

Approved
March 11, 2019

**February 11, 2019
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Meeting**

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

5:30 PM: Interviews

- + RBC Wealth Management
- + Stawnychy Financial Services

6:30 pm: Town Board members audited and signed vouchers.

7:01 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:

7:02 pm: Public Hearing Local Law 1 of 2019 to amend The Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Taghkanic by placing a six-month moratorium on all proposed requests, for commercial applications and activities associated and authorized by the Zoning Ordinance for certain uses specified in Section III, Use Regulations: Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. There were none. Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

7:04 pm: The Public Hearing Local Law 1 of 2019 was closed on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

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

7:05 pm: Public Hearing for the Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company 2019 Contract: Supervisor Ryan Skoda opened the public Hearing for the Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company 2019 Contract asking for any question or concerns.

- + Nancy Rutter: what is LOSAP?
- + Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Length of Service Award Program.

Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked if there were any further question or concerns. There were none. Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

7:09 pm: The Public Hearing for the Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company 2019 Contract was closed on a motion by Board Member Arthur McGuire, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

7:09 pm: Public Hearing for the Churchtown Fire Protection 2019 Contract: Supervisor Ryan Skoda opened the public Hearing for the Churchtown Fire Protection 2019 Contract asking for any question or concerns.

+ Robert Preusser: Clerk Rogers sent me the 2019 Contract, is the coverage area attached to the copy of the contract that you all have?

+ Clerk Rogers: yes

+ Robert Preusser: I see on the agenda you interviewed investment companies for LOSAP, is that for Churchtown? Also, I see one was RBC Wealth Management who was the other company?

+ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: we were interviewing for the Taghkanic Volunteer Fire LOSAP because Morgan Stanley no longer handles LOSAP programs. The other company was Stawnychy Financial Services out of New Jersey. Supervisor Ryan Skoda shared the Stawnychy packet with Mr. Preusser.

+ Susan Raymond: where is the Churchtown Fire Protection coverage area?

+ Supervisor Ryan Skoda:

(Town of Taghkanic & Churchtown Fire Company No. 1, Inc.)

- County Route 27 from the Claverack Town Line to the Taghkanic Town Garage, to include both sides of County Route 27;
- Post Hill Road to the north bound lane of the Taconic State Parkway;
- All of Norstrand Road;
- The Taconic State Parkway from Post Hill Road north to the Claverack Town Line;
- Roads off of County Route 27 to include Hoyle Road, Reservoir Road, Stone Jug Road, Tibbett Lane, Block Lane, Van Hoesen Road, Greeley Road, Snyderstown Road, Robert Road and Bauhoff Road;
- Churchtown-Taghkanic Road from the Claverack Town Line to the Dennis Alvarez property line to include Reservoir Road Extension;
- List-By-Pass to County Route 11
- All property on the west side of County Route 11 to Manor Rock Road, Manor Rock Road from Craryville Road to the Taconic State Parkway; Maiers Road and Snyderstown Road.

Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked if anyone had any further questions or concerns. There were none. Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

7:15 pm: The Public Hearing for the Churchtown Fire Protection 2019 Contract was closed on a motion by Board Member Arthur McGuire, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

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

Guest Speaker: none

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

January 14, 2019 Organizational: January 14, 2019 Organizational Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

January 14, 2019: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

January 16, 2019: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

January 30, 2019: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

The Correspondence consisted of:

1. Ray Colgrove, Town Hall Lighting
2. Columbia County Office for the Aging, Senior of the Year
3. Columbia County DOH Free Rabies Clinics
4. Carter Conboy, Murcott to Town of Taghkanic property dedication
5. RBC Wealth Management
6. Stawnychy Financial Services
7. Morgan Stanley, Performance Summary

Then followed reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Wes Powell, report no 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.

The Traffic Safety Board Meeting that was to be held on January 24 was cancelled due to dangerous road conditions caused by weather. The next scheduled meeting is March 28.

Environmental Management Council: Anna Kadish, no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 7 and 28 January 2019. The regularly scheduled meeting on 21 January was rescheduled because of unsafe weather conditions.

The January work was continuation of a detailed review of the major regulatory sections. The next step is a final review of the code as a whole document. The product of that work will be sent to the Town Board for its review. The current and upcoming process is tedious but is expected to produce a solid product for town consideration.

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

Next meetings: 4 & 18 February. 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, no report on OFA no meeting.

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, with presentation as follows:

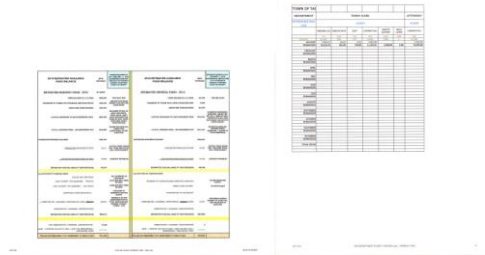


- ✚ **Board Member Arthur McGuire:** rumor is highway is short on salt is this true George?
- ✚ **Superintendent Hotaling:** it was getting close but we just received delivery.
- ✚ **Stanley Scott:** George, the 1.4 miles, will that be done with our paver?
- ✚ **Superintendent George Hotaling:** no, that will be contracted out; the shimming will be done with our paver.
- ✚ **Nadja Palenzuela:** Where is the culvert on Taghkanic/Churchtown Road?
- ✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Right after the farm but before Cross Street.
- ✚ **Nadja Palenzuela:** What about the problem on Taghkanic/Churchtown Road by the old farm house where the water draining across the road and freezing.
- ✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** George, you and I need to draft a letter to the resident requesting they fix their drainage problem.
- ✚ **Joshua Plass:** the proposed 5 ton why no wing?
- ✚ **Superintendent Hotaling:** it doesn't need a wing, we have two trucks with wings.
- ✚ **Stanley Scott:** 200K for a culvert, which seems very expensive.

- ✦ Superintendent Hotaling: that is because they require large box culverts made of concrete.
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: the culverts mentioned will need DEC approval and they will oversee the project as well, which also adds to the cost.

Advisory Board reports:

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



Conservation Advisory Committee: Anna Kadish, report submitted.

Present were: Anna Kadish, Larry Kadish, Moisha Blechman, Tony LaSalvia, Valerie Hoffmann, and Joyce Thompson

Anna reported that there is a change in the Taghkanic CAC leadership. As of Feb 1, Tony will take over leading the CAC. Future meetings will be at Tony's home (address pending). Updates on the culvert funding and DEC grant received were mentioned, however, to date we have not received further information.

The recently completed Columbia County Natural Resource Inventory (NRA) was presented and shown to CAC members.

The CAC was informed about the Town of Taghkanic approval of the Carbon tax resolution as presented by the EMC.

Moisha gave her presentation about trees and how important they are to our environment and that our citizens should be better informed about how important they are. Moisha discussed the future effects of climate change and consequences of the predicted increased heat in our area and around our planet.

Moisha informed us that many tons of oxygen are lost into space daily!! Trees absorb CO2 and produce Oxygen.

Moisha will write a short paragraph for the Taghkanic Zoning Commission about the critical importance trees.

We discussed the culvert project and the grant our town received for that project. This can be used to educate townspeople about the importance of trees and other issues which the CAC is concerned with.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Board Member Arthur McGuire, report

The Broadband Committee met on January 16, 2019. Matters discussed included Gtel's progress, news from the CCEDC, and continued communication with the public. Susan Raymond will prepare, with input from the rest of the Committee, a new update memo to be placed on the Town's website. Susan also mentioned anticipated changes to that website to give the Broadband memos a separate section where we can post prior memos. The new memo will include information from the various providers who provide some kind of Internet service within our town. Names of various companies with distributed among the committee members to obtain more information on these companies. Since that time, Susan has been receiving this information and preparing the next draft of the report.

The inclusion of the various providers becomes important as we intend to invite all providers to a symposium in the Spring on Internet options and progress in Taghkanic. The current but

developing plan is to have some introductory remarks as well as tables where providers can make individual presentations to residents.

Since this past meeting, we have received updated information from Frank Boscarillo, General Manager of Gtel. Gtel still remains our best hope for improved broadband service in Taghkanic. Frank's slightly edited comments are as follows:

- * We have completed our network design for our Phase 3 build. Phase 3 adds 31 miles and will pass another 279 units in Taghkanic, Livingston, and even extending up to the Claverack area. There is also a very small Phase 3 area in southern Gallatin.

- * We will submit the pole applications for Phase 3 by the end of February.

I have been interviewing additional approved Make Ready contractors for National Grid. The company we use today is Northline Construction. We will continue our relationship with them, but I will be signing an agreement with one more company in order to augment North line in the interest of expediting our MR timelines.

- * We now conducting weekly meetings with Verizon, Osmose (approved engineering contractor for National Grid), North line (mentioned above), and with Frontier, in order to prioritize and coordinate Make Ready work. While we don't meet weekly with Consolidated, we have a great relationship with them and talk on a regular basis.

- * After 5 months, I am feeling that we have a much better handle on the remaining work that needs to be completed, and have built strong working relationships with [most] of the pole owners. For example, North line has completed Make Ready work on over 760 poles and have already billed us for their work. Yet National Grid has not issued [all] the licenses that will allow us to attach our plant to their poles.

- * I am about to engage a Project Manager (to work about 20 hours a week) from Mountain LTD to help manage, expedite, and escalate applications with all of the pole owners, but with National Grid in particular. Mountain LTD has done work for other Grant Award winners in NY including Frontier, Armstrong, and Consolidated. They are quite familiar with the pole attachment and Make Ready challenges in the state of NY. I have worked with Mountain LTD in my past life, and have always been impressed with their work.


- * I met today with Henkels and McCoy, and large company that does Electrical and Telecommunications construction across the country. I am reviewing a proposal for a general services agreement, that would allow us to utilize their employees and equipment for maintenance, storm restoration, and small construction jobs. H&M had constructed a large portion of GTel's copper infrastructure in the 80s and the 90s. I have asked them to provide a quote for the two remaining bores we need to do across the TSP, specifically where the parkway intersects with SR 82 and Post Road.

- * No word yet on our requests for extensions from Empire State Development and the Broadband Program Office. They have told us that all the companies that requested the extensions will be notified at the same time. For what it is worth, all of those requesting extensions had to meet one-on-one with the BPO to present our cases, and our meeting went quite well.

- * I am about to begin issuing the monthly Dashboard that Jason Shelton had been sending to the town leaders and interested stakeholders. ... At least at this point, there will be no discussion of timelines, but will focus more on where we stand, what we've accomplished, and our near term goals.

- * We continue to splice the fiber that has already been placed. The splicers have been doing quite a bit of work in your area. We also have a crew placing drop wires from the pole to the house, and have been converting 10 to 15 customers to fiber a week, though admittedly all of those have been in our traditional service area where we owned all the poles. Based on feedback we've received from customers (we ask all customers to complete a survey post install), we have several delighted customers."

The Broadband Committee will continue to communicate with vendors and experts in the field and communicate what we learn to the residents of Taghkanic.

 Susan Raymond: the committee would like to set a date sometime in May.

- ✚ The Town Board all agreed to May 18th, 2019 10- 12, Arthur McGuire will request the Firehouse for that date.

Old Business:

- A. **County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Mr. Heesch has been fined in County Court; he asked for a postponement in Town Court because he has hired an Attorney, so it is now scheduled for March 7, 2019.

- B. **Highway Facility:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: There are no further updates at this time; we are still waiting for DEC to make a decision.
 - ✚ Susan Raymond: did I hear you right that we are still waiting for DEC?
 - ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: yes. The town Engineer has advised us to wait for DEC to make their determination to close the spill before moving forward.

- C. **Culvert Inventory:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: there is nothing new to report at this time

- D. **Time Clock:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I will be meeting with Ron Caponera, Columbia County Controller on Wednesday February 13, 2019 to discuss piggy backing off the County program with their time clock system.

- E. **Town Wide Communication/Newsletter:** Board Member Joyce Thompson:



- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: can one subscribe so one can be emailed important information?
- ✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: why can't the town create a face book page?
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: my concern is now we are going to have two .com websites. Is there a way to build off our existing website or just create a face book page as suggested by Richard?
- ✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: the information shared would be issues in front of the town board, not political information correct?
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: all are great questions and concerns that the committee will discuss and investigate. No political information will be posted.
- ✚ Susan Raymond: information about broadband, road closures etc.

0 Nays
0 Absent

B. Resolution 13-2019 Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company # 1 Town Support of new truck:

Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to approve Resolution 13-2019 Supporting the Taghkanic Fire Company # 1 Inc. purchasing a new pumper/tanker and indebtedness related to purchase for up to \$550,000.00, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

C. Town Attorney Appointment:

- + Board Member Arthur McGuire: would like to know how Andrew Howard is working out with the Planning Board.
- + Joshua Plass: Planning Board Member: very easy to get along with and answers all questions, seems very knowledgeable.
- + Board Member Richard Skoda: Rob Fitzsimmons gave a very good presentation and is a good liaison with the County, Andrew Howard was also very good, I would support either one of these attorneys.
- + Board Member Arthur McGuire: was not impressed with Better, Dow.
- + Board Member Joyce Thompson: Chale or Dow would be good for the Zoning review.

Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to appoint Andrew Howard as the Town Attorney seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

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

D. Investment Company Appointment for Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company LOSAP:

- + Board Member Joyce Thompson: very interested with the New Jersey company approach.
- + Board Member Arthur McGuire: not impressed with RBC Wealth.

Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to appoint Stawnychy Financial Services as the investment company to handle the Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company LOSAP seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

E. Local Law 1-2019 Zoning Moratorium:

1. **SEORA**: Supervisor Ryan Skoda read through the SEQRA form.
2. **Resolution 14-2019 Negative Declaration of SEORA**: Board Member Linda Swartz motioned a Negative Declaration of SEQRA for Local Law # 1-2019, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Linda, Richard, Joyce)

0 Nays
0 Absent

3. **Resolution 15-2019 for the Enactment of Local Law 1 of 2019:** Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to approve Resolution 14-2018 for the Enactment of Local Law 1 of 2018, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson

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

- F. **Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company #1 2019 Contract:** Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to approve the Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company #1 2019 contract, seconded by Board member Joyce Thompson.

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

- G. **Churchtown Fire Company 2019 Contract:** Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to approve the Churchtown Fire Company 2019 Contract, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

- ✦ **February 11, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Arthur McGuire, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	38	-	65	\$	256,027.68
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	9	-	47	\$	36,720.06
2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	-			\$	
2019 Escrow Fund Vouchers	#	-			\$	

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✦ Arthur Griffith: rumors about the diner and the tavern?
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I have none.
- ✦ Board Member Linda Swartz: Diner is opening early March.
- ✦ Clerk Rogers: I have presented the Board with a request from Barbara Hermance who is representing ARM and JPM Columbia LLC. It seeks to resolve escrow billing protocol.
- ✦ The Board Agreed that the Planning Board Chair needs to review all bills, state the application with which each one is associated, and declare each one as a Planning Board or Escrow bill before sign off for payment. The Board also agreed that the vendor must provide a detailed description of the actions or services for which the bill is presented.

Executive Session: None

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Richard Skoda, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **March 11, 2019** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience:	John Thompson Nadja Palenzuela Robert Preusser	Joshua Plass Stanley Scott George Hotaling	Arthur Griffith Nancy Rutter	Christopher De la Rama Susan Raymond
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