

**Approved**  
**January 9, 2017**

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF TAGHKANIC  
December 12, 2016**

Note all documents in these minutes may be clicked on and enlarged for your reading pleasure

**6:30 pm:** The Town Board signing vouchers.

**7 pm:** The Taghkanic Town Board held its Regular monthly meeting on the above date at the Taghkanic Town Hall. Supervisor Erik Tyree opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of Silence.

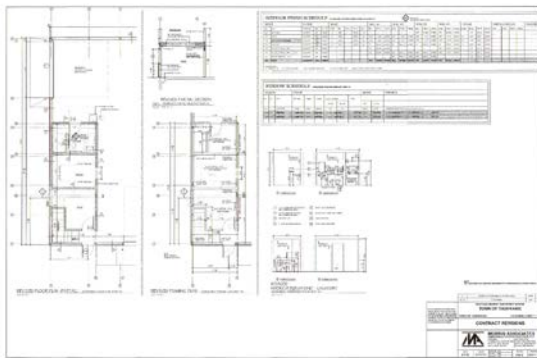
<b>Present:</b>	Erik Tyree	Supervisor
	Arthur McGuire	Board Member
	Richard Skoda	Board Member
	Ryan Skoda	Board Member
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

<b>Absent:</b>	Joyce Thompson	Board Member
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**Guest Speaker:**

**Building Project Update:** Ray Jurkowski, Town Engineer, reported that the project is moving along, the concrete tests are all well above PSI level needed. The Electrical Contractor has submitted documents with NYSEG and is waiting for NYSEG to set a meeting to let them know what pole the new feed is coming from. That is all of the information that the Electrical Contractor needs to move forward. General Contractor has started framing. The rough plumbing is done under the slab.

Ray met with the Highway Employees regarding concerns with the layout of the office and break room. I am submitting new plans with their recommendations as follows:



- ✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: the recommendations are fine, a little costly.
- ✚ Ray Jurkowski: labor is the most of the cost, prevailing wage.
- ✚ Board member Arthur McGuire: not much to say, I feel the men know what they need.
- ✚ Supervisor Erik Tyree motioned to approve the changes, seconded by Board

Member Richard Skoda.

**Approved:** 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)

0 Nays

1 Absent (Joyce)

**Ray Jurkowski: there will be a construction meeting next week on site and I will let the Board Members know what day and time.**

Clerk Rogers read the following letter from Board Member Joyce Thompson:

To those who signed the letters and to all Taghkanic citizens,

First, thank you for caring about and presenting an opinion about the Highway Garage color. It is important to get input from Taghkanic citizens to inform the Town Board in its decisions. You asked that the board address your concerns in a “timely fashion”. Timeliness is indeed the issue here.

**Timing**

The fact is that it is too late to change the materials order. To maintain the construction schedule it had to go in before the 12 December meeting. Delay would have incurred extra costs that we cannot afford.

Unfortunately, the 30 November interview session was planned before receipt of your first request dated 27 November. The interview session was not intended to be anything other than the interviews of investment houses to handle the Fire Company LOSAP funds. That designation is on the November calendar. No meeting could be opened because it was not noticed as a meeting. As technical as this sounds, it is law that a Town Board meeting must be noticed five days before the event is scheduled to take place. The intent of the law is to assure that the public has the opportunity to attend. Understanding this leads to a suggestion at the end of this response.

**Elements that were considered and follow up by the Town Board**

The color scheme for roof and walls that you recommend was considered at some length at the 14 November meeting. My recollection is that there was general disappointment that the colors suggested (red and green) were not available in the technical category required for the walls. Thinking back over past comments in project and informational meetings, the original presentation colors had been discussed in terms of a single color for the walls or a contrasting color around the base. After an effort to find a workable alternative, a return to the colors that have been displayed for at least 18 months, if not longer, and to recognize the suggestion for a single color without base contrast seemed to be the best alternative.

Following the discussion, the Town Board made its decision in order to meet construction schedule requirements.

At that 12 November meeting door color was also addressed. Following the meeting, the Town Board continued research into alternatives. The public’s concern was that white doors would look dirty all the time and brown was preferred. It was suggested that with today’s technology, fading might not be such a problem. Research showed that even today’s products are expected to fade. Power washing is not a good solution either, as reported by our firemen, because it is difficult to get even pressure and the result is an uneven effect that is not repairable. Additionally, replacement of a damaged section will not match perfectly. The board asked Ray Jurkowski about a tan alternative. It is possible to special order other colors, but at considerable extra expense and longer lead-time. These two factors make a special order out of the question because we cannot add expense and we cannot incur delays to the construction schedule.

Thus, the original board decision stands, the order has been placed and cannot be changed without additional expense.

### Lessons Learned

Throughout this multi-year process, the Town Board has held information meetings and monthly project meetings at which the drawings were presented and discussed. More recently, they have been on display at Town Hall with color swatches for consideration. While the exact color depended on what company the awarded contractor selected, the general design approach could have been discussed.

A structured presentation of your ideas as set out in the letters would have been welcomed at any of the board or project meetings. Instead, in those meetings, when public did attend, after a few comments were offered regarding color, everyone, attendees and board members alike, appeared to be in general consensus to discuss it later.

To assure that as much public input as possible informs decisions like this, it would be helpful to make the topic a specific agenda item, thus creating a call for formal presentations from the public. Similarly, the public needs to watch the town calendar and check agendas or ask a board member or the Town Clerk to add an agenda item. It is a two-way dialogue that serves us all best.

Again, thank you for your caring and effort to inform.

Joyce Thompson  
Town Board Member

- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: would it cost more to change colors?
- ✚ Ray Jurkowski: yes, brown color is a special order will cost an extra \$1200 a door and is not readily available.
- ✚ Moisha Blechman: what I have to say is mute, I just learned that day when the Board was going to decide on colors. All the residents I spoke to were against the light colors. Residents that live there are going to be deeply disappointed.
- ✚ Susan Raymond: in the fall we were told the colors were going to be discussed at a later date.
- ✚ Erin Edwards: all meeting I have been at colors would be talked about at a later date.
- ✚ R. O. Blechman: read the following letter from the residents:  
Dear Supervisor Erik Tyree,

Town Board Members: Arthur McGuire, Joyce Thompson, Richard Skoda, Ryan Skoda,

This is a formal request that the Town Board modify color decisions for the new Highway Department Garage.

The Highway Department Garage should conform to the traditional colors of rural work-related structures.

The current choice of pastel colors - beige siding and white doors that will dominate the facade - are appropriate for a home, but totally inappropriate for a work structure.

We request that the darker color scheme that is traditional for all non-residential buildings be implemented. Darker colors will de-emphasize the building size, an important consideration, and it will identify it as a traditional work-related structure.

We recommend that stock colors offered by our engineer at the last Board meeting be utilized. We therefore recommend reinstating the brown doors the Board had chosen (a warranty is typically offered by the manufacturer against fading).

We also strongly recommend that the colors for the siding, window trim, and side doors which were considered possibilities at the last Town Board meeting, be used. They were a barn red or an ivy green. With either choice of color, the roof can be brown. This color scheme is both traditional and appropriate for all rural work-structures.

As taxpayers and nearby residents, we urgently request that the choice of colors be amended as per our recommendations. We respectfully request that the Town Board address our concerns in a timely fashion.

Sincerely, Kathy Bainer, Moisha Blechman, R. O. Blechman, Erin Edwards, Carole Fass, Stephen Fass, Meredith Glabman, Polly Horton, John Markus, Donay Queenan, Alan Raymond, Susan Raymond, Jean Scribner, Jim Scribner, Don Sheff, Tina Sheff, Karen Schutzer, Dr. Steven Schutzer, Scott Stackpole, Chris Tallackson

- ✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: I like the colors that have been displayed and I stand behind the Board's decision.
- ✚ Board Member Ryan Skoda: I stand behind our decision, Board Member Joyce Thompson and I worked hard on the budget for this project and we are at bare bones
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: I like the green but as it will cost more I stand by our decision.
- ✚ Susan Raymond: we need to learn something from this; the board needs to be more informative to the public.
- ✚ Clerk Rogers: at the Saturday meeting the renderings were on display with the color samples and everyone was told then to please send any suggestion to the Board Members. The rendering were brought to the Town Hall and have been on display with the color samples since that Saturday Meeting. There have been numerous meetings concerning this project all open to the public, also there have been several public information meeting concerning this project mostly held on Saturdays.

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

**November 14, 2016:** Tabled

**November 30, 2016:** Tabled

**The Correspondence consisted of:**

1. Kimberly Cammer, President, Columbia County Assessors Assoc.
  - ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: not that we have any problems with our assessor but what if we did, how would we handle the problem?
  - ✚ Larry Kadish: how would the town handle the problem
  - ✚ Attorney Decaire: I will look into it.
2. NYMIR, Our Policy
3. Holly Tanner, Col. Co. Clerk, K.I.S.S. Program
4. Kenneth J. Flood, Col. Co. Planning and Economic Development
5. Eric Gaylord, Letter of Interest for PB
6. NYSEG Catch the Wind Program
7. Columbia-Greene Humane Society
  - ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire moved to sign the contract with Columbia-Greene Humane Society, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

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

**1 Absent (Joyce)**

8. Moisha Blechman, Request to amend color selection
9. Moisha Blechman, second request
10. Inge Dobelis, Request to amend color selection
11. Genevieve Carr, NYS Empire State Development, Public Hearing Notice GTel Broadband Capital Project
12. N. Jeanne Forkeutis, Morgan Stanley
13. Russ Antonacci, Glen Falls National Bank & Trust Company
14. Thea Schoep Claverack Library Director
15. Thomas Mirabelli, letter of interest for ZBA

**Board Reports:**

**Animal Control:** Wes Powell, report submitted.

**ZBA:** James Romaine, Chair, report submitted.

**Planning Board:** Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

**Assessor:** Craig Surprise no report submitted.

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

**Historian:** Nancy Griffith, no report submitted.

**Traffic Safety Board:** Linda Swartz, no report, no meeting.

**Environmental Management Council:** Anna Kadish, no report submitted.

**Zoning Commission:** Joyce Thompson, no report submitted.

**Office for the Aging:** Joyce Thompson, no report submitted.

**Clerk/Collector:** Cheryl Rogers, 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.**

**Highway:** Superintendent George Hotaling report submitted.

Board reports were accepted as submitted and read on a motion by Board Member Richard Skoda seconded by Board Member Ryan Skoda.

**Approved:** 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)

0 Nays

1 Absent (Joyce)

**Financial:** Joyce Thompson submitted the following:

The Financial Advisory Committee was not able to conduct its November audit. The Chair was not able to get the papers to the committee because of a health issue. A meeting date may be set for December to audit October and November.

**November Revenues:**

General Fund 25% over budget

Highway Fund 20% over budget

**November Expenses:**

General Fund 1% under budget

Highway Fund 21% under budget

**General Fund Revenues have benefited from:**

◆ Planning Board Fees 30% over budget

◆ Building Permit Fees 14% over budget

◆ Sales Tax from County 9% over budget

◆ Mortgage Tax-County 59% over budget

- ◆ Fines and Forfeitures 42% over budget

**General Fund – Drivers of Small Expense Adjustments**

- ◆ Heavy Court business requires more clerk time than expected at 2016 budget time
- ◆ Website issues have required unanticipated changes and expenses

A budget amendment will be necessary to correct these changes.

Financial Advisory Committee report was accepted as submitted and read on a motion by Board Member Ryan Skoda seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

**Approved:** 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)  
0 Nays  
1 Absent (Joyce)

**Advisory Board Reports:**

**Conservation Advisory Committee:** Anna Kadish no meeting

**Broadband Advisory Committee:** Arthur McGuire no meeting

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

**Approved:** 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)  
0 Nays  
1 Absent (Joyce)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **LOSAP Investment Company:** Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to appoint Morgan Stanley as the Investment Company in charge of the Taghkanic Fire Company LOSAP, seconded by Board Member Ryan Skoda.

**Approved:** 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)  
0 Nays  
1 Absent (Joyce)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **January 2016 Calendar:** Board Member Ryan Skoda motioned to approve the January Calendar with changes, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.
2. **Open seats on ZBA, PB, and Columbia County Planning:** Board Member Ryan Skoda motioned to appoint
  - ◆ **Alice Platt** as the representative on the Col. Co. Planning Board term ending **12/31/2019**,
  - ◆ **Eric Gaylord** full member, on the Town Planning Board term ending **12/31/2023**.
  - ◆ **Anna Kadish** the Alternate on the Town Planning Board.
  - ◆ **Thomas Mirabelli** full member on the ZBA, Term ending **12/31/2021**

Seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

**Approved:** 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)  
0 Nays  
1 Absent (Joyce)

3. **Resolution 15-2016 State Route 82 Speed Limit Review:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 15 - 2016**

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Taghkanic, New York, duly held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016, at the Town Hall, Taghkanic, New York, the following resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by: Board Member Ryan Skoda

Seconded by: Board Member Richard Skoda

**WHEREAS**, request has been made by the Town Board of the Town of Taghkanic, for a speed limit review on State Route 82; and

**WHEREAS**, Gasland has submitted an Application to the Town of Taghkanic for a gas station and Dunkin Doughnuts on the westbound section of State Route 82 just off the Taconic Parkway exit for the Rip Van Winkle bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Taghkanic believes that further study and review of a speed limit for State Route 82 is necessary, and that a lower speed limit should, in fact be in place;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of the Town of Taghkanic that the matter of a speed limit for State Route 82 is hereby referred to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board for its review, recommendations, and collaboration with the NYSDOT and

Upon question of the forgoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Supervisor Erik Tyree	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
Board Member Arthur McGuire	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
Board Member Richard Skoda	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
Board Member Ryan Skoda	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
Board Member Joyce Thompson	___	___	___	<u>X</u>

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Town Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of Taghkanic.

**Approved: 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)**  
**0 Nays**  
**1 Absent (Joyce)**

**4. Budget Amendment # 10:** Board Member Ryan Skoda motioned to approve Budget Amendment # 10 as follows, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

**Town of Taghkanic**

**DECEMBER 12, 2016**

**Budget Amendment # 10**

GENERAL FUND		Increase	Decrease
Personal Serv. Clerk	1110.13	\$4,000.00	
Website support	1410.41	\$890.00	
Assessor Contracual	1355.4		\$4,890.00
		\$4,890.00	\$4,890.00

**Approved: 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)**  
**0 Nays**  
**1 Absent (Joyce)**

**AUDIT OF MONTH'S BILLS:**

**December 12, 2016 Abstract:** Board Member Richard Skoda motioned that December 12, 2016 abstract has been audited and approved for payment, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

✦ 2016 General Fund Vouchers	#361 – 375	\$ 5,959.27
✦ 2016 Highway Fund Vouchers	#158 – 173	\$ 23,001.27
✦ 2016 Highway Project Fund Voucher	# 26 -	\$ 76,666.42
✦ 2016 Escrow	# 18 -	\$ 2,005.48

**Approved:** 4 Ayes (Erik, Arthur, Richard, Ryan)  
0 Nays  
1 Absent (Joyce)

**PUBLIC COMMENT – FIFTEEN MINUTES:**

- ✦ Supervisor Erik Tyree announced he has appointed Ryan Skoda as his Deputy as Elizabeth Young does not feel she is able to continue.
- ✦ Supervisor Erik Tyree announced that he is tendering his resignation effective December 31, 2016.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**With no further business,** on a motion by Board Member Ryan Skoda, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **Monday January 9, 2017** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

**Audience:** Linda Swartz  
Susan Raymond  
R. O. Blechman  
Chris Tallackson

Anna Kadish  
George Hotaling  
Arthur Griffith  
Erin Edwards

Larry Kadish  
Moisha Blechman  
Alan Raymond