

Approved

1/14/2019

**December 10, 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
	Richard Skoda	Board Member
	Linda Swartz	Board Member
	Joyce Thompson	Board Member
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Absent:

Guest Speaker: none

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

November 12, 2018 Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Arthur McGuire seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Linda, Richard, Joyce)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

The Correspondence consisted of:

1. Ray Colgrove, Town Hall Lighting
✚ Board member Joyce Thompson is going to contact Jill for further advise before the installation of the replacement lighting is done.
2. KISS December 14, 2018
3. Steve Curlen, SR. Risk Control Specialist, NYMIR, recommendations
4. DEC Announces Grant monies
5. Barbara Scutt, Secretary, Board of Fire Commissioners Craryville Fire District, correction to 2019 Budget
6. McCarthy & Conlon LLP, LOSAP audit report
7. Jolene D. Race, Col. Co. Dept. of Public Works, Recycling Permit

Then followed reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Wes Powell, no 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.

Communications:

- DOT has approved lower speed limits on State Route 203 Town of Kinderhook/Chatham town line to the Village of Chatham/Town of Ghent line to the Town of Kinderhook/Village of Valatie.

Old Business:

- The roundabout on Route 23/9G east of the Rip VanWinkle Bridge is now opened; a little different from other roundabouts and somewhat confusing.
- The issue with the STOP signs at the intersection of Church Road and CR 19 in Livingston, as mentioned by Joe Leto at the September 27 meeting, has been addressed by the County Highway Department.
- New TV ad calling attention to flagger safety. Dave said that Cornell has an excellent Flagger Safety Program.
- Dave handed out a print out of an on-line discussion relating to mud that was deposited on a roadway by vehicles. Is there an exemption for agricultural vehicles? How soon must it be cleaned up? (Reference to Vehicle & Traffic Law 1220.B.1. contained in the discussion does not appear to be correct.)

New Business:

- Bernie reports that the Bristol Bridge in Canaan has been reopened.
- Per an article in the Register Star, Columbia County has contracted with an Albany firm to repair several bridges in 2019 including: Adams Crossing Road, New Lebanon; CR 13, Old Chatham; CR 28, Niverville; Shufelt Road, Ghent; CR 7, Spencertown; CR 2, Clermont; Buckwheat Road, Livingston; CR 2, Gallatin; Highbridge Road, Chatham.
- Evan Eisenhandler has accepted a position as Law Enforcement Liaison with the Federal Railroad Administration. He will continue serving on the TSB and his email is not changed. He gave out copies of DVDs for emergency responders and law enforcement personnel.
- Bernie Meyer told Evan that a railroad representative has told him that his town trucks are not permitted to plow snow within 30' of grade crossings. Evan said that if the gates are up, it's okay to plow. Evan gave Bernie his business card and will help Bernie work this out. Bernie also asked for guidance about paving at tracks (specifically Flints Crossing Road).
- Dave introduced Paul Strobel from the NYSP.
- Matt Larabee told Dave that he might not be on the TSB after the first of the year.
- Someone in Austerlitz asked Dave about serving on the TSB; Dave told him to speak to the Town Supervisor. Austerlitz's current rep, Matt Verenazi, has not been a regular presence at meetings.
- Shane Bower asked about the child safety seat installation and inspection program. John Leach said that he also had been asked by a neighbor about the program. People can contact the Hudson Police Department (518-828-3388) or the Columbia County Sheriff's Office (518-828-3344) to set up an appointment.

Meeting Schedule for 2019: January 24, March 28, May 23 (Annual Dinner Meeting), July 25, September 26, November 21 (third Thursday)

Environmental Management Council: Anna Kadish, no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted

The Zoning Commission met on 5 and 19 November 2018.

November work continued to focus on finalizing revisions made in response to input from town officials. Checks for consistency and completeness are expected to be completed in first quarter of 2019. It is a tedious process and the commission is working hard to avoid major drafting issues.

Comprehensive minutes of these meetings are available on the Town Website or upon request to Joyce Thompson at 518.851.3487.

Next meetings: 3 and 17 December. Meeting time continues to be 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. All meetings are held at Town Hall and open to the public. If a meeting date or time is changed, it will be noticed on the town website at www.taghkanic.org.

Office for the Aging: Joyce Thompson, report submitted.

The Advisory Council of the Office for the Aging met on Friday, 29 November 2018, at the Human Services Building in Hudson. It was the last, of three scheduled Fall meetings and was rescheduled because of bad weather conditions.

OFA:

- Extensive testing of **frozen meals** is in progress at the Nutrition Site kitchen in Philmont. To date sixteen different meals have been tested and tweaked for quality produced by the new rapid-freeze system recently installed there. The plan is to be able to provide many more frozen meals of seriously improved quality at less cost in 2019.
- **Safe at Home Program** report focused on how best to communicate and support the program at town levels. Advisory Council members suggested that in addition to the 18 town governments, presentations should be made to the governing body of the four villages in Columbia County and the libraries. Information could also be made available at the food pantries. The goal is to raise awareness of available programs and where people can get program information. It is all part of promoting the importance for people living in rural areas to **plan for how they can live at home successfully with limited mobility** and the need for more in-home services.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be 12 April 2019.

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.

- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I spoke with Superintendent Hotaling because he is not well and cannot attend the meeting. He reports that he helped the fire company get their tanker out of a field after a fire yesterday. He has gotten a trapper to work on the beaver problem on Sopak Road. He plans on working on culverts on Pumpkin Hollow, New Forge, Brothers and Klein Roads

Financial Advisory Committee Report: Board Member Joyce Thompson reported there is a Budget Amendment needed as follows:

General Fund:

- ✚ A1410.41 Website Support increase \$700.00 decreasing A1410.4 Town Clerk Contractual \$700.00. Website support has done a lot of training in October/November that will reduce monthly costs going forward
- ✚ A1010.1 TB Personal increase \$.23 covering the rounding cents for year end.
- ✚ A3620.1 CEO increase \$2,000.00 because he is paid on an hourly basis and it has been a busy fall.
- ✚ A8010.11 ZBA Clerk \$150.00 more work that last year.
- ✚ A9060.8 Hospitalization increase \$775.00, due to increase in premium rates.
- ✚ A1990.4 Contingent decrease 2,925.23

Highway Fund:

- ✚ DA9060.8 Hospitalization increase \$8,520.65 December starts a new year, is paid in November and is ~10% higher for 2019. The 2018 Budget was not sufficient to cover the uptick
- ✚ DA5110.4 General Repairs decrease \$8,520.65.

Budget Amendment #5: Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to approve Budget Amendment # 5-2018, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

TOWN OF TAGHKANIC

December 10, 2018

Budget Amendment # 5
Increase Decrease

GENERAL FUND

WEBSITE SUPPORT	A1410.41	700.00	
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TOWN CLERK CONTRACTUAL	A1410.4		700.00
TOWN BOARD PERSONAL	A1010.1	0.23	
CEO	A3620.1	2,000.00	
ZBA CLERK	A8010.11	150.00	
HOSPITALIZATION	A9060.8	775.00	
CONTINGENT	A1990.4		2,925.23
		3,625.23	3,625.23
HIGHWAY FUND			
HOSPITALIZATION	DA9060.8	8,520.65	
GENERAL REPAIRS	DA5110.4		8,520.65
		8,520.65	8,520.65
Approved	5 Aye	(Ryan, Arthur, Linda, Richard, Joyce)	
	0 Nays		
	0 Absent		

Advisory Board reports:

Conservation Advisory Committee: Anna Kadish, report submitted.

DEC GRANT!!!! **Columbia County**

- Columbia Land Conservancy, Inc - \$39,984: Place-Based Estuary Education at Greenport Conservation Area will develop place-based lessons about stream buffers, wetlands, and the wildlife that live in these zones, and will install interpretive signage about the natural resources of the estuary at its Greenport Conservation Area.
- Trout Unlimited, Inc. - \$49,855: Town of Taghkanic Road-Stream Crossing Replacement Plan will guide future culvert replacements to reconnect high-quality aquatic habitat and improve community flood resiliency and road infrastructure conditions within the Town of Taghkanic.
 - ✚ Larry Kadish: this culvert program is very important with all of the climate changes happening, changing the bad culvert will help with the excessive water run off.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Arthur McGuire, report submitted.

Taghkanic Broadband Committee

The Committee met on November 15, 2018. Matters discussed were Gtel’s progress and communications with the other Internet providers in Town. Members volunteered to try to contact the other carriers to find out where they now stand. We also want to have lines of communications to invite them to a town wide Broadband Meeting next year and to discuss other shared business.

A second announcement for the Town’s website has been prepared by Susan Raymond and edited by the Committee.

Arthur McGuire spoke with Frank Boscarillo, General Manager of Gtel last Thursday, December 6, 2018. The company is still working on its first boring beneath the Taconic State Parkway. A drill bit had gotten stuck which slowed down that work but it is expected to be finished soon. They have finished a good deal of underground cable and pole work. Thirty of the required sixty poles on a Route 82 have been replaced. That should be completed by Christmas and that will probably be the end of the heavy outdoor construction work for the winter.

On the marketing front, 114 residents have signed up online to express interest in Gtel’s broadband. We continue to encourage residents to do so.

In addition to myself, Frank has been in touch with Toby Butterfield, Robert Hogue and Nancy Rutter on Taghkanic Broadband issues.

Gtel has engaged a new outside project manager to help with the Broadband project – Mary Inbarrato. Ms. Inbarrato has her own consulting company and also teaches Project Management at CGCC.

Communication has improved with other utilities in the area. There are weekly conference calls with Gtel, National Grid, Verizon and Consolidated (formerly Fairpoint). There is also the weekly call with the NY State Broadband Office.

Over the winter, the Gtel staff will do more indoor work such as hooking up Phase 1 residence closer to Germantown. There may also be some continuing Phase 3 staking work by their subcontractor Vantage Point.

Old Business:

- A. **County Route 15 Complaint:** : Supervisor Ryan Skoda, nothing new to report at this time, we are waiting for an update from Attorney Decaire.
- B. **Highway Facility Project:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: nothing new to report at this time.
- C. **Culvert Inventory:** Trout Unlimited, Inc. - \$49,855: Town of Taghkanic Road-Stream Crossing Replacement Plan will guide future culvert replacements to reconnect high-quality aquatic habitat and improve community flood resiliency and road infrastructure conditions within the Town of Taghkanic.
- D. **Time Clock:** upervisor Ryan Skoda reported that we can piggy-back off the County program; we will need to purchase the software. Waiting for Attorney Decaire’s results from the research about a time clock used just for the Highway.
- E. **Town Wide Communication/Newsletter:** Board Member Joyce Thompson: working on a parallel website to the town website which will allow blogging an emailing.
- F. **Speed Sign:** Supervisor Ryan: we are waiting for the one from the County Sheriff’s office. It is being used in Copake now. “I will be seeing Art Bassin this week and will ask what his feedback from residents has been”. Board Member Linda Swartz is going to check with Poughkeepsie about placing a speed sign on Route 82.
- G. **Update on zoning code concerning cars:** waiting for draft from Attorney Decaire. Board Member Joyce Thompson is going to contact Attorney Decaire to see how the draft is coming.

New Business:

- A. **January 2019 Calendar:** Board Member Joyce Thompson moved to accept the December 2018 calendar with suggested changes and addition of the year-end meeting, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Linda, Richard, Joyce)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

B. Columbia County Recycling Program: Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to allow Clerk Rogers to issue the permits for the new recycling program set by the County, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Linda, Richard, Joyce)
0 Nays
0 Absent

C. Notice for open positions for the ZBA, PB, Financial Advisory and Communication Advisory Committee: Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to place a notice for letters of interest for the open positions on the ZBA, PB, FAC and Communication Advisory Committee, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Linda, Richard, Joyce)
0 Nays
0 Absent

D. Zoning Commission's recommendation for Local Law: Board Member Joyce Thompson read the Legislative intent:

This Local Law amends The Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Taghkanic by placing a six-month moratorium on all proposed requests, applications and activities associated and authorized by the Zoning Ordinance for certain uses specified in Section III, Use Regulations. New demands for overnight accommodations involving camping, glamping, recreational vehicles, and similar outdoor experiences may not be adequately addressed by the Town's current Zoning Ordinance. Glamping can refer to a wide variety of lodging accommodations such as Airstreams and trailers, domes, barns, cubes and pods, huts and cottages, lodges, tents, tipis/tepees, treehouses, yurts, wagons, and similar overnight structures. The purpose of the moratorium is to provide sufficient time for the Zoning Commission and Town Board to consider adoption of changes to its land use regulations to address new circumstances not addressed by the current Zoning Ordinance.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: what is the urgency?

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: at this time there is nothing in our ordinance to give our Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board or ZBA any guidance or regulations covering Glamping.

✚ All agreed to send the recommendation to Attorney Decaire to review.

E. New York State Emergency Management Certification & Training (EMC&T): Board member Joyce Thompson reported on the training as follows:

**Report to the Taghkanic Town Board on the Emergency Management Training Session
Level Three Training held at Columbia Greene Community College on 14 December 2018**

Attending: Arthur McGuire, Cheryl Rogers and Joyce Thompson

Training Provided by Department of Homeland Security Emergency Services (DHSES)

Summary:

DHSES Primary Focus is on: Terrorism, Emergency Management, Fire Prevention, Emergency Communication and Interoperations, Recovery

Populations with special needs: Aging, Migrants, Summer Homes, Camps, Correctional Facilities, Agricultural and Healthcare Facilities

Types of Emergencies: Ice Storms (whole town, flooding (partial towns), Hurricanes / Tornadoes, Tropical Storms, wildfires, hazardous material releases, and bridge failures

Plan: Prepare, Respond, Recover, Mitigate

A whole community approach that depends on coordination and cooperation among multiple levels of government and private organizations.

Preparation includes an inventory of emergency base housing

Mitigation includes a culvert inventory and management

There are ten supply centers around the state to move equipment to where it is needed and many different teams to provide specialized skills for specific types of incidents.

The training is to develop preparedness and raise local awareness of resources and risks.

Current Trends: Problems are more widespread, complacency leads to greater vulnerability and complexity versus immediacy in any given incident.

Complexity includes duration of an issue, hazardous materials, cascading events, potential crime scene, political sensitivity, multiple jurisdictional boundaries and operational periods.

Critical Take Away: NYS has a system in place that works – it coordinates resource sharing and maintains situational awareness – using technical tools like GIS, but most importantly, local > county > state reporting and coordination.

That system depends on: Cooperation, Collaboration, Coordination and Communication

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

November 27, 2018 Abstract: on a motion by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

2018 General Fund Vouchers	#	395 - 405	\$	3,377.78
2018 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	231 - 232	\$	6,952.19
2018 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#		\$	
2018 Escrow Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Linda, Richard, Joyce)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

December 10, 2018 Abstract: on a motion by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

2018 General Fund Vouchers	#	406 - 419	\$	21,604.23
2018 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	233 - 258	\$	35,751.52
2018 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	-	\$	
2018 Escrow Fund Vouchers	#	8 - 9	\$	1,740.50

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Linda, Richard, Joyce)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ Stanley Scott: representing the residents of Nostrand Road
 - ✓ The road is .7 miles long
 - ✓ There are 6 full-time residences
 - ✓ There are 5 non full-time residences
 - ✓ Condition of the road is rough shape, base is compromised, pot holes.
 - November 29 crew was filling pot holes in, took 1 ½ hours only 2/3 of the road completed.
 - ✓ Dust many neighbors want road paved
 - ✓ Trenches
 - Carl Specht south part 3' wide 3' deep.
 - Stanley Scott 12" wide 12" deep
 - All water coming off the hill goes into Clayton and Edward garage, Driveway, yard and house.
 - School District would not let their bus come down the road because of the 2' ruts.
 - Dave and Helen Roberts culvert above the water flow Post Hill Road drain off
 - ✓ Paver: sat for 2 or 3 paving seasons, never used, purchased for \$9,000.00 wasted.
 - ✓ Plowing snow must be hard on the town truck because of the condition of the road.
 - ✓ Clean all culverts on Nostrand Road will cause better flow of water.
 - ✓ All residence will submit letters to support our concerns.
 - ✓ Volunteer to help on road, have a tractor with bucket loader and forks.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I am willing to help set a meeting up with Superintendent Hotaling to discuss the Nostrand Road concerns. There is a ten-year road plan; it is reviewed semi-annually and we really need to go over that plan, looking at all the roads, to prioritize the ones in great need.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: This unfortunate tale is justified and not one we have not heard before for other roads. We the Town Board only control the highway budget, not the highway department. But we need to do whatever we can to correct the road problems.
- ✚ Stanley Scott: we need repair not just patching, it is time for more work and less talk, thank you for your time and consideration.
- ✚ Larry Kadish: the Board should be thankful for this group's respectful presentation.
- ✚ Joshua Plass: been coming for a long time with concerns for Pumpkin Hollow Road, blacktop is coming up, giant pot holes, trees hang all over the road, nothing is getting done.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: Joshua is justified in what he is saying, as well as the Nostrand Road residents.
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: since November 29 potholes being filled, how is the road now?
- ✚ Stanley Scott: not good. Because of the conditions we at times are not getting the

services like garbage pickup, etc.

Executive Session: None

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be January 14, 2018 at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience:	Arthur Griffith	Helen Roberts	Carl Specht	Clayton Kirking
	Stanley Scott	Anna Kadish	Larry Kadish	John Thompson
	Chris De la Rama			