

APPROVED
April 10, 2017

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF TAGHKANIC
March 13, 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 Ryan Skoda opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of Silence.

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

Guest Speaker: None

Building Project Update: Ray Jurkowski, Town Engineer, shared the following chart on the highway project costs as of March 13, 2017:

Town of Taghkanic Highway Garage Building Project Costs as of March 13, 2017					
	General Contractor	Electrical Contractor	HVAC Contractor	Plumbing Contractor	Totals
Original Contract	\$559,981.00	\$62,300.00	\$72,000.00	\$46,500.00	\$639,281.00
Change Orders	\$8,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,200.00
Contract Value to Date	\$568,181.00	\$62,300.00	\$72,000.00	\$46,500.00	\$648,981.00
Applications for Payment to Date	\$339,413.90	\$38,533.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$377,947.28
Balance to Finish	\$228,767.10	\$23,766.62	\$72,000.00	\$46,500.00	\$371,033.72
Current Contract Value					\$648,981.00
Additional Construction Costs					
Rough Grading (Estimated)					\$1,000.00
Fill Material (Estimate)					\$5,000.00
Septic System Materials (Estimated)					\$2,000.00
Drainage Work Materials (Estimated)					\$2,000.00
NYSEG Connection Fee (Estimated)					\$374.00
Current Construction Total					\$559,981.00
Potential Pending C. O.'s					\$0.00
Total Construction Cost					\$559,981.00
Non-Construction Costs					
Engineering Design					\$40,000.00
Construction Admin					\$19,000.00
Total Project Costs to Date					\$619,981.00
Project Budget					\$678,075.00

Ray Jurkowski informed the Board that the project is 80% complete; NYSEG was to setting the pole this week but will probably be delayed because of the storm. The heater gas line and water lines have been installed. The general contractor will be painting the floor by the workbench with an aggregate. The compressor has been installed and the line will be run by Harkins. I have researched pricing on a new septic tank through Keeler Vault and Minor, Minor is the lowest price. I need the Board to approve the purchase of the septic tank. The plumber will install at no cost.

Board Member Joyce Thompson: motion to approve the purchase of the septic tank, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce),
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

Ray Jurkowski also stated that the intersection realignment will be done by the highway department; if the men get busy; one option is to call the county for help. The grading of

the site will be done by McCagg as soon as weather permits. Final completion takes place when the general contractor (One Way Construction) and Morris Assoc. signs off on all work; there is a (1) one-year maintenance warranty.

- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda would like to hold a Saturday meeting in April at the highway garage with an open house, what Saturday works for the Board?
- ✚ **All agreed to either Saturday April 22nd or April 29th from 10:30 – noon for the open house at the new highway garage. It will depend on the work progress.**
- ✚ Larry Kadish: has there been money set aside for the landscaping around the new garage? If so we should move ASAP.
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: money was set aside for the landscaping and the abatement of the asbestos.
- ✚ Alice Platt: landscaping should not be done until old building is down.

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

February 13, 2017: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes motioned by Board Member Arthur McGuire, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

Approved: **3 Ayes** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce)**
 0 Nays
 1 Absent **(Richard)**

February 27, 2017: Town Board Interview meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes motioned by Board Member Arthur McGuire, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

Approved: **3 Ayes** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce)**
 0 Nays
 1 Absent **(Richard)**

The Correspondence consisted of:

- I. Letters of Support of Linda Swartz
 - ✓ Lori Rothstein
 - ✓ Eve Kaplan
 - ✓ Debbie Colgrove
- ✚ **Board Member Arthur McGuire: more letters of support for Linda.**
- II. Michael and Jennifer Simmons, Woodland Road.

✚ **Board Member Arthur McGuire read the following letter:**
I am sorry to bother you all but am having difficulty getting off from work to attend the board meetings.

Is it possible to bring up - be read publicly this letter in the next board meetings and have notes commented reactions stated in the board meeting notes(so they can be on file) for March as with other villages town meeting notes.

My family and I purchased our home on 129 woodland road stop 40 in taghaknic. (Private road ext off woodland road) on November 1st 2016. The road conditions at that time were decent but narrow. We were advised by both Realtors that the bus comes up the hill and turns around the culdisack. This is not the case when I called taconic hills transportation supervisor and the superintendent they deem the road to be extremely unsafe and not up to par with dot standards. I then contacted the highway superintendent who says there is nothing wrong with road besides needing to be paved. After speaking to the neighbors and taconic hills staff they all state the condition of the road has been brought up repeatedly over the years.

Over the last 2 months we have had both thaw and freezing weather which has led to massive ruts in the road and very improper drainage options leading to dangerous conditions. At times when the road gets plowed it is turned into a one way street where I and my neighbors have had to back our vehicles uphill into someone's driveway to allow another vehicle to drive by. The answer I received from the highway dept was the shoulders are to soft. (At the top of the hill it is not wide enough to get two cars by on the blind corner which is very dangerous)

I have spoken to the highway dept supervisor and the Joyce of the town board who both assure me that the road will be properly paved this spring after the thaw ends and dries out.

What I would like to see happen is the road be brought up to dot grade with proper culvert drainage (being it's a giant hill not a flat road) and widened at spots to allow 2 way traffic throughout the road after being paved. I am also requesting someone please contact Taconic hills transportation dept. and superintend Neil Howard and find what they need to make this road accessible for our children to be picked up instead of at County rt 11 which is over a half mile for my child and neighboring children.

This can all be reimbursed through the Chips program aka consolidated Highway improvement, Aim funding or the winter recovery program as with any town/village.

Thank you and please to reach out to me with any concerns responses before the board meeting if possible.

Michael and Jennifer Simmons
129 woodland road stop 40
Taghkanic ny 12521

- ✦ Board Member Joyce Thompson: Superintendent Hotaling plans on working on Woodland Road this year, widening the road where possible, paving and CHIP sealing. As far as the school we need to contact Neil Howard. In the meantime Superintendent Hotaling has been trying to stabilize the road with Item 4 pending workable road and weather conditions.
 - ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: how is the road now?
 - ✦ Michael Simmons: Ok, my biggest concern is if a bus cannot use the road how is a fire truck going to get in?
- III. Marnella P. Cordato, Woodland Road
- IV. Susan and Alan Raymond and Joe Brightly, List-By-Pass
- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: Susan is asking for another 5 ton weight limit sign for the road. Is this something we need to approve?
 - ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: no, signs are up to the highway department.
 - ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: does George know?
 - ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I will tell him.
- V. Christine Vanderlan Columbia Land Conservancy, Training:
- VI. Kathy Marchione, Senator, Report on Legislative Achievements 2016
- VII. Geneva Carraway, Who Is Jesus and Why He Came
- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: what is this and why is it in the correspondence? (church and state)
 - ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: it was sent to the Town Supervisor Ryan Skoda, Town of Taghkanic which is a correspondence to the town.
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- VIII. NYMIR, Training
- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: training opportunity for the Highway Department.
- IX. Wellington Trust, report
- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: what is this?
 - ✦ Board member Joyce Thompson: this is a report from the collateral investment company that protects the town's funds in the bank.
- X. Nelson R. Alford Jr. Town of Hillsdale Proposed LL #1-17
- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: a public hearing will be held on March 21st at 6:45 for the Town of Hillsdale to establish a moratorium on certain solar energy installation.
 - ✦ Alice Platt: have we done any solar regulations? At County Planning meetings many other towns are addressing solar regulations.
 - ✦ Board Member Joyce Thompson: The Zoning Commission is addressing it now.
- XI. Morgan Stanley, monthly statement
- XII. Christopher Lapine P.E., Gas Land
- XIII. Joy Toothill, Pumpkin Hollow and Berkshire Road
- XIV. Robert LaPorta, Chairman, Columbia County Veterans' Service Agency
- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: we are invited to the Honor a Veteran Ceremony to be held on March 27th for a Bruce Hotaling Sr. Is this any relative of George?
 - ✦ No one knew and George was not present to answer.
- XV. Dawn Evans, Columbia County Dept. of Humane Resources
- ✦ Arthur McGuire: Do we have a nomination for the Summer Youth Employment Program for 2017?
 - ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: if anyone knows of a youth 18 year of age that we should nominate please let me know.
- XVI. Association of Towns, 17th Annual Town Finance Schools
- ✦ Arthur McGuire: Financial School is being held May 4-5 at Buffalo Niagara Marriott and May 11-

12 at Gideon Putnam Saratoga Springs.

XVII. NYS Department of Transportation

✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda read the following letter:



Board Reports:

Animal Control: Wes Powell, report submitted.

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report submitted.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Assessor: Craig Surprise report submitted.

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

✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: Does Dennis need an answer to who the Attorney is for the Lido's II complaint?

✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I spoke to Dennis and told him to move forward with Attorney Decaire.

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, report submitted.

Office for the Aging: Joyce Thompson, no meeting, no report to submit.

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

Supervisor: Ryan Skoda, report submitted and the written report was available on the back table for the public.

Highway: Superintendent George Hotaling report submitted.

Board reports were accepted as submitted and read on a motion by Board Member Joyce Thompson seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce)

0 Nays

1 Absent (Richard)

Financial: Joyce Thompson submitted the following:

Financial Advisory Committee Report to the March 2017 Town Board

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) met on Thursday, 8 March, as scheduled.

Attending were Arthur McGuire, Linda Swartz and Joyce Thompson. Susan Benton will return for the April meeting.

The FAC audited the February financial papers and found no errors. Because there was no February FAC meeting, the January financial audit was conducted by only one person so as a partial confirmation of that work, the committee conducted a check of January deposits and no errors were found.

The Annual Update Document (AUD) was prepared by the Accountant for the Town and filed by the Supervisor at the end of February. The AUD provides the information needed to assist in the annual review of the town's Five-year Financial Plan. The FAC will conduct that review at the April FAC meeting. In light of the existing bond payments running until 2031, questions to be considered are:

- 1) What is an acceptable level for the General Fund's Fund Balance, and
- 2) What items might require major funding?

The AUD also gives us the official Beginning 2017 Fund Balance numbers for the General and Highway Funds. Based on that information and February revenues and expenses, the first 2017 Estimated Fund Balance Impact Report was generated. It is a guide for investment decisions for both funds. This report will be updated quarterly or as needed for purchase decisions.

Fund Balance Report (February):

The General Fund Balance begins 2017 with \$325,478 and no deductions are planned for 2017. The goal for this fund is to build it up to a more comfortable level over several years, beginning with the 2017 budget.

The Highway Fund Balance for January 2017 is \$855,636. Budgeted deductions include payment for the second new 5-ton truck with wing plow (authorized in 2016) and budget allocations of \$49,737 in addition to an \$185,000 emergency base. Purchase of a used paver for \$9,000 is also under consideration. Taking all of the above deductions, this fund would have \$370,642 without CHIPS and \$517,823 with CHIPS at the end of the year without additional purchases.

The town can consider using some of those funds for equipment and road repairs. According to the established Highway Capital Plan, the next item to be replaced is a tractor to take on the work of the current one dating from 1991. Estimates should be sought as soon as possible so that it might be available in time for the mowing season.

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

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

Advisory Board Reports:

Conservation Advisory Committee: Anna Kadish: Reported that the CAC talk on culverts was well attended. There is a nature walk on the Kadish property on April 22. We will be holding a walk on Sam Pratt's property in the fall and also in the spring. We are hoping to set up the wild turkey talk soon and also one on the iron forges in Taghkanic.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Arthur McGuire reported the committee did not meet officially because of a noticing issue. GTel was awarded the grant but did not get all of the areas applied for. The allocations were done by the state. GTel applied for all of Livingston, Gallatin, Germantown, Clermont and Taghkanic. The company has a period of time to accept the grant.

Advisory Board reports were accepted as submitted and read on a motion by Board Member Joyce Thompson seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Candidates for TB open seat: Supervisor Ryan Skoda: What is your pleasure?

✚ Board member Joyce Thompson: thank you to all who sent letters of interest. We had a good mix of people born here as well as those who have moved to town. All care enough to serve the town. I feel the position for this term remainder would be better served by a person that has board experience.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: we received a lot of letters of support for Linda. I agree with choosing someone who has served already.

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I agree with Joyce's comment, very pleased we have 4 candidates.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: to that, I motion to appoint Linda Swartz to fill the remaining term of the open position as Town Board Member, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: roll call vote

Board Member Joyce Thompson AYE

Board Member Arthur McGuire AYE

Supervisor Ryan Skoda NAY

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: what if it were Larry?

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Larry in his interview said if there were a better candidate there would be no hard feelings. My vote would be for Eric Gaylord, because of his construction background. He would be a big help for Superintendent Hotaling. Three votes are needed to carry the appointment.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I understand your decision.

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: as for tonight we need to agree to disagree. Thank you to all four candidates. Board Member Richard Skoda is away on vacation which was long-time planned. We will place this on the agenda for next month for another vote.

B. Paver Purchase: Supervisor Ryan Skoda, I spoke with Joel Craig from Germantown asking why they were selling the paver. He didn't even know the paver was for sale but they had approved selling it at their meeting.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: Unfortunately, George is not here tonight to explain why he wants the paver.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson reported the following for Superintendent Hotaling who was preparing for a major storm:

This is information for Town Board discussion of the purchase of a used paver. Please find below the list of roads that Superintendent Hotaling would like to pave this year. The paver under consideration would make it possible to do more of them than if the town had to engage a third party to do the same work.

This is in the context of overall roadwork scheduled for 2017.

Three major road projects:

1) Woodland: \$80,000 to put down 3" binder on the existing width from ditch to ditch.

Cables in ditches and culverts as well as natural elements restrict widening this road in many places.

- 2) \$30,000 to chip seal Martindale Road - 3" binder was put down there as base in 2016 and the seal coat preserves and lengthens its life.

Note: Woodland would be chip sealed in 2018.

- 3) Prepare Taghkanic Road culverts for major work in 2018.

Road Repair: shimming of the roads listed below has been confirmed by Superintendent Hotaling.

As a reminder, the cost impact of third party paving vs. a town paver plus materials is evidenced below.

For relatively equal distances:

Livingston Road (third-party paving) cost \$137,000

Equivalent portion of Post Hill Road shimming by Livingston Hwy paver plus Taghkanic materials cost \$74,000 (parts are full-road-width shimming).

While the cost of asphalt varies, general thinking among the Highway Superintendents is that it will remain relatively steady with a possible but temporary spike.

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I asked George if any of the men knew how to run the paver. His answer was no, but someone from Livingston would train them.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: has George seen it run?

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: yes

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: when a town loans a piece of equipment that town sends a man to run the equipment.

✚ Alice Platt: are there other towns who pave their roads.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: yes

Board Member Joyce Thompson moved to purchase the paver for \$9,000.00, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **April 2017 Calendar:** Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve the March Calendar with changes to the Zoning Commission start time to 5 pm and the addition of the open house on April 22, 2017 starting at 10:30 AM., seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

2. **Churchtown Fire Company LOSAP:** Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve the Churchtown Fire Company 2016 LOSAP points that have been posted for 30 days, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

3. **Escrow Law update:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: we need to have the Escrow Law reviewed and updated to add verbiage to maintain a \$5,000.00 balance in the Escrow account until the applicant process has been approved by the ZBA or Planning Board. Any Escrow funds not used would be refunded to applicant.

- ✚ Stanley Scott: is this an interest bearing account? Also is a \$5,000.00 escrow for smaller project required or is there sliding scale?
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: no, the Escrow account is not interest bearing and for small projects the ZBA and Planning Boards decide if an Escrow account needs to be set up. Larger projects involve more research and go through a SEQRA process that would require an escrow account.
- ✚ Linda Swartz: possible verbiage might be a percentage with not to exceed condition.
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: maybe we need Attorney Decaire to review and make recommendations.
- ✚ All Board Members present agreed to have Attorney Decaire review and make recommendations. Supervisor Ryan Skoda will contact Attorney Decaire.

4. Adding Definition for Drive-thru to Zoning Code: Supervisor Ryan Skoda, in January the application for Gas Land was pulled by the Applicant. In February, Board Member Joyce Thompson and I meet with the owner of Gas Land and his Project Managers. He is willing to continue with the process, but would like to have a drive-thru. Supervisor Skoda, I have met with Dennis Callahan, we reviewed the code and a drive-thru is not allowed. Attorney Decaire suggested a local law defining Drive-Through Establishments and authorizing the same.

- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: do we want to allow a drive-thru? The applicant would need to modify the design for a drive-thru.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: is there opposition to a drive-thru?
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: the applicant would have to modify the design and re-apply to the Planning Board and go through the process of PB review, SEQRA review and DOT review.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: we do not have much to lose by adding or allowing drive-thrus and bring our code up-to-date.
- ✚ Michael Simmons: much safer to go thru a drive thru, then backing up.

Board Member Joyce Thompson, move to have Attorney Decaire draft a Local Law defining Drive-Through Establishments and authorizing the same, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (Richard)

5. Budget Amendment #2-2017: Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve Budget Amendment # 2, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Town of Taghkanic
 March 13, 2017

Budget Amendment # 2

HIGHWAY FUND		Increase	Decrease
Equipment	DA 5130.2	\$191,520.00	
Fund Balance			\$191,520.00
		<u>\$191,520.00</u>	<u>\$191,520.00</u>

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

AUDIT OF MONTH'S BILLS:

March 13, 2017: Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned that the March 13, 2017 Voucher 91 for Morris Assoc. has been audited and approved for payment and should be paid out of Planning Contractual 8020.4 with the understanding it be will be reimbursed by the Planning Applicant (Gas Land), if possible, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

✚ 2017 General Fund Vouchers	# 78	-	106	\$277,051.70
✚ 2017 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 29	-	54	\$217,387.18
✚ 2017 Highway Project Vouchers	# 6	-	7	\$ 81,499.30

Approved: 3 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

PUBLIC COMMENT – FIFTEEN MINUTES:

- ✚ Linda Swartz: I asked back in January about Jim Romaine’s residence and this was not noted in the minutes.
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I will ask Jim for proof of residency.
- ✚ Michael Simmons: I do not agree with the outcome for Woodland Road. Please research more. There are no underground cables that are active. All electric and telephone wires are on poles. The highway department should grade, place new culvert pipes and widen the road when they do the road this year. There was a fire and the house was lost because the Taghkanic Fire Company didn’t respond in time.
- ✚ Larry Kadish, Arthur Griffith, Arthur McGuire and Ryan Skoda: that is Craryville Fire District not Taghkanic.
- ✚ Walter Thompson: appreciate the movie, but there are better ones.
- ✚ Clerk Rogers: thank you to Arthur Griffith for finding a water leak and Eric Gaylord for finding the shut off.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Arthur McGuire, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm. carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **Monday April 10, 2017** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience:	Linda Swartz	Anna Kadish	Larry Kadish
	Arthur Griffith	Stanley Scott	Walter Thompson
	Michael Simmons	Eric Gaylord	Alice Platt