

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 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 6th day of November 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 Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Planning Board Member Ryan Reid, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Councilman Elect Mike Voss, Highway Assistants Mary Ann Longano and Abreeanna Thomas, 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/Budget Work Session held on October 9, 2025.

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 approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 16, 2025.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Public Hearing Notices were received from the Town of Crawford regarding a local law on Veterinary Offices and a Use Variance on 11/5/25. Also, from the Town of Montgomery, a Public Hearing Notice on Short Term Rentals on 12/3/25.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Town of Shawangunk Highway Department Presentation

Mary Ann Longano and Abreeanna Thomas reported the progress made with the collection of inventories that were added into the database of the Pavement Management Program. Ms. Longano explained that Abreeanna went out in the field and collected the inventory of all highway assets. She

explained that having this inventory will be useful in forecasting and planning for budgeting purposes for the Highway Department. Abreeanna explained that she used the iPad the Town purchased, through the mobile app, the data was sent to the web browser. Mary Ann explained that through the GPS, she could pinpoint where Abreeanna was at all times. Abreeanna explained that the conditions of the guiderails, signs, culverts are rated through the program. The program was displayed and the inventory shown. For example, there are 1400 road signs. Photographs and locations were added to the program. Mary Ann further explained that this is not the final product. Further information like retention ponds need to be added. She can run reports on a variety of assets that have been collected and entered into the program. Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that he, Mary Ann, and Building Inspector John Calacca attended MS4 Training today. They learned that it's necessary for the Town to get an inventory of all retention ponds. Some of those retention ponds may be on private property. He discussed the unfunded mandate from the DEC, passed down to the Towns. There was a discussion on drainage districts and the inventory the Town may already have.

Rachael Miller – Law Enforcement

Ms. Miller discussed her concerns with the lack of law enforcement in the hamlet. She has concerns about reckless driving and vehicles not following the laws. The area she lives in is a cut-through, and the cars go through at unsafe speeds. Ms. Miller reported that she previously complained and the police did have a presence in September for one week. She has recently sent emails with no response. With the school traffic and the number of sports on the weekends, the community is not safe. She is here tonight to again request police enforcement in the hamlet. Chief Marlatt explained that the police have a big jurisdiction to cover. He reported that a meeting is scheduled next week with the school superintendent where he can discuss enforcement in school zones. Supervisor Ronk stated that the SRO's are needed at the schools. Ms. Miller advised that she works at the elementary school, and their job is needed to keep the children safe. Councilman Danon stated that this needs to be addressed and suggested a solution may be some type of rotation for areas of concern. Jesse Miller suggested that police should be at locations when school is released. The cars and ATV's go racing down Third Street. They are the same people, and he does not know how the police don't see it. Something needs to be done. Mr. Ryan Reid stated that he lives on Viola Street, he is aware of these issues which also happen after 5 p.m. and on weekends. The SRO Officers are not on duty at these times. Mr. Reid shared that the cars do fly and are gone when the police respond. Supervisor Ronk advised that the Town Board has approved three-way stops at the intersections of First, Second and Viola. Mike Voss stated that he previously lived on Third Street and inquired if it would be reasonable to install speed bumps.

Nicki Simon – Proposed Housing Project

Ms. Simon introduced herself and shared that she lives on Buena Vista Avenue. She attended the meeting held last night and voiced her concerns about the proposed project. Ms. Simon stated that if resources are this thin now, what about the increased traffic that 96 units will generate. She is opposed to the project. Ms. Simon also voiced her concerns about conflicting times of the Planning Board meeting and the fact that there was a lack of room for all the residents who wanted to attend. Supervisor Ronk explained that the purpose of the meeting was to give residents a voice. He explained the SEQRA process and this application being a Type I Action as determined by the Town. The Scoping

Session was held to give residents a voice. Mr. Ronk advised that the Town must stay neutral for all applications. With regard to the occupancy limits, the Town must adhere to fire and safety codes. Mr. Ronk advised that the next meeting on this project will be held at a larger venue. Councilman Danon and Councilman LoCicero explained that there are some projects the Town wants to see move forward. They would like the hamlet to remain quaint like it currently is.

Vision of Wallkill

Donna Barczak, President of V.O.W. thanked the Town Board for their support with the Weekend of Wallkill. She advised that Holidays in the Hamlet will be held on December 6th. Ms. Barczak inquired if the Town would provide the insurance coverage as they have in the past. She stated that the Town will be advertised as a co-sponsor. She will be in touch for further details on the fireworks that the Town has agreed to sponsor. Supervisor Ronk reported that decorating should be easier this year now that the Town has hired a full-time parks person who can operate the bucket truck.

Police Chief

Chief Marlatt distributed copies of the monthly report for October 2025. He reported that they are doing what they can with the staffing they have. Chief Marlatt reported that Officer Asprea has decided to return to his former job within the sixty-day probation period. A motion was made to accept the resignation of Officer Asprea effective November 1, 2025.

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

Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski reported that the crew is currently working on Strawridge Road. They are trying to improve the situation. The crew has also been working on the driveways on Quannacut and Sinsabaugh Roads. At the garage, the men are getting the plows, salt and sand ready.

Highway Superintendent Blazeski reported that the Ulster County Department of Public Works assisted with the shoulder work on both Sinsabaugh and Quannacut Roads. They have a shared services relationship and provided the shoulder machine. New York State Department of Transportation provided 350 tons of millings to the Town for projects.

Mr. Blazeski advised that he will be on vacation from November 12th to November 26th. He will be available by phone when necessary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to enter into Executive Session to discuss highway negotiations.

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

The Executive Session started at 7:55 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

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

No action was taken.

WORK SESSION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water & Sewer

Supervisor Ronk discussed specific issues with an incorrect water & sewer bill. He discussed details of the errors that were reviewed by H2O. A motion was made Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adjust the bill to \$500.00 with mid-billing monitoring.

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

Supervisor Ronk discussed the Water & Sewer Rates for 2026. He discussed the emergency fund balance and the need to raise water rates. Mr. Ronk is proposing to raise the **Residential Rate** for the first 5000 gallons from \$24.00 to \$25.00, and from \$8.50 to \$9.50 for each additional 1000 gallons. For the **Commercial Rate** first 5000 gallons from \$48.00 to \$49.00, and from \$12.00 to \$13.00 for each additional 1000 gallons. He is proposing the sewer rates remain the same. There was a discussion on the increase in water rates. Supervisor Ronk reported that on a \$475.00 bill, the amount the increase would be \$41.00 for six months. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to set the water rates for 2026 as discussed.

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

Town Hall Heat

Supervisor Ronk reported that the heat at Town Hall needs to be replaced. He explained that MDS has submitted a proposal of \$71,000.00 to replace both boilers. The issue is that one boiler has not been

functioning in several years. The other boiler is failing. Parts have been taken from the boiler that does not work to keep the other working. The company that manufactured the boilers is no longer in business. It is necessary for him to reset the boiler a few times a day to keep it working. There was a discussion on an emergency purchase or going out to bid for boiler replacement. Supervisor Ronk will consult with the Town Attorney on the emergency purchase. He will also inquire with an engineer to obtain specifications if it needs to be completely bid.

Building/Code Enforcement

Supervisor Ronk reported that Ed Diller has been assisting the Town with getting properties in the CivicGov Program. As part of their system the GPS Daily Update costs \$1,000 per year. Mr. Diller negotiated with the company, and they have agreed to offer the system free of charge for the remainder of this year, with a reduced rate of \$500.00 for 2026 and \$1,000.00 for 2027. Mr. Ronk explained that by having this ability in CivicGov, the Planning and Zoning Board will save time and money as the program will generate the 500' radius. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the purpose and authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with CivicGov.

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

2026 Budget

Supervisor Ronk advised that the Public Hearings on the **2026 Preliminary Budget** and the **Special District Assessment Rolls** opened on October 30, 2025 were still open. He inquired if there were any comments or questions from the Town Board Members or the audience. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded DeWitt to close the Public Hearings.

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

The Public Hearings were closed at 8:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adopt the rates for the Special District Assessments for 2026.

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

Supervisor Ronk reviewed the changes that were made in an attempt to drop the General Fund increase. The Tentative Budget came in at a 22% increase. With these changes, it was reduced to 17 & 1/2% increase. Mr. Ronk explained that this increase equates with an increase of \$74.50 based upon a

\$450,000.00 home. For the Highway Fund, the increase represents a \$83.50 increase based upon a \$450,000.00 home. The total increase in taxes is projected to be \$158.00.

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to adopt the Preliminary Budget as the 2026 Final Town of Shawangunk Budget.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Management Plan

Councilman LoCicero reported that a preliminary meeting has been scheduled on November 19, 2025 with Mike Madison. This meeting will start the process for an updated Emergency Management Plan. The last time the plan was updated was in 1996.

Dangerous Dog Law

Supervisor Ronk reported that the owner of a dog that bit a child on CE Penney Drive has requested that the Town re-visit the dog laws. The matter was recently managed in the Town of Shawangunk Court. There was nothing specific with the request. Supervisor Ronk will provide copies of the current dog law to the Town Board members for review.

Miscellaneous

Supervisor Ronk reported that an issue arose on the length of time the stipend is valid for Kathy Ebbrell and Mary Ann Longano, who are working with the new Planning and Zoning Board secretary. Councilman Danon stated his intention was until the first meeting of each board in December. Councilman LoCicero agreed they should get the stipend until December as they both are still assisting in that role.

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

Election

Supervisor Ronk congratulated Mike Voss on winning the Councilman seat. He stated the Town Board looks forward to working with him.

Town Board Award

Councilman LoCicero discussed a candidate for the Dick Parker Award. He will inquire and discuss with Councilman Amthor.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

The following claims were audited.

ACCOUNT	WARRANT	VOUCHERS	AMOUNT
GENERAL	20	729-780	\$ 75,615.89
HIGHWAY	20	399-418	\$ 108,322.23
WATER	20	77-81	\$ 6,394.52
SEWER	20	149-151	\$ 4,189.77
LIGHT	11	11	\$ 1952.17
TRUST & AGENCY	18	124-129	\$ 1,187.00

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A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon 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 LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt 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 9:06 p.m.

Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk