

Approved
May 8, 2017

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF TAGHKANIC
April 10, 2017**

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: Town Assessor Craig Surprise: I have been collecting property information from Pictometry to get prepared to proceed with the total revaluation, to hopefully be completed in 2019. The 2019 school tax bills would be the first tax bills with the new assessed values. I will be sending a data mailer out to property owners in the near future. If information provided by property owner is different than town records, I as the Assessor may request to enter the home to verify the information.

- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: NYS purchased property in Taghkanic and Ancram for a total of 600 acres, is this true?
- ✚ Craig Surprise: yes, the property has been filed with our rolls as taxable State-owned land.
- ✚ Stanley Scott: what is Pictometry?
- ✚ Craig Surprise: it is the fly-over provider of aerial image capture and geospatial data. They fly at low altitudes to capture the details that satellites miss.

Building Project Update: Ray Jurkowski, Town Engineer, sent in the following chart on the highway project costs as of April 10, 2017:

Town of Taghkanic Highway Storage Building					
Project Cost as of 4/10/17					
	Budget	Actual	Diff	Percent	Notes
Original Estimate	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	0%	
Change Orders	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	0%	
Contingency Reserve	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	0%	
Subcontractor Payment to Date	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	\$0	100%	
Materials to Date	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	100%	
Total Project Cost	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$0	100%	
Contractor Fee	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	100%	
Permit Fee	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	100%	
Design Fee	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	100%	
Construction Fee	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$0	100%	
Total Project Cost	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	\$0	100%	
Contractor Fee	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	100%	
Permit Fee	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	100%	
Design Fee	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	100%	
Construction Fee	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	\$0	100%	
Total Project Cost	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$0	100%	

Aloha,

Please find attached an update Project Cost summary for the project. The summary has been updated to include the most recent applications for payment from the general and Electrical Contractors.

I have also included the cost of the new Air Compressor that the Town had Purchased.

The General Contractor has completed the majority of his work and is waiting for the other trades to complete their work.

The weather and temperature look favorable this upcoming week, so the contractor will be working on installing the snow guards on the roof, and then the gutters and downspouts. The contractor is aware of the epoxy floor finish peeling. The floors will be redone by the contractor once all other trades are completed and out of those areas.

The Electrical Contractor has completed the majority of his work and is awaiting the connection of the Electrical Service.

The work has been inspected by the 3rd party electrical inspector and is ready for NYSEG. Due to the weather and NYSEG's schedule the electrical service work has been delayed approximately 3 weeks.

The new utility pole, conduit and service wire has been installed and we are waiting for the final connection and meter.

The new connection date is scheduled for this week. Once that is complete the electrical contractor can energize the building.

The HVAC Contractor has installed the gas service to the building and all gas distribution within the building to the various heater units.

The water heater has been installed and also the contractor has installed the air compressor that was purchased by the Town.

The Contractor has been delayed installing the septic tank due to the weather. It is targeted to be installed later this week or the week of the 24th.

The Site Contractor has been delayed due to the Snow and wet weather over the past month.

The contractor had mobilized equipment and attempted to start work last week but the site was wet. It was decided to delay the site work until this week rather than to create a mess of the site and to reduce the potential of erosion and sediment migration.

Based primarily on the site work, and the current lack of electrical power at the new building, at this time I am not confident that the construction would be to a point by the 22nd for a town Board meeting to be held at the facility.

While the electrical service is scheduled to be completed this week, NYSEG has postponed work at the site in the past.

I would recommend that the Town Board consider postponing the meeting at the New Building until the May meeting.

While I was originally optimistic regarding the April date. I feel that the Town has worked very hard to provide a project they can and should be proud of, rushing the meeting date with several loose ends still outstanding may be disappointing to some.

Allowing the addition time would provide the opportunity for all work to be completed, and the site to be dressed up to make sure the Town presents to the public a completed project that they can be proud of moving forwards.





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

March 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, Richard)**
 0 Nays
 0 Absent
 1 Abstained (Richard)

The Correspondence consisted of:

- I. Delta Dental:
 - + Clerk Rogers informed the Board that she had shared the information with the Highway employee.
- II. NYMIR, training opportunity:
- III. NYMIR, training opportunity:
 - + Board Member Arthur McGuire asked Superintendent George Hotaling if he offers the NYMIR training to the employees.
 - + Superintendent George Hotaling: we do our training through the County.
- IV. Jason Novak, Lotus Energy, Charging Station Opportunity:
 - + Board Member Arthur McGuire: this was an opportunity to apply for a grant but we did not have enough time.
 - + Board member Joyce Thompson: one good thing came out of this. We now are set up with Gateway a state program that handles the process for applying for grants and also lists different grants that are available.
 - + Kathy Bainer: if Gas Land goes through, they are putting in a charging station.
- V. Habitat for Humanity, Eco Fair
- VI. Healthcare Consortium, do you need CARTS
- VII. NYS DEC Urban Forestry Program
- VIII. Gene Dianda, letter of support of speed limit review Route 82
- IX. Ken Dow, notice of Public Hearing Copake Zoning Change
- X. Glen Kubista, Attorney for Woodland Café Liquor License Application
 - + Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I need a motion to grant me permission to sign the letter to the State Liquor Authority waiving the town's rights to a 30-day hold and consent to the processing and issuance of the license for the Liquor License for the WOODLAKE CAFÉ.
 - + Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to grant permission for Supervisor Ryan Skoda to sign the letter to the State Liquor Authority waiving the towns rights to a 30 day hold and consent to the processing and issuance of the license, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

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

- XI. Steven Acciani, Columbia Memorial problems
 - + Clerk Rogers informed the Board that she had shared the information with the Highway employees.

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.

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.

- ✦ Stanley Scott: thanked George and the highway dept. for getting all that snow out of the way.
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: with that last storm there is FEMA monies available. Lopez, Marchione, and Barrett announced that there will be 5 more years of CHIPS funding and funds have been increased by \$65 million for this year.
- ✦ Board Member Joyce Thompson: paperwork has been submitted for the materials, labor, and truck usage to the County and State representatives.
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: George, I have made arrangements with the County Highway for them to re-align the intersection at Pumpkin Hollow and Route 27. The Town would be responsible for any material needed.

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

Approved: 4 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)

0 Nays

0 Absent

Financial: Joyce Thompson submitted the following:

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) is scheduled to meet on Thursday, 13 April. The March financials will be audited at that time and submitted for the May Town Board meeting. Because FAC meetings fall *after* the Town Board meetings in April and May, financial audits for both March and April will be reported two months later.

Highlights of the March 2017 Supervisor’s Report are as follows:

Revenues:

- ◆ Taxes received are as budgeted.
- ◆ Planning Board Fees are already at 70% of budget.

General Expenditures:

- ◆ Major bills paid - Fire Company commitments, Insurance, Dues and Library contributions.
- ◆ Justice Clerk hours are already at 40% at the first quarter mark – and will need additional funds. Higher-than-budgeted Fines Revenue will more than cover this increase

Highway Expenditures

- ◆ Major equipment purchases are: 1) the second, new 5-ton truck and 2) a used paver.
- ◆ A new or used tractor will complete the planned purchases for 2017.
- ◆ Highway Snow Removal labor costs are on target at 57% - just under expectations for three of the five months (60%) budgeted. Snow materials are at 30%. Snow expenses will not begin again until this November. Highway work from April through October is budgeted on the General Repairs line.

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

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

Advisory Board Reports:

Conservation Advisory Committee: Anna Kadish: no report submitted.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Arthur McGuire reported that he had attended both the recent County Broadband Subcommittee meeting and the GTel Kickoff. GTel had applied for first and second phase funding for all of Taghkanic and was awarded most of it. There are a couple of small Fairpoint areas in our town. More importantly, there are two large areas in the center of town, and some smaller isolated areas, that were reserved for Verizon under federal CAF funding. As Verizon did not apply for CAF grants, the federal funds have been allocated to New York State. This should provide funds for Phase 3 grants. We are optimistic, but not certain, that GTel will apply for Phase 3 funding to add fiber to these former CAF areas in central Taghkanic.

The terms of Phases 1 and 2 (and perhaps Phase 3) require that the fiber be installed on the roads by the end of 2018. Just when it will connect to houses has not been announced, but it would be in GTel's best interest to do so expeditiously and start receiving revenue. Once installed, GTel will offer triple-play service, with phone, television and up to one gigabyte of broadband.

- ◆ Board Member Joyce Thompson: thanked Erin Edwards and Chris Tallackson for looking at the maps and getting the corrections done.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Candidates for TB open seat:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: We voted last month and were not able to make a decision and agreed to vote again this month so Board Member Richard Skoda could weigh in. With that said what is everyone's pleasure.

- ◆ Board Member Joyce Thompson: thanked all who sent letters of interest. I would like to encourage Eric and Kristine to volunteer on the Financial Advisory Board and to run in November for the open positions.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to appoint Linda Swartz to fill 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
Board Member Richard Skoda	NAY
Supervisor Ryan Skoda	NAY

Not Carried

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to appoint Larry Kadish to fill remaining term of the open position as Town Board Member, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I like Larry but again Larry in his interview said if there were a better candidate there would be no hard feelings.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: they all are capable, very pleased to have two younger residents interested but for this particular short period I feel we need those with experience.

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: roll call vote

Board Member Joyce Thompson	AYE
Board Member Arthur McGuire	AYE
Board Member Richard Skoda	NAY
Supervisor Ryan Skoda	NAY

Not Carried

✚ Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to appoint Eric Gaylord to fill remaining term of the open position as Town Board Member he is not a republican or a democrat and he has experience in construction, seconded by Supervisor Ryan Skoda.

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: roll call vote

Board Member Joyce Thompson	NAY
Board Member Arthur McGuire	NAY
Board Member Richard Skoda	AYE
Supervisor Ryan Skoda	AYE

Not Carried

✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: we are at an impasse

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: again we encourage them all to run in November and encourage them to volunteer.

✚ Moisha Blechman: concerned with the process, would like to hear more on what you each based your decision on.

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: my decision was based on Mr. Gaylord's experience in construction and that would be very helpful to the Highway Department, unfortunately at our last months meeting we had more of a discussion.

B. Escrow Law update: Supervisor Ryan Skoda, I am sorry for the last minute information. I just received this from the Attorney Decaire. I would like to table this till next month to give us all time to review. All agreed.

C. **Local Law 1-2017 Drive Through:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda we need to set a public hearing if everyone has reviewed the draft Local Law 1-2017 Allowing Drive Through.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: the topic of drive though has been on the Zoning Commission agenda. There are concerns that it does not promote parking to walk around town if we ever have a walkable community. I attended the Planning Federation training and material presented there was interesting and encouraging about the possibility of Route 82 becoming a walkable business district.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: is Gas Land waiting for us to approve this Law?

✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I have not been in communication with them.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to set the Public Hearing for Local Law 1-2017 for May 8th at 7 pm, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

D. **James Romaine, ZBA Chair's residence:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda a concern was raised on the residence of James Romaine. I contacted Attorney Decaire and he has found nothing on our books about appointed positions having to be residents of the town; only elected position do. It is at the discretion of the Town Board. We also have been provided with case law that Attorney Decaire has reviewed and agrees with. (see attached)



✚ James Romaine: I have been a resident since 1984 and my intention is to stay here. I intent to build on my other piece of property that I have.

✚ Linda Swartz: there should be a time limit for him to build.

✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: when is Jim's term up?

✚ Clerk Rogers: I will have to look that up.

E. **Claverack Mobile Library:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda, Thea Schoep, Claverack Library Director came in January asking about placing a mobile library here at the tow hall she would like to know if we have made a decision yet. Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to approve the placement of a mobile library by the town hall, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved: 4 Ayes (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Richard)

0 Nays
0 Absent

NEW BUSINESS:

1. May 2017 Calendar: Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve the May Calendar, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

2. Surplus Equipment: Supervisor Ryan Skoda, I have learned that the County gets rid of surplus equipment on County Auction International and there is no fee. County has had good luck with them. We need to pass a resolution and I will get a copy of the County's that we can draft for Taghkanic. I will gather more information for May's meeting.

3. Town wide Solar power information/Training: Board Member Joyce Thompson I have been researching a training session appropriate for all boards to participate in. At the Planning Federation Annual Program they offered solar power information/training. I will gather more information for May's meeting.

4. Budget Amendment #3-2017: Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve Budget Amendment # 3, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

Town of Taghkanic

April 10, 2017

Budget Amendment # 3

HIGHWAY FUND		Increase	Decrease
Equipment	DA 5130.2	\$9,000.00	
Fund Balance			\$9,000.00
		<u>\$9,000.00</u>	<u>\$9,000.00</u>

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

AUDIT OF MONTH'S BILLS:

March 27, 2017: Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned that the March 13, 2017 abstract has been audited and approved for payment seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda

2017 General Fund Vouchers	# 107 - 119	\$ 4,480.10
2017 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 55 - 56	\$ 5,556.88
2017 Highway Project Vouchers	# -	\$

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

April 10, 2017: Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned that the April 10, 2017 abstract has been audited and approved for payment seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

✚ 2017 General Fund Vouchers	# 120	-	139	\$ 7,505.94
✚ 2017 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 57	-	80	\$ 17,440.84
✚ 2017 Highway Project Vouchers	# 8	-	10	\$ 7,294.73

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – FIFTEEN MINUTES:

- ✚ Linda Swartz: There was a comment made by Richard Skoda a few meetings ago that was not noted in the minutes “I like you both but you’re not from here”. I think that is a prejudicial thing to say and all comments like these should be noted in the minutes. Mr. Skoda, you represent all the residents of this town not just the ones who were born here.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: I do not feel that is what Richard meant
- ✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: I do represent all the residents.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: on another note Richard are you planting more corn or soybeans this year.
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: more corn but we will be still planting soy beans.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: it is healthy thing to talk about who we are, being born here, or moved here. This is a rural place, a beautiful place that we all have chosen as our place to reside.
- ✚ Erin Edward: being respectful is important.
- ✚ Kathy Bainer: we need to reflect on what is going on nationally.
- ✚ John and Judy Thompson: we live on County Route 15 across from a junk yard that is not allowed in the town of Taghkanic. There are 6 cars, 6 boats, 1 camper, and miscellaneous junk though out the yard and a dead deer that has been hanging in the tree for 2 years. We have been to Dennis Callahan and he has sent him violations. Mr. Heesch pays the fine but nothing gets removed. We have approached a Realtor to try to sell and they informed us we would not be able to with that across the street. There are rats and the smell is absolutely sickening. We cannot have our windows open because of it. We need your help please.



- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I will stop to see Dennis tomorrow to find out what he has done and tell him to take it to the next step.
- ✚ Stanley Scott: maybe it is time to revisit the fines and make them hurt more.
- ✚ Kathy Bainer: Last month you mentioned summer help, can I get more information.

- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: each of the Supervisors in the County can nominate a youth from their town to be an intern during the summer. I have not come up with a young person as of yet. There are requirements: they have to be 18, they have to be enrolled in college for next year and so on. If anyone can think of someone please let me know.
- ✦ Michael Simmons: I would like an answer to my question about Woodland Road, is it going to be widened? The school district will not send buses up. It needs to be brought up to DOT standards. Craryville Fire Company said the same thing and the cables that were discussed last month are not active.
- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: George, have you looked into the cables?
- ✦ Highway Superintendent George Hotaling: there are active cables. We found one in a culvert by Cordato's driveway. We have to prep the road before we can pave, change the culverts, grade and place fabric which stabilizes the clay. The plan is to pave in June.
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Woodland Road is a user road. We can only maintain from edge to edge. Property owners would need to turn over property to the town to allow any widening.
- ✦ Michael Simmons: it is my understanding that the town has been maintaining this road for more than five years so it is no longer considered a user road and the town owns the road.
- ✦ James Romaine: at one time it wasn't a town road. There must have been a sub-division to create this road. Research planning records. As far as the cables call 811 to find out if there are active wires.
- ✦ Board Member Richard Skoda: who was the original owner?
- ✦ Michael Simmons: Mr. Viebroke said Woodland Road is a poorly maintained road.
- ✦ Highway Superintendent George Hotaling: it cannot be widened up on top; the lower end can be widened in some places.
- ✦ Board Member Joyce Thompson: we can talk to owners about widening and relinquishing property to the town for that purpose.
- ✦ Kathy Bainer: I will research for Woodland Road sub-division in the planning board records.
- ✦ Erin Edwards: all are welcome to come to the Taghkanic Fire Company annual banquet on April 22 at 6 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **Monday May 8, 2017** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience:	Linda Swartz Arthur Griffith John Thompson Michael Simmons Moisha Blechman	Kathy Bainer Stanley Scott Judy Thompson Craig Surprise James Romaine	Chris De La Roma Robert Bertoletti Erin Edwards Alice Platt
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