surrounding area. Supervisor Ronk stated that with having Trevor on board, the town is on its way to having the best parks in Ulster County.

Truck Bond

Supervisor Ronk discussed bonding for the one-ton dump truck for the parks. He advised that a resolution needs to be passed by the Town Board. The bond would be a five-year bond at 4.25%. The yearly payment would be \$17,976.67. Mr. Ronk explained that following the passing of the resolution, a Notice of Estoppel needs to be placed in the legal ads section of the official newspaper. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adopt the Bond Resolution for the One Ton Dump Truck as discussed.

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

SIDEWALK/LIGHTING

Sidewalks

Supervisor Ronk reported that he and Councilman Amthor met to discuss the 2026 budget for the Sidewalk District. They agreed that if significant changes are going to be made, and necessary repairs be addressed, the budget needs to be increased. Currently the sidewalk taxes are very low.

Lighting

Councilman Danon advised that if anyone notices any streetlights are out, to please report it so he can follow up with the utility company.

RECREATION

Supervisor Ronk advised he does not have the flyer for Trunk or Treat at this time. It will have to be approved at the next meeting. The event will be held on October 26th at Verkeerderkill Park.

RRA/TRANSFER STATION

Tipping Fees

Supervisor Ronk reported that he spoke to Executive Director Mark Rider who advised him that tipping fees are being increased for haulers, not municipal transfer stations. Councilman Danon inquired about composting cups from Angry Orchards. Andy Ghiorse stated further information is needed. Another question would be crossing county lines for composting.

PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES

Planning/Zoning Secretary

Supervisor Ronk reported that Julie Pawson left the position sooner than expected. Kathy Ebbrell has agreed to temporarily fill the ZBA position and Marianne Longano has agreed to fill the Planning Board position. This would bridge the gap until interviews can be conducted, and the position filled. Mr. Ronk advised that both Kathy and Mary Ann came forward and offered to assist. They have both been working with the Town Attorney to clean up paperwork and file unfinished minutes. They will both cover the office until a replacement is found. Mr. Ronk is suggesting a temporary increase in pay while they are covering. All Town Board members agreed of a temporary pay increase. Following a discussion a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to offer a \$200.00 bi-weekly stipend to both Kathy Ebbrell and Mary Ann Longano while they are filling in for those positions.

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

PBA Contract

Supervisor Ronk reported that the PBA Contract is ready to be approved. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the MOA between the Town of Shawangunk and the Police Benevolent Association, effective for the October 2025 payroll period.

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

Supervisor Ronk announced that the contract is effective through 2027, which he is pleased with.

BUILDINGS**Popp Park**

Councilman DeWitt reported that he made arrangements to have the tank pumped out at Popp Park prior to the Lions Club event.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the area has been prepared for concrete where the shed will be located. The shed will house the chillers for the skating rink.

INSURANCE/PURCHASING**2026 Budget**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there will be a significant increase for New York State Retirement. Health Insurance payments have increased, which is something the Town has no control over. Mr. Ronk advised that the budget needs to be filed with the Town Clerk by September 30th.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING

Supervisor Ronk reported that the owners of Walkkill Commons are trying to schedule a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony now that all of the units are full. The sidewalk repair they were responsible for is now completed.

COMPUTERS

Supervisor Ronk reported that the Building Department needs new computers. There is money in the budget for that purchase. The Assessor's Office will be getting new computers in 2026. Mr. Ronk will follow up on what departments need updated equipment.

Councilman LoCicero discussed the need to look at options for IT services for the coming year. He feels the time has come where someone needs to be available. Supervisor Ronk will investigate options that are available and will budget for the services.

Supervisor Ronk reported that he will have proposals for new phone systems at the Town Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Food Truck Application & Dumpster Law

Discussion on both of these items will be tabled until the next Town Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

JCAP Court Grant

Supervisor Ronk reported a Resolution is need for the latest JCAP application. Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell explained that an application is being made for the purchase of a desk for the judge, painting of the office, a robe and two battery backups. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to authorize the Town of Shawangunk Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2025-2056 grant cycle up to \$30,000.00

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

Attorney Contract

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received a proposal for 2026 legal services from Thomas, Waxman & Drohan, who are the labor attorneys for the Town. The proposal includes a \$250.00 per hour attorney fee and \$125.00 for paralegal services. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to authorize Supervisor Ronk to sign the contract for 2026 as presented.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

ACCOUNT	WARRANT	VOUCHERS	AMOUNT
GENERAL	17	619-659	\$ 120,130.18
HIGHWAY	17	350-361	\$ 36,227.73
WATER	17	67-69	\$ 813.21
SEWER	17	131-135	\$ 3,146.88
TRUST & AGENCY	16	110-120	\$ 93,612.50

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

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 18th day of September 2025 on Introductory Local Law #4, Tax Cap Override. The Public Hearing was opened at 7:04 p.m.

Present were Supervisor Ken Ronk, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Councilman Brian Amthor was absent.

Supervisor Ken Ronk explained that this Public Hearing is being held as a requirement if the Town Board has to override the 2% tax cap currently in place. At this point, it has not been determined if it will be necessary but if it is, Local Law #4-2025 will be in place as required by law.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to close the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:18 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to adopt Local Law #4-2025, Tax Cap Override.

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

Jane P. Rascoe
Town Clerk