

**Approved**  
**December 11, 2017**

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF TAGHKANIC  
November 13, 2017**

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

**6 pm:** The Town Board audited and signed vouchers.

**7:03 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.

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

**Guest Speaker: None**

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

**September 11, 2017:** Tabled

**September 20, 2017:** Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

**October 9, 2017:** Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

**The Correspondence consisted of:**

- I. NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation, Deer and Ecosystem Health
  - ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: very interesting article encourages hunting to help cut down on deer population
- II. The Association of Towns, Newly Elected Training
- III. Craryville Fire District 2018 Budget
- IV. McCarthy & Conlon, Taghkanic Fire Protection LOSAP Audit
- V. NYWEA, Sustaining and Enhancing NY Clean Water
- VI. Peter Paden Executive Director Columbia Land Conservancy
- VII. CDPHP, we want you back
- VIII. NYSLRS, Employer Forum
- IX. The Association of Towns, Ethics Seminar
  - ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I have signed to attend.
- X. Identogo, NYS Partner Program Overview

- XI. Columbia-Greene Humane Society, contact
  - ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to approve the contract with Columbia-Greene Humane, no second, not carried as Supervisor Skoda and Board Member Joyce Thompson would like to talk to Wes Powell about using Pine Plains. We only need to contract with one Municipal Shelter to be compliant with Ag and Markets. Supervisor Ryan Skoda will contact Wes.
- XII. Taghkanic Fire Company, NO 1, request for traffic light,
  - ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: discussion will be held under new business

**Board Reports:**

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

**ZBA:** James Romaine, Chair, no report submitted.

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

**Assessor:** Craig Surprise report submitted.

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

- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: County Route 15 pending case, Town Attorney has drawn up court petition papers and will be sending to Mr. Callahan to review for accuracy.

**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 submitted the following:

✦ **NY Connects**

Lynda Scheer reported the new schedule for NY Connects on-site work at DSS, Canaan Town Hall and Copake Town Hall to help people navigate through Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP and other applications. If this program is successful it will be implemented at other sites.

**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:

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) met on Thursday, 9 November. The September and October financials were audited and no errors were found.

**Revenues:**

- ◆ The third Sales Tax installment was received; the Year-To-Date total is 12.6% higher than was budgeted.
- ◆ Zoning, Planning Board and Building Permit Fees are all above 100% of budget.

**General Expenditures:**

- ◆ Planning Board Contractual and Health Insurance spending is above 90% but both are expected to stay within budget.

**Highway Expenditures**

- ◆ All appropriation lines are at or below budget.

**General Comment:** The Health Insurance budget line did not take into account a December increase with the new contract and for that reason may need some additional funding for December bills.

Financial Advisory Board 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: report submitted.

Taghkanic CAC meeting, Thursday October 19, held at the Kadish home at [178 Snydertown Rd](#) from 5:00-6:30 PM.

Members present: Anna Kadish, Moisha Blechman, Valerie Hoffmann, Frost White, Zita Kobos. Also Joyce Thompson and Larry Kadish were present as guests and interested parties. A short discussion on setting up a number for a quorum was held and three was selected as quorum for our CAC

Moisha presented the text of a letter to be sent to the Taghkanic Town Board. Several additions were proposed and accepted. The proposed letter will be sent to all CAC members for their approval and/or additional comments. It will also be sent to the Ancram Town Board and their CAC. Emphasis was placed on the addition of 700 acres to our town and Ancram for public use in the Doodletown WMA. We are very grateful for this new facility for recreation, hunting, etc.

A brief discussion was held about the so called Asian Jumping Worm. Further info will be forwarded about this to CAC members.

A spring walk on the property of Sam Pratt is planned. The date will be set in several months. Also, a potential walk on the John Marcus property in Taghkanic was suggested. This will be investigated and possibly set up.

✚ **Broadband Advisory Committee:** Arthur McGuire: report submitted.

The committee did not meet this month.

Arthur McGuire did speak on the telephone with Jason Shelton of G-Tel to discuss the proposed Franchise Agreement with Taghkanic. As a result of that conversation, G-Tel made changes to the Term of the agreement to the satisfaction of Mr. McGuire.

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)**  
                   **0 Nays**  
                   **1 Absent**   **(Richard)**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **GTel:** Jason Shelton the contract has been changed to include the (5) five-year renewal with the Town’s involvement. The Cable Commission has questions with some of the language in the franchise agreement that GTel needs to clarify, but you can vote on the franchise agreement as it is now,

pending Cable Commission's recommendations. Construction is set to begin in Taghkanic before Christmas.

- Board Member Arthur McGuire: Phase III funding has not been awarding yet.
- Jason Shelton: we are moving forward regardless of the awarding of Phase III.
- Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Attorney Decaire said we can approve the Franchise Agreement pending Cable Commission changes, he said. Just do not sign the contract until the Cable Commission approves the wording.

✚ **SEQRA:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda read through the SEQRA form and asked for a motion for a Negative Declaration of SEQRA, motioned made by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

✚ **Franchises Agreement:** Board member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve the Franchise Agreement with GTel pending the Cable Commission recommendations, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

**B. Fran Murcott, New Forge Road Cul-De-Sac:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda, Mrs. Murcott and I meet with Dean Knox and Superintendent Hotaling. This is a County project with a little help from the Town. Dean Knox is meeting with County Highway Superintendent Bernie Kelleher next week.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **December 2017 Calendar:** Board Member Arthur McGuire moved to approve the December Calendar as amended, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

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

2. **2018 Tax Cap Form and 2018 Preliminary Budget:** Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to authorize the Supervisor to file the tax cap form, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to pass the 2018 Budget as reviewed and approved on October 9, 2017, seconded by Board Member

Arthur McGuire.

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

3. **Proposal to Update LL7-2008 Cold War Veterans Exemption:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I received a copy of the LL that the County Board of Supervisor's approved to extend the Cold War Veterans Exemption. Clerk Rogers has drafted LL 5-2017 for the board's review. Supervisor Ryan Skoda, I would like to set the Public Hearing. Do I have a motion, so moved by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

5. **Notice for Letter of Interest ZBA and PB:** Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to notice for letter of interest for the ZBA and PB, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

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

6. **Rules of Order:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I asked Clerk Rogers to print this for us as a refresher of Section G. #6 and 7 as follows:

**G. AGENDA PROCEDURES**

6. *PREPARATION OF MEETING FOLDERS. The Town Clerk shall use best efforts to prepare meeting folders for each Work Session or Regular Meeting at least three (3) days prior to meeting date. For Special Meetings, the Town Clerk shall use best efforts to prepare meeting folders as soon as reasonably possible.*

7. *Any materials received after these deadlines will be considered at the following month's meeting with exception of emergency issues.*

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: the reason for the deadlines is so the meeting folder can be prepared in a timely manner and for the board to have time to review and investigate.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: Are there exceptions, for example the letter from Mr. Simmons last month I feel should be an exception. He let us know that he sent a certified letter.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: that is true but we did not receive the letter. Clerk Rogers informed Mr. Simmons she had not received the letter and he emailed a copy to her at 4:35 pm before the meeting. She made copies for us. You asked to read the letter but we all had not had time to read it. We conceded and you read the letter and then asked if anyone had time to look at the ditches that Mr. Simmons was referring to. For exactly that reason Mr. Simmons's letter should have been put off till this meeting to allow time for Board Members to investigate the issue and respond accordingly.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: I disagree.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I respectfully disagree.

7. **Budget Amendment #9:** Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve Budget Amendment # 9-2017, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Town of Taghkanic

NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Budget Amendment # 9

GENERAL FUND		Increase	Decrease
ASSESSOR CONTRACTUAL	A1355.4	\$1,136.79	
	CONTINGENT		\$1,136.79
		<u>\$1,136.79</u>	<u>\$1,136.79</u>

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

8. **Taghkanic Fire CO. #1 Request:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda read the following request:

*Dear Members of the Town Board:*

*The Taghkanic Fire Company requests that the Town of Taghkanic petition New York State to add a flashing traffic light at the intersection of State Route 82 and County Route 10. It would be preferable to have a device controlled from the firehouse or the fire trucks so that the light could be changed as necessary to allow the trucks access to Route 82 in emergencies. The firefighters have found that the vehicles on Route 82 regularly ignore the lights and sirens of responding fire trucks and do not allow them right of way. This slows down emergency response at a time when every second counts.*

*If you should have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact any of the chiefs or myself.*

- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: I asked Linda Swartz about this as she is our representative on the Traffic Safety Board in the County. She said the town would need to petition the State.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: Linda what is the likelihood of this happening?
- ✚ Linda Swartz: It doesn't hurt to ask but it is not likely.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: who does the cost get charged back to?
- ✚ Linda Swartz: the State won't pay. For example the lights in front of Walmart serve Walmart. Walmart paid.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to send a letter to petition the State for a light at the intersection of Route 82 County Route 10 to aid in the safety of all travelers and to aid in reducing emergency response time, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

**AUDIT OF MONTH'S BILLS:**

**October 24, 2017:** Board Member Joyce Thompson moved that the August 24, 2017 abstract has been audited and approved for payment seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

✚ 2017 General Fund Vouchers	# 344	-	355	\$ 16,097.07
✚ 2017 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 199	-	202	\$ 5,862.63
✚ 2017 Highway Project Vouchers	#	-		\$
✚ 2017 Escrow Vouchers	#			

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

**November 13, 2017:** Board Member Joyce Thompson moved that the August 24, 2017 abstract has been audited and approved for payment seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

✚ 2017 General Fund Vouchers	# 356	-	377	\$ 10,831.88
✚ 2017 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 203	-	217	\$ 16,756.84
✚ 2017 Highway Project Vouchers	#	-		\$
✚ 2017 Escrow Vouchers	# 4	-	5	\$ 575.40

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT – FIFTEEN MINUTES:**

- ✚ Linda Swartz: the town needs to acknowledge Ray and Debbie Colgrove for steam cleaning the rug.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: is the town being charged for all the dogs picked up at the Taghkanic State Park?
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I don't think there have been any dogs from the State Park turned in.
- ✚ Susan Soltano: I am here to complain about my road - New Forge II - it is deplorable. There is more traffic going to the State land, there is logging going on, there is just more active use of the road. New Forge II needs help. I am going to start taking pictures.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: is it a user road? Superintendent George Hotaling has to make the decision which roads need the most help.
- ✚ Superintendent George Hotaling: yes it is a user road and all the town roads are important to me, the town has more dirt roads than paved. What I am doing now and in the spring of every year to start building a good base – I have the guys fill with item 4 in small stretches of the road where it is bad, . Where there is clay, we need to put fabric down.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: we talk about cost but I feel it's the town's obligation to provide passable roads to the residents.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: rumor has it Gas Land is moving forward. What is going on with the speed limit? The double lines are not stopping people from passing.
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: December 4<sup>th</sup> or the 18<sup>th</sup> are the proposed dates for DEC to hold an informational meeting concerning the WMA at the Copake Park Building 6-8:30 pm. I will confirm the date.

**With no further business,** on a motion by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by

Board Member Arthur McGuire, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **Monday November 13, 2017** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

**Audience:** Linda Swartz  
Larry Kadish  
Alice Platt  
George Hotaling

Arthur Griffith  
Anna Kadish  
Susan Soltano

John Thompson  
Fran Murcott  
Jason Shelton