

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday April 11, 2016**

**Next Building Project Meeting March 30, 2016 7 pm**

**April, 27, 2016 7 pm**

**Approved**  
**April 11, 2016**

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF TAGHKANIC  
Saturday March 19, 2016**

**9:35 am:** The Taghkanic Town Board held its first Saturday meeting for the year on the above date at the Taghkanic Town Hall. Board Member Joyce Thompson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, moment of Silence and Safety Review.

Present:            Arthur McGuire                      Board Member  
                      Richard Skoda                         Board Member  
                      Joyce Thompson                     Board Member  
                      Cheryl Rogers                        Clerk

Absent:             Erik Tyree                                Supervisor  
                      Ryan Skoda                             Board Member

**1. K.I.S.S. (Keeping Identities of Seniors Safe) Program:** Clerk Rogers informed everyone about the program as follows:

- ✚ Program runs from March 14 – March 31, 2016
- ✚ The Town Hall is open Tuesday: 2-5, Wednesday: 9-Noon, Thursday and Friday: 9-3
- ✚ Packets are on the bins explaining what documents should be shredded and not shredded.
- ✚ Documents are to be dropped in the bins that are locked for everyone's protection and will be removed by the County after March 31, 2016 and taken to the shredding service to be shredded.

**2. Conservation Advisory Committee, Walks:** Anna Kadish reported the following: Ian Nitschke discussed the subject of having town streams classified as inland water bodies. In particular, we discussed the Taghkanic Creek. Having a local creek classified as an inland waterway (or water body) makes it eligible for funding through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). These grants can be used for stream revitalization and improved watershed management. In particular, if we decide to do this, we need to contact NYS Assemblywoman Didi Barrett and NYS Senator Marchione. The three creeks in our general area that could be eligible for this are the Claverack, Agawamuck and Taghkanic Creeks. Town resolutions can be passed to do this. Ian Nitschke gave us samples of such resolutions. These creeks have both natural and historic value.

We also discussed the upcoming CAC walks at the Blechman property on Tompkins Rd on May 7 and the walk on the Kobos property on Manor Rock Rd on Sept 17. Town lectures are also being planned: A follow-up on the culvert study by Andrew Meyer and Megan Lung will be given sometime in April or May, date

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still to be finalized. And we are waiting for the capacity modeling results on our culverts from Cornell. Also, we are planning to have a session later in the year on wild turkeys in our area.

The next CAC meeting will be on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

A session for Trees for Tribes in Taghkanic is planned for Wednesday April 6 at 4 PM. Of course this is dependent on weather. Volunteers will be needed to help clear the areas around the trees previously planted.

3. **News Letter:** Board Member Arthur McGuire informed the audience that Town Board has formed a Town News Letter Committee. On the committee are Ryan Skoda, Debbie Colgrove, Linda Swartz, Zita Kobos, and myself. The committee has a draft letter created they are just verifying the information to be sure everything is correct. The committee is asking to pass the word to please share your email so that we may cut cost by sending the news letter by email.
  
4. **Broad Band:** Board Member Joyce Thompson, the topic of Broadband is alive at the County level. At a presentation by ECC Technologies (ECC) for the County Board of Supervisors, the ECC's proposal is for a federal grant or loan for a fiber backbone connecting schools, libraries and safety towers. Board Member Joyce Thompson added that the Ghent Broadband Committee (BC) has invited representatives from other towns to attend their March meeting. She also reported that she and Town Board Member Arthur McGuire have spoken with Ghent BC Chair, David Berman. Mr. Berman is a professional in the telecommunications industry and offers valuable understanding of documents such as franchise and merger agreements. He gave us an overview of the several providers serving Columbia County and the challenges for getting service to our area. Town Board Member Thompson also reported that the Town Board reactivated the Broadband Advisory Committee at the Monday, 14 March, Town Board Meeting.
  
5. **Larry Kadish, Taghkanic Fire Company:** Larry Kadish reported the following:
  - ✚ 17 calls so far this year, 2 brush fires, 3 structure fires –saved one house.
  - ✚ Annual fund drive letter will be sent out soon.
  - ✚ The mortgage for the expansion of the fire house garage has been paid off.
  - ✚ The fire company will be entertaining a loan agreement for new equipment
  - ✚ Our solar system in starting to pay off,
  - ✚ Annual Banquet will be April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm tickets \$25 call 518-851-5931.
  - ✚ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jumble Sale on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 9 am – 4 pm
  - ✚ Recruitment Day/Community Day April 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 am – 4 pm
  - ✚ 2019 we will be celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, big event at state park.

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- ✓ Cheryl Rogers: is a Burn Ban in effect?
- ✓ Larry Kadish: yes, started March 15<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>

**6. Financial Update:** Board Member Joyce Thompson presented the following:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Town of Taghkanic Highway Garage Capital Project Report</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Presented at Town Board Meeting March 19, 2016</p> <p><small>3/21/2016 Highway Garage Progress Report 1</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT HAPPENED IN 2015?</b></p> <p><small>3/21/2016 Highway Garage Progress Report 2</small></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bare Bones of the New Salt Shed!</b></p>  <p><small>3/21/2016 Highway Garage Progress Report 3</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our Highway Crew did a Lot of the Work</b></p>  <p><small>3/21/2016 Highway Garage Progress Report 4</small></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>And We had a Lot of Help from Neighboring Towns!</b></p>  <p><small>3/21/2016 Highway Garage Progress Report 5</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>New Salt Shed is Receiving Salt!</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><small>First Steps toward Use of our New Salt Shed!</small></p> <p><small>3/21/2016 Highway Garage Progress Report 6</small></p>
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### ... so Where Are We With the Highway Garage Capital Project?

Phase I – 2015/2016	Phase II – 2016/17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Salt Shed Is Up and salt is being moved in</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mitigation testing continues</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grounds work will begin after the salt is safely in the shed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Establish Capital Financing Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue mitigation work</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop Renovation Design for Existing Garage Building</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conduct Monroe Test</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Approve Design</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Execute Capital Financing Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Build Renovation</li> </ul>

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### Proposed Capital Financial Plan GENERAL FUND - 2016

ACTION	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pay \$191,865 Bond Anticipatory Note (BAN) with: \$180,000 from Fund Balance \$11,865 as Budgeted \$191,865 Total (When the cost of a project is not clear, a short-term BAN allows for time to establish that cost. Salt Shed and Mitigation came in ~\$200,000.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pay a Down Payment of \$25,000 (5%) for a 1-Year \$500,000 Bond Anticipatory Note (BAN)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fund Balance maintains its emergency base of \$120,000.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The \$2,289 appropriated for 2016 budget is untouched.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remaining funds for capital programs are \$148,812.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fund Balance would then have \$123,812 left for capital improvement.</li> </ul>

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### Proposed Capital Financial Plan GENERAL FUND – 2017

ACTION	RATIONALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take out a \$475,000 BOND to pay for the 2016 BAN of that amount.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase 2018 budget by ~ \$40,000 to cover annual debt over the next 15 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial advice in seminars is to establish a debt level sooner rather than later.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Using 2016 to understand the need and bonding later recognizes this advice.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Apparently, interest rates are not likely to rise much in 2016.</li> </ul>

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### Proposed Capital Financial Plan HIGHWAY FUND - 2016

ACTION	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pay Est. \$405K cash for: 1 Five-ton Truck (2WD) 1 Backhoe 1 Tractor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Overall Condition of the Highway Fleet becomes Fair to Excellent as opposed to Fair to Failing... More time on roadwork, less time on equipment repair!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fund Balance maintains its emergency base of \$185,000</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The remaining \$13,235 appropriated for the budget remains untouched.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remaining funds for capital programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No CHIPS - \$ 84,472</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> With CHIPS - \$204,272</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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### Proposed Capital Financial Plan HIGHWAY FUND - 2017

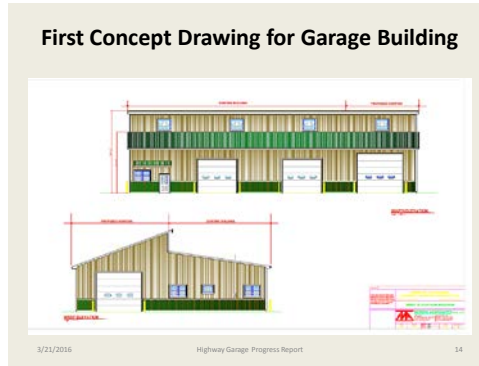
ACTION	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Budget by ~\$40,000 to offset Capital Garage Renovation cost in General Fund.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the Highway Fund were to need additional money in a given year, law allows the General Fund to transfer funds to cover the need.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> It is not possible for the Highway Fund to transfer funds to the General Fund.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historically, the Highway Fund comes in under budget through careful cost management.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This reduction will not impair road projects in any way.</li> </ul>

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### Net Effect of Capital Financial Plan

- There is no increase to the total Town budget resulting from this capital improvement plan.
- Why?
  - ◆ Because the debt incurred in the General Fund is offset by reducing the Highway budget in that amount.
- Highway Fund is using its Fund Balance to improve its fleet and equipment so it incurs no additional debt.
- Maintaining an Appropriate Repair and Replace Program
  - ◆ The outlook for CHIPS over the next few years is positive – we cannot budget it but we estimate that the Highway Fund Balance can continue to build.
  - ◆ The fleet will last longer when properly housed inside and worked on in a proper maintenance bay.

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**Plan Going Forward**

- The Town Board begins monthly project meetings in March 2016.
- The Town Engineer has been asked to develop plans in sections to allow for the most effective use of the available money.
- Design criteria are to build:
  - ◆ Adequate work and storage space
  - ◆ Necessary facilities for safe and efficient work
  - ◆ Finishing work to follow

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Board Member Joyce Thompson: Arthur Baker has handed the Board a letter just this morning which will be addressed at our next Building Project meeting for all members to have time to review.

**7. The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment: None**

- ✚ Linda Swartz: at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting Dennis Callahan asked for direction on size/no habitation storage shed on vacant land, was there any decision.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: no decision was made; we asked for more information.
- ✚ Arthur Baker: Monroe Test, will there be a Public Hearing?
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: yes
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: when campaigning I was asked if the town gets rid of equipment; why is the equipment still in use by someone else?
- ✚ Superintendent George Hotaling: when we decide we need a piece of new equipment, the old it is not financially worth fixing; we are putting good money to bad. The old is put out for sealed bids with a minimal bid and the highest bidder wins.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: we need to notice for a backhoe.
- ✚ Superintendent George Hotaling: I would like to hold off on the notice; I am shopping around new costs and seeing about \$113,000; getting prices for used from dealer with warranty, will have more information by the March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- ✚ Larry Kadish: financial report was well planned and thought out; thank you to the Financial Committee.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: asked Resident Deputy Peter Grzeskow, what does a resident deputy do?
- ✚ Resident Deputy Grzeskow: I have been assigned by the Sheriff the Towns of Claverack, Clermont, Livingston, and Taghkanic. I patrol each town, I attend Board meetings when possible, I patrol the parkway, and I answer residents' calls. A call received by 911 is answered by the closest patrol vehicle available at the time.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: we have a large truck issue on Taghkanic Road.
- ✚ Resident Deputy Grzeskow: I have been involved.

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- ✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: Deputy Grzeskow, storage sheds on vacant land, how do you feel about that?
- ✚ Resident Deputy Grzeskow: It will attract criminals to break in.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: What is the crime rate in Taghkanic?
- ✚ Resident Deputy Grzeskow: I don't have that data; the court clerk in each town would be able to help with that.
- ✚ Board member Arthur McGuire: Thank you!

**8. With no further business**, on a motion by Board Member Richard Skoda, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be April 11, 2016 at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience: Debbie Colgrove  
Arthur Baker  
Walter Flamenbaum  
Tom Grunewald  
Leon Hoffman  
Donay Queenan

Ray Colgrove  
Meridith Glabman  
Judith Flamenbaum  
Cathy Zimmerman  
John Clarkson  
Deputy Peter Grzeskow

Larry Kadish  
George Hotaling  
Valerie Hoffman  
Marion Kaplan  
Ellen Clarkson

Anna Kadish  
Walter Thompson  
Linda Swartz  
Anne Hoffman  
Polly Horton