

Approved

July 9, 2018

**June 11, 2018
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Meeting**

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

6:30 pm: Town Board members audited and signed 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 moment of silence.

Present:	Ryan Skoda	Supervisor
	Arthur McGuire	Board Member
	Linda Swartz	Board Member
	Joyce Thompson	Board Member
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Absent:	Richard Skoda	Board Member
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7 pm: Public Hearing Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company 2018 Contract: Postponed until July 9, 2018 7 pm as it was not noticed and Supervisor Ryan Skoda and Chief William Hilscher are still working on the contract.

Guest Speaker: Ray Jurkowski, Morris Associates Highway Project Update:

- ✓ DEC active spill: the last testing still showing some contaminated materials. I have contacted Northeast Environmental for an estimate of what is still needed to be removed.
- ✓ Removal of the old Building: I recommend not doing anything with old building yet. Would like to get a clean bill of health with closure of the spill by the DEC beforehand.
 - ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: we have money left over from the bond to remediate the asphalt and demolish the building.
- ✓ Drainage: Superintendent Hotaling has been doing cleanup of debris for preparation of the storm water runoff. McCagg is still prepared to do the work as contracted but because of the weather hold up he will not be able to start until late in July.
- ✓ Scheduling: I will have a proposed schedule for the July meeting.
 - ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: The Board has been promising the town people the old building was going down, landscaping and intersection would be done. Now we have to tell the people we aren't going to get it done.
 - ✚ Ray Jurkowski: because of the weather the County, Town and contractors work has been pushed out, it will get done but later than we anticipated. The County should be asked if they could consider doing the two projects (Murcott cul-de-sac and the Pumpkin Hollow/Route 27 intersection) in a single time frame.

- ✦ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I agree with Ray, maybe we could ask the county to collaborate (Murcott cul-de-sac and the Pumpkin Hollow/Route 27 intersection)
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: the county has agreed to do the work for both projects, they are not obligated.
- ✦ Board Member Linda Swartz: The County will get to it, let Ryan talk to Bernie.

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

May 14, 2018: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes and amendments, motioned by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)**
0 Nays
1 Absent **(Richard)**

May 19, 2018: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)**
0 Nays
1 Absent **(Richard)**

The Correspondence consisted of:

1. Kenneth J. Dow, notice of Public Hearing for Copake
 - ✦ Board Member Linda Swartz: asked that correspondence with dates of a public hearing before our meeting be scanned and emailed to the Board Members.
 2. Virginia Aiello Account Manager, GovPayNet-A Securus Technologies Company
 3. Mike Garrit VP, GM DS Services of America, Inc.
 4. KISS June 11 – June 29, 2018
 5. GTel Dashboard Report for June
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I have asked Assessor Surprise to interview the following as it is his Dept.
6. Pamela Stagias, resume for Assessor Clerk
 7. Evelyn Gabrielsen, resume for Assessor Clerk
 8. Larry Porreca, resume for Assessor Clerk
 9. Melissa Ellsworth, resume for Assessor Clerk

Then followed reports from the Boards:

- Animal Control:** Wes Powell, report submitted.
- ZBA:** James Romaine, Chair, no report.
- 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, report submitted.

Environmental Management Council: Anna Kadish, no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted and read as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 7 and 21 May 2018.

This month the Commission has worked through the feedback from meetings with Supervisor Skoda, Board Members Skoda and McGuire, ZEO Callahan and Assessor Surprise. Significant questions have led to important discussions to improve consistency and clarity. The last set of feedback materials currently under review is from Justice Tallackson.

Thorough review is documented in the minutes that present review methodology, discussion, and final dispositions.

Minutes of these meetings – as is the case with all ZC meetings - are available on the Town Website or upon request to Joyce Thompson at 518.851.3487.

Next meetings: 4 and 18 June, 2 and 16 July with the possible addition of 30 July. Meeting time continues to be 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. All meetings are held at Town Hall and open to the public.

Office for the Aging: Joyce Thompson, report submitted

The Advisory Council of the Office for the Aging met on Friday, 11 May 2018 at the Philmont Nutrition Site. It was the second of three scheduled Spring meetings. This meeting was held one week earlier than usual because the conference room was needed for a Grand Jury and the senior OFA management were scheduled to attend a Greene County event on the regular meeting date. The purpose was to get first-hand information on how that Senior Picnic is done and to get new ideas for the Columbia County event planned for this fall.

Town News

Town Representatives reported on new initiatives related to the Council's focus on Aging Safely and Successfully at Home. Several towns are organizing a Safe at Home Committee and several other towns have modified existing resource materials to suit their needs.

Agency News

OFA:

- Not much new information this month but the flash freeze equipment is being built and should be ready for use this fall.
- Many agencies could not attend because of the date change.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be 15 June 2018.

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: George Hotaling, report submitted.

- ✚ Superintendent Hotaling reported he has hired Joshua Tyler, who has had his CDL since 2006 and is a very safe driver. The mower needs a drum, a whole new drum costs \$18,000.00, parts to repair costs \$3,000.00

✚ **Financial Advisory Committee Report:** Board Member Joyce Thompson reported the following:

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) audited April financials on Thursday, 10 May, as scheduled. May financials will be audited on Thursday, 14 June and will be reported at the July Town Board meeting.

Revenue and Expenditure Review

Revenues: initial payments to the Town for both Mortgage and Sales Tax are above budgeted amounts.

Expenditures: A few expenditure lines in both funds (General and Highway) merit watching by Department Heads. As was discussed last month we need to establish an easy way for each Department Head to manage the department budget.

Basis for Department Head Management of the Department Budget

By law, no expenditure may be authorized by a department without sufficient money already appropriated to cover it.

Options for Discussion:

Several reporting options are available to assist Department Heads to assure that no bills are incurred without sufficient funds.

- The monthly Supervisor’s report shows the amount remaining on each of the department appropriation lines.
- The Bookkeeper may be able to provide a more detailed monthly report for each department that would also be helpful. That possibility will be explored this week and reported at the July meeting.

To address operational efficiency, we need to develop a process for obtaining timely approval for critical expenditures over and above the appropriated funding level.

Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to implement a policy that all department heads/board chairs approve vouchers before spending funds, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)**
0 Nays
1 Absent **(Richard)**

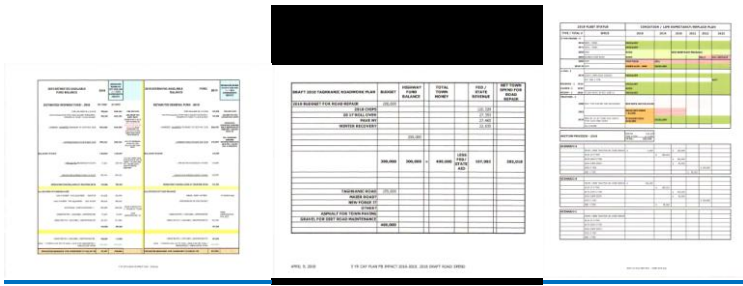
Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to allow the Supervisor to approve unbudgeted emergence funding, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)**
0 Nays
1 Absent **(Richard)**

As was stated last month, there can also be situations in which a bill is higher than the quote, for example, State Retirement. In that case the voucher would have to be presented with documented rationale for a budget amendment. As is done now, that budget amendment must be approved before payment can be authorized by the Town Board.

Highway Operating and Asset Management Plans

An updated Repair and Replace Plan is ready for Town Board review and consideration. Quotes for a 2-wheel drive 5-ton truck and for a new tractor with an over the rail mower arm are now available as part of that discussion.



Advisory Board reports:

Conservation Advisory Committee: Anna Kadish, report submitted.

Anna Kadish on May 19th Jill Falchi, Clean Energy Coordinator, Capital District Regional Planning Commission provided everyone present with hands outs and discussed Clean Energy including what the Town could do to participate in the Clean Energy Communities Program. How does the Board Want to proceed?

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: if we become a Clean Energy Community there is Funding available which would be valuable.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: good idea no brainer.

Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to initiate the process to become a clean energy community, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)**
0 Nays
1 Absent **(Richard)**

Broadband Advisory Committee: Arthur McGuire, report submitted.

The Broadband Committee met May 24th. The agenda items were:

GTel’s Progress in Taghkanic: The members discussed Jason Shelton’s recent presentation to the Town Board and resident comments at the Saturday Town Meeting. Out concerns were the pole licenses and the continuing GTel reports showing progress in Taghkanic as zero. I have since been told by Jason Shelton that they do not book their progress until necessary engineering reports are completed.

The County Sub-Committee: Chris Tallackson and Arthur McGuire attended the meeting Jason Shelton made a presentation at the meeting, as did representatives of Consolidated. No other broadband providers attended. GTel has been working well with Consolidated but has had problems with pole licenses from National Grid. The Sub-Committee will write to the State to try to help overcome this obstacle. Jason said that GTel has set an internal deadline of the end of the third quarter to complete its infrastructure. It should help meet the State deadline of December 31. Problems with other providers in the County were discussed and solutions will be pursued.

Old Business:

1. **County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda, I have called Attorney Decaire and have not heard back from him.
 ✚ John Thompson: very discouraged.
2. **Newsletter:** Board Member Joyce Thompson: So close but no cigar.
3. **Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company Contract:** Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to reset the Public Hearing for July 9, 2018, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

New Business:

A. July 2018 Calendar: Board Member Joyce Thompson moved to accept the June 2018 calendar, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

B. LOSAP Annual Reports for Taghkanic and Churchtown: For Board Review.

C. McCarthy Audit for LOSAP: Board Member Joyce Thompson moved to have Michael McCarthy proceed with the 2016 annual audit on the Taghkanic Fire Co. LOSAP, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

D. Highway Facility Landscape Plan: Supervisor Ryan Skoda, Alice Platt has taken the bull by the horns and has a landscaper lined up for free. Ray, George and the Landscaper are meeting tomorrow and we should have a design and price by July.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire noted that we may need a two-phase project, with work both before and after the County changes the intersection.

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✚ **May 24, 2018 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

2018 General Fund Vouchers	# 184 - 197	\$ 3,334.98
2018 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 123 - 124	\$ 5,739.57
2018 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	\$
2018 Escrow Fund Vouchers	# -	\$

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

✚ **June 11, 2018 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

2018 General Fund Vouchers	# 198 - 219	\$ 16,243.52
2018 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 125 - 141	\$ 7,892.12
2018 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	\$
2018 Escrow Fund Vouchers	# -	\$

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda)
0 Nays
1 Absent (Richard)

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ Arthur Griffith: Anything with DOT with Gas Land? The word is Gas Land holding off to try to negotiate driveway.
- ✚ Larry Kadish: Taghkanic Motel held their first church service June 1.

Executive Session: None

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **July 9, 2018** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience:	John Thompson	Anna Kadish	Larry Kadish	Arthur Griffith
	Chris De la Rama	George Hotaling	Ray Jurkowski	Steve Fass
	Carol Fass	Kara Gilmore	Nadja Palenzuela	