

**January 19, 2015
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Meeting**



6:30 pm: Board interviewed Donn Critchell for the open position on the zoning Commission

7 pm: Supervisor Erik Tyree introduced Honorable Jonathan Nichols, Columbia County Justice who is here to swear in the elected officer as follows:

Robert Prochera	Justice
Linda Swartz	Council

7:10 pm: Supervisor Tyree opened the Organizational Meeting

7:50 pm: Organizational Meeting concluded.

7:51 pm: The Town Board of the Town of Taghkanic held its Regular monthly meeting on the above date at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Present:	Erik Tyree	Supervisor
	Richard Skoda	Councilman
	Ryan Skoda	Councilman
	Linda Swartz	Councilwoman
	Joyce Thompson	Councilwoman
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Absent:

Guest Speaker: None

Supervisor then asked for a motion to approve the following minutes:

November 20, 2014: Town Board and Building Committee minutes were accepted with suggested changes motioned by Councilman Richard Skoda, seconded by Councilwoman Joyce Thompson.

Approved: 4 Ayes (Erik, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent
1 Abstain (Linda)

December 1, 2014: Town Board and Building Committee minutes were accepted with suggested changes motioned by Councilman Ryan Skoda, seconded by Councilman Richard Skoda.

Approved: 4 Ayes (Erik, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent
1 Abstain (Linda)

December 8, 2014: Regular Meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes motioned by Councilman Richard Skoda, seconded by Councilman Ryan Skoda.

Approved: 4 Ayes (Erik, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays

0 Absent
1 Abstain (Linda)

December 11, 2014: Special Meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes motioned by Councilman Richard Skoda, seconded by Councilwoman Joyce Thompson.

Approved: 4 Ayes (Erik, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent
1 Abstain (Linda)

December 29, 2014: Year-end minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes motioned by Councilman Richard Skoda, seconded by Councilman Ryan Skoda.

Approved: 4 Ayes (Erik, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent
1 Abstain (Linda)

The Correspondence consisted of:

1. National Grid, Important Natural Gas Safety Information
2. Barbara L. Scutt, Secretary, Craryville Fire District, annual election
3. Xmas Card, BCI Group LLC
4. Xmas Card, Northeastern Environmental Tech.
5. Xmas Card, RBC Wealth Management
6. Robert V. Gramuglia, CPA, Bryans & Gramuglia
7. Update, Claverack Library
8. Donn Critchell, Letter of Interest
9. National Grid, Business managing your cost
10. Camphill Village Building Possibilities
11. Arthur McGuire, Secretary, Tghkanic Volunteer Fire Co. NO. 1
12. The XP Report
13. Thomas Mirabelli, Letter of Interest
14. Ralph Gorgone, Letter of Interest
15. Mark Stickles, Letter of Interest
16. NYMIR, It's Our Policy
17. Town of Claverack, Notice of Application for Proposed Telecommunication Facility

Correspondence with discussion:

- (#11) Supervisor Erik Tyree read letter from Arthur McGuire, Secretary, Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Co. #1. (Please see attached copy)
 - ✚ Councilwoman Joyce Thompson in 2010 or 2011 the town contacted Verizon to pursue the option of moving the box to the town hall property because there is no room for improvements to the box on the Fire House property. Unfortunately, the inquiry was too late and the funding had been used for work in Claverack. We should try again because the telephone outages along the business corridor of SR 82 and homes on either side of that road experience frequent and business-damaging telephone outages every time it rains and the box appears to be the known problem.
 - ✚ Councilwoman Linda Swartz shared two newspaper articles January 9th and 16th approving county funding for development of a plan to expand broadband in Columbia County. (attached)
 - ✚ Supervisor Erik Tyree, Pat Grattan has appointed Ken Flood to conduct a study for broadband. I will also contact Supervisor Weigelt from Claverack for his Verizon contacts based on a recent Verizon application to add to the existing cell tower in that town.

Then followed reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Wes Powell, no report.

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Assessor: Craig Surprise report submitted.

ZEO/CEO/Building Inspector: Dennis Callahan report submitted.

Historian: Nancy Griffith, no report submitted.

Traffic Safety Board: Linda Swartz, no meeting.

Environmental Management Council: Anna Kadish, no meeting.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted.

Office for the Aging: Joyce Thompson, no meeting.

Taghkanic Creek Cleanup: No meeting

Col. Co. Local Development Round Table: No meeting

Clerk/Collector: Cheryl Rogers, reports were submitted to the Board

Bookkeeper and Accountant: reports were submitted to the Board.

Supervisor: Erik Tyree, report submitted and the written report was available on the back table for the public. **Supervisor financial report is attached.**

Creek Cleanup Project: No report submitted.

Highway: George Hotaling, report submitted.

Board reports were accepted as submitted and read on a motion by Councilman Richard Skoda seconded by Councilwoman Linda Swartz.

Approved: **5 Ayes** **(Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)**

0 Nays

0 Absent

Financial: Councilwoman Thompson submitted the following report:

Financial Report: 2014 December Financials

The Financial Advisory Committee was not able to meet to review and conduct the monthly audit prior to the January Town Board meeting. Town Board Member, Joyce Thompson, reviewed the Supervisor's Report as provided by the Town Accountants and submits the following comments:

General Fund (A): Projected Year End Results

It is likely that the General Fund will finish the 2014 fiscal year with approximately \$5,000-\$7,000 positive net income. This projection is based on a review of:

1) December Supervisor's report, 2) Year End expenses, including those to be audited at the 12 January Town Board meeting, 3) the expected additional revenue from December Fines and Forfeitures, and 4) the fourth Sales Tax disbursement from the County. These final two revenue deposits will arrive later in January. Any positive net income is added to the opening Fund Balance for 2015.

As projected last month, the Fines & Forfeitures revenue line is growing well and now may exceed 90% of budget. This is much better than was expected back in June. Building Permits and Planning Board Fees added ~\$7,000 over budgeted revenue. Expenses are at 90% of budget at the end of December and outstanding bills to date are under \$1,000.

Highway Fund (DA): Projected Year End Results

After final expenses and receipt of the fourth Sales Tax distribution, the Highway Department should realize a positive net annual income of ~\$187,000. This is the result of receipt of the CHIPS payment of \$133,894 and management of expenses to ~ 82% of budget after payment of remaining bills. This net income goes into the Highway Fund Balance and will make possible some significant progress with fleet improvement.

Highway Project Fund: First payments made on Salt Shed

Engineering fees and bills for some materials were paid in December. Money from the General (A) Fund Balance was transferred to the Capital Fund (H) to cover expenses of \$62,687 and an additional \$4,295 will go to the H Fund in January. They are recorded as "Due to General Fund". Those amounts will be returned to the General Fund when the BAN is received later this quarter. The town is now in a good position to move forward with building the salt shed in the spring.

Councilman Ryan Skoda moved to accept the financial report as submitted, seconded by Councilman Richard Skoda.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

Advisory Board reports: Councilwoman Joyce Thompson suggested the resolution for the advisory committees be reviewed to make their meeting regulations more flexible.

- Broadband** Advisory Committee: Walter Flamenbaum, no report.
- Conservation** Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia, no report.
- Fracking** Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia, no report.
- Website** Advisory Committee: verbal report given.
- Insurance** Advisory Committee: no report.
- Cleanup Town Hall** Advisory Committee: Debbie Colgrove, no report.
- Creek Walk** Advisory Committee: Arthur Griffith, no report submitted.

Advisory Board reports were accepted as submitted on a motion by Councilman Ryan Skoda seconded by Councilman Richard Skoda.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

Old Business:

- A. **Report on Research to identify the source and use of \$50,000 ‘Planning Money’:** Councilwoman Joyce Thompson just one more box of information to review but I am pretty sure the money has come from money set aside for recreational development.
- B. **Reminder of annual all Department Meeting January 22, 2015 at 7 pm:**
- C. **Highway Appointed/elected Superintendent referendum:** tabled

New Business:

- 1. **Budget Amendment #10-2015:** Councilman Richard Skoda moved to approve budget amendment 10-2015, seconded by Councilman Ryan Skoda.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

January 19, 2015		Budget Amendment # 10	
		Increase	Decrease
GENERAL			
TOWN BOARD			
PERSONAL	A1010.1	\$0.12	
JUSTICE PERSONAL	A1110.1	\$0.08	
CLERK PERSONAL	A1410.1	\$0.36	
BUILDING PERSONAL	A1620.1	\$182.08	
BI PERSONAL	A3620.1	\$0.04	
HIGHWAY SUPT. PERSONAL	A5010.1	\$811.52	

GARAGE CONTRACTUAL	A5132.4	\$1,545.99	
PLANNING CONT	A8020.4	\$80.00	
HOSPITALIZATION	A9060.8	\$1,188.49	
ASSESSOR PER. CLERK	1355.13		\$3,808.68

\$3,808.68 \$3,808.68

HIGHWAY

BOND INTEREST	DA9710.7	\$0.38	
MACHINERY			
CONTRACTUAL	DA5130.4		\$0.38

HIGHWAY PROJECT

	H1640.4	\$4,295.20	
	H630?		\$4,295.20

TOTAL \$8,104.26 \$8,104.26

2. **March 2015 Calendar:** Councilman Ryan Skoda moved to approve the March 2015 calendar as presented, seconded by Councilman Richard Skoda.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

3. **Review of Resolutions for 2015:**

- **Resolution 1-2015 Medicare Supplemental Health Insurance Benefit Program:** Councilwoman Joyce Thompson motioned to approve Resolution #1-15 Medicare Supplemental Health Insurance Benefit raising the amount to \$119.00, seconded by Councilman Ryan Skoda.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

- **Resolution 2-2015 Rules of Order:** Councilman Richard Skoda motioned to approve Resolution 2-15 Rules of Order w/changes, seconded by Councilman Ryan Skoda.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

- **Resolution 3-2015 Procurement Policy:** Councilwoman Linda Swartz motioned to approve Resolution 3-15 Procurement Policy, seconded by Councilman Richard Skoda.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

- **Resolution 4-2015 Col. Co. Hazard Mitigation Planning Program:** Councilwoman Linda Swartz motioned to approve Resolution 4-15 Col. Co.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Program, seconded by Councilwoman Joyce Thompson.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent

• **Resolution 5-2015 Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement:**

Councilwoman Linda Swartz motioned to approve Resolution 4-15 Col. Co. Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement, seconded by Councilwoman Joyce Thompson.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- **Resolution Investment Policy:** tabled for more review.
- **Local Law 3 of 2013, “Town of Taghkanic Natural gas Mining Moratorium Law”:** Board agreed to ask Tony LaSalvia to research and report his findings.
- **Review and Update Emergency Preparedness Plan:** Councilman Richard Skoda motioned to approve the updated Emergency Preparedness Plan, seconded by Councilwoman Linda Swartz.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- **Review Employee Handbook:** Councilman Richard Skoda motioned to approve the review of the Employee Handbook, no changes needed, seconded by Councilwoman Joyce Thompson.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent

4. **Code of Ethics:** Supervisor Erik Tyree motioned to use the County Board of Ethics to review any and all town Ethics Complaints, seconded by Councilman Ryan Skoda.

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Richard, Ryan)
1 Nays (Joyce)
0 Absent

The Straw poll drafted by Carl Mulert “*Should we have a Local Board of Ethics or use the Columbia County Board of Ethics?*” will be placed on the Town website.

Background - In December 2013 the Town Board passed a Code of Ethics that established a local board of ethics to handle any complaints. The resolution passed 4 to 1.

The Town put out two calls for candidates to serve on a local board of ethics and eight people responded saying they were willing to do so.

In March 2014, the newly elected Town Board voted to “revisit” the Code of Ethics issue. The Board voted to use the Columbia County Board of Ethics in lieu of forming our own Local Board of Ethics, pending verification that the County Board of Ethics is made up of three (3) Republicans and three (3) Democrats and

is a balanced board.

At the April Town Board meeting it was reported that the current Columbia County Board of Ethics is made up of three (3) Republicans, one (1) "Liberal" and one (1) Democrat. Regardless of this discrepancy and what was said at the March meeting about the need for there to be a balanced County Board, the Town Board upheld it's prior vote not to form our own local board of ethics.

The public in attendance at this meeting voiced their general disagreement with this action by the Town Board. Comments from the floor also expressed general agreement that politics should not be the basis for populating a board of ethics and that we should honor the eight responses to town board requests for candidates and give the local board a chance.

After many people spoke up in support of a local ethics board, the town board accepted an offer to conduct a town-wide "straw poll" to get broader input on the issue.

The bills were audited and approved for payment:

✚ **2014 Payables** on a motion by Councilman Richard Skoda, seconded by Councilman Ryan Skoda.

2014 General Fund Vouchers	# 425 - 436	\$ 7,829.16
2014 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 246 - 252	\$ 20,129.34
2014 Highway Project	# 15 - 17	\$ 4,295.20

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Linda, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent

✚ **January 19, 2015 Abstract:** on a motion by Councilwoman Joyce Thompson, seconded by Councilwoman Linda Swartz.

2014 General Fund Vouchers	# 1 - 30	\$ 28,381.15
2014 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 1 - 4	\$ 4,005.05

Approved: 5 Ayes (Erik, Debora, Joyce, Richard, Ryan)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ❖ Arthur Griffith, have the Taghkanic Fire Company 2014 LOSAP points been submitted? *Answer: no.* Also what is going on with the canopy for the door?
- ❖ Clerk Rogers I will contact Sausbiers Awning Shop again.

Executive Session: None

With no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Linda Swartz, seconded by Councilman Richard Skoda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **February 9, 2015** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience: Walter Thompson
Ray Colgrove
Erin Edwards

Arthur Griffith
Debbie Colgrove

Dennis Callahan
Donn Critchell

Kathy Bainer
Susan Gardner

Action List:

1. Clerk Rogers will notice for the open positions for the financial committee.
2. Clerk Rogers will notice for the position custodian for the town hall.

3. Supervisor Erik Tyree will contact Supervisor Weigelt for his contacts at Verizon.
4. Clerk Rogers will contact Sausbiers Awning Shop. *Done*
5. Clerk Rogers will have the straw poll posted on website. *Done*

Town of Taghkanic
Supervisor's report
December 31, 2014

Receipts:	
Justice Court Deposits	\$ 19,978.00
Retiree health insurance	99.00
Building inspector	2,121.30
Voided checks	545.75
Sale of 2007 GMC truck	3,050.00
Mortgage tax	9,317.21
Clerk fees	189.38
Interest - MM	27.62
Interest - Escrow	0.04
Interest - Checking	0.53
Interest -Trust and Agency	0.03
Total receipts	<u>\$ 35,328.86</u>
Disbursements:	
Abstracts -General fund	(50,260.48)
Abstracts - Highway fund	(68,187.22)
Abstracts- Capital project	(62,686.92)
Payroll - Dec 15, 2014	(9,337.83)
Payroll - Dec 30, 2014	(18,269.18)
Total disbursements	<u>(208,741.63)</u>
Net receipts-disbursements	(173,412.77)
Cash balances at November 30, 2014	<u>1,090,687.81</u>
Cash balances at December 31, 2014	<u>\$ 917,275.04</u>

	Bank Statement Balance	Deposits in transit & o/s Checks	Book Balance
Multifund checking	\$ 123,142.22	\$ (93,438.23)	\$ 29,703.99
Multifund money market	886,295.89	-	\$ 886,295.89
Trust and Agency(payroll)	12,762.60	(12,258.91)	\$ 503.69
Escrow savings	571.47	-	\$ 571.47
Petty Cash	200.00	-	\$ 200.00
Total Cash	<u>\$ 1,022,972.18</u>	<u>\$ (105,697.14)</u>	<u>\$ 917,275.04</u>

Total income from Quickbooks	\$ 28,340.18
Court fees deducted from income	\$ 6,888.00
Planning/parkland	1.61
Escrow	0.04
Payroll	0.03
Retiree Health insurance netted with A9060	99.00
*Total receipts	<u>\$ 35,328.86</u>
**Total net loss per Quickbooks	(173,414.45)
Interest earned on escrow	1.68
Net receipts- disbursements	<u>\$ (173,412.77)</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY

County funding plan to expand broadband

Register Star January 16, 2016

By Arthur Cusano
Columbia-Greene Media

Columbia County has announced plans to pave its information highway by funding a study on expanding broadband coverage for county residents.

The county will pay \$40,000 for a plan to be completed by a consultant in the coming months.

"Columbia County's economy is dependent on both full-time and part-time residents, many

of whom operate home-based businesses," said Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Patrick Grattan. "These small businesses are a critical part of our business mix, and they cannot compete without access to high-speed Internet. If we are to encourage these entrepreneurs, and attract new ones to the county, we must ensure they can operate from their Columbia County residences."

The funding was included in the 2015 budget adopted last month by the Board of

Supervisors. "Every town, village and city will be included in the study," said Columbia County Economic Development Commissioner Kenneth Flood. "We're going to work out the best possible way to improve broadband capacity."

Flood said the plan will look at ways to bring broadband to areas that don't have it, as well as ways to improve the coverage already offered. The county plans to issue a request for proposal and award the bid. The study will

take three to six months, Flood said.

The Columbia County Board of Supervisors and Congressman Chris Gibson, R-19, conducted a broadband accessibility survey last April. Flood reported 1,200 responses to the survey.

"Most counties have these kinds of plans, including Greene County," Flood said. "This plan will be very similar to Greene County's

Please see Broadband on page A10

By A

Broadband

Continued from page A1

plan." Columbia County has several companies that offer broadband service: Mid-Hudson Cable, GTel, FairPoint Communications, Time-Warner Cable and Charter Communications. The nation's largest Internet provider, Comcast, does not do business in the county. Verizon does not offer its FIOS broadband service in the county.

Perhaps the greatest impact of better Internet service throughout the county will be on students. More and more education is dependent on technology not only at the

school but at home, allowing students to complete homework assignments that are dependent on online material.

New York state voters approved a \$2 billion Smart Schools bond last November, which will go toward funding technology upgrades in school districts across the state. Some of that money will likely be targeted to improve broadband service, Flood said.

Columbia-Greene Columbia College President James Campion said expanding broadband service will allow the school to expand its asynchronous course offerings -

individualized online classes that students complete at their own pace. The school is looking to add more online classes and possibly online-only programs, Campion said.

"Potential students who don't yet have access to broadband would be able to take advantage of those courses," Campion said.

To reach reporter Arthur Cusano, call 518-528-1616, ext. 2499, or email acusano@registerstar.com.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board approves funding for broadband

Patrick M. Grattan, chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, announced Jan. 7 that the recently adopted 2015 Columbia County budget contains funding for the preparation of a plan to improve the quality and accessibility of broadband for county residents.

"Columbia County's economy is dependent on both full-time and part-time residents, many of whom operate home-based businesses," said Grattan. "These small businesses are a critical part of our business mix, and they cannot compete without access to high-speed internet. If we are to encourage these entrepreneurs, and attract new ones to the county, we must ensure they can operate from their Columbia County residences."

The greatest impact of better internet service throughout the county will be on students. More and more education is dependent upon technology not only at the school but at home allowing students to complete homework assignments that are dependent on online material.

A Broadband Improvement Plan is the all-important first step in positioning Columbia County for future growth and prosperity. The County will contract with an experienced consultant to develop the plan, while working with potential telecom service providers to deliver the enhanced broadband services required.

Work on the plan will begin in the spring and the public will be asked to participate.

1-9-15
Reg. Star

TAGHKANIC VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. NO. 1

631 Old Route 82, Taghkanic, NY 12521

William Hilscher *Fire Chief*
Donald Coons, Jr. *1st Asst. Chief*
Dennis Callahan *2nd Asst. Chief*

SERVING THE TOWNS OF TAGHKANIC and GALLATIN
SINCE 1944

Arthur Griffith *Director*
Paul R. Nostrand *Director*
Anthony LaSalvia *Director*

December 12, 2014

Erik Tyree
Town Supervisor
Town of Taghkanic
909 Route 82
Ancram, NY 12502

Re: Verizon DSL Service

Dear Erik:

We recently had a visit to the firehouse from Taghkanic resident Mike Harding complaining about his lack of DSL service from Verizon. Mike had been told by Verizon that he does not have DSL because the Taghkanic Fire Company will not allow additional equipment on its property. I called Mike back with information received from Dennis Callahan that Verizon has not run the proper DSL lines throughout the town. However there may be other reasons. Mike said he may contact you directly.

Certainly the Fire Company does not want to be falsely accused by Verizon with inhibiting the communications facilities of our neighbors. Our only connection with Verizon's systems has been allowing it for many years to place two telephone equipment boxes on the Fire Company's property. We have had no recent requests from Verizon. It goes without saying that it is Verizon's responsibility to provide communications services, not the Fire Company's.

But Mike Harding raises a valid issue – how can residents served by Verizon obtain DSL service. You may wish to forward this letter to such council members or committees that are involved with the oft-discussed issue of how we can get better high-speed Internet service in Taghkanic. If such members or committees believe the Fire Company can assist, please let us know.

All best wishes for a happy holiday season,


Arthur McGuire
Secretary

Cc: Bill Hilscher