

Approved
7/8/2019

**May 13, 2019
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:

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

March 11, 2019: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

April 8, 2019: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

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

April 17, 2019: Town Board Department Head 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, Linda, Joyce)
0 Nays
0 Absent
1 Abstained (Richard)

The Correspondence consisted of:

- a) Donald MacCormack, VP Municipal Banking, Bank of Greene County
- b) Patreinnah Acosta-Pelle, Media Specialist, Census Bureau
- c) Wendy Wollerton, Livingston Library, thank you
- d) Thomas Varelli, Post Hill Road
- e) NYMIR Our Policy
- f) Suzzette M. Booy, Col. Co. Real Property, Assessor Re-appointment
- g) Ray Jurkowski, CPL, DEC spill
- h) KISS 2nd Quarter shredding

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, no report submitted. Next meeting is May 23.

Environmental Management Council: Anna Kadish, no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 13, 15 and 29 April 2019. The 13 April meeting was a five-hour Saturday workshop.

A thorough review of the Definitions was completed. The next step is to create a single document for a final review for clarity and consistency. That will be the major focus for May.

Two topics remain in open discussion: short-term rentals and ridgelines.

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

Next meetings: 6 and 20 May. 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 as follows.

The first 2019 meeting of the OFA Advisory Council was held on April 12, 2019 at the Philmont Nutrition Center. Members joined other seniors at the noon meal. The meeting was opened at 1:00 P.M.

News from the OFA:

Frozen meals made, frozen and delivered locally are now available and feedback is very positive on the improved quality of the food.

Non-medical transport has been enhanced with a second OFA van that is wheelchair accessible. Trips are planned for the Tulip Festival, the FDR Library and the Maritime Museum in Kingston. Call OFA office for reservations.

Home Health Aides: The shortage continues and there is a waiting list. The problem is that service to those living in the areas farthest from Hudson is not feasible for the agencies. Sparsely populated areas make it difficult to have 6-8 hours of work in a small area and the agencies do not pay mileage. The County has received \$15M from the State (it is a statewide problem) to address the problem and OFA is working on a program that would pay for mileage.

NY Connects:

The Dyson Foundation grant for prescriptions barely covered the amount needed for clients in January. The higher need is the result of people signing up for 0 Premium programs that lead to very high copays on prescriptions. To avoid this problem in 2019 it is advised that clients call NY Connects or OFA for consultation in August and September prior to open enrollment in September.

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.

- ✚ The paver is at the Ancram Highway Dept., they have a trailer to move it with. We will be sharing services with the paver with Ancram.

Advisory Board reports:

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

The Town of Taghkanic Financial Advisory Committee met as scheduled on Thursday, 11 April. The audit of March 2019 financial reports found no discrepancies. I have been approached by Kara Gilmore about being a member on the FAC.

Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to appointment Kara Gilmore a member of the Financial Advisory Committee effective as of this date, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

Budget Amendment #2-2019: Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to approve Budget Amendment #2-2019, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

| GENERAL FUND | | Budget Amendment # 2 | |
|------------------|--------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | | Increase | Decrease |
| ASSESSOR | 1355.4 | \$ 2,062.00 | |
| CONTINGENT | 1990.4 | | \$ 2,062.00 |
| CODE ENFORCEMENT | 3620.4 | \$ 950.00 | |
| | 3520.2 | | \$ 950.00 |
| | | \$3,012.00 | \$ 3,012.00 |

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

Town Wide Communication/Newsletter Advisory Committee: Board Member Joyce Thompson: Nadja launched the newsletter on April 17 and has gathered statistics as follows:

TGazette newsletter statistics

| | April 2019 | mid-May 2019 | Today |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Total Sent: | 60 | 171 | 181 |
| Open Rate: | 76% | 66.5% | |
| Click-through rate: | 64% | 11.9% | |
| Bounce rate: | 1.7% | 4.1% | |
| Unsubscribe: | 0 | 0 | |

Opens by device: 41% mobile
59% desktop

Facebook

Total likes: 60

🚩 Supervisor Ryan Skoda very interesting and exciting news.

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia, report submitted as follows.

Town of Taghkanic Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting May 2, 2019 5PM – 6:30PM

The meeting was attended by Tony LaSalvia, Anna Kadish, Larry Kadish, Moisha Blechman, Zita Kobos, Valerie Hoffman, and Joyce Thompson

The meeting opened with hearty congratulations to Moisha Blechman for receiving the “Good Earthkeeping Award”. This is an annual award presented by the Columbia County Environmental Management Council on behalf of the outstanding work one has performed in the area of environmental education, protection and/or preservation. This is a well-deserved award for Moisha.

We discussed our participation at the May 18 Town Internet Meeting by having an information table. Some ideas were discussed as to what we would have available for attendees at the meeting.

We discussed the Clean Energy Community initiative and the possibility of the Town of Gallatin joining with us to place an Electric Car Charging Station at a location in our business district in West Taghkanic. We are awaiting information from Gallatin and Supervisor Skoda to see how this may proceed.

We discussed the TGazette and the information the CAC would provide to this. Some ideas are Heat Pumps, use of power equipment and options, trees, road salt usage, household waste and recycling, and gardening for wildlife to begin with. One of these would be entered into each monthly addition.

We discussed future walks and will hope to have some locations in the near future. We discussed creating guides for the public in such areas as Use of Fossil Fuels and alternatives and Home Rental Safety.

Our next meeting will be in the month of June. Date to be determined.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Board Member Arthur McGuire, report submitted as follows

The Broadband Committee met on Wednesday, May 8, 2019. Present were Susan Raymond, Chris Tallackson, Nancy Rutter and Arthur McGuire.

The main topic was the Broadband Open House taking place this Saturday, May 16th, 10 a.m. at the Firehouse. We will have representatives from the three wired broadband providers in Taghkanic — Gtel, MidHudson Cable and Consolidated Communications. Dave Berman of

Connect Columbia will give an introduction. We will ask Ryan Skoda if he wishes to make any preliminary remarks. The program will include approximately an hour of presentations by the broadband providers and an hour where each provider will have a table to offer literature and field individual questions from residents in their geographic areas. The existing Broadband Map will be placed on an easel at the program. We will also print copies of the Broadband Guide, including an updated map, for those who have not seen it online at the TGazette. Members of the committee will follow up with assigned broadband providers prior to the Open House. Name cards, tablecloths, seating arrangements and chairs will be taken care of. Tables will be available for other Town-related literature such as CAC and fire company recruitment. We will request email addresses from those who attend.

Regarding our marketing, invitations have gone out to the owners of all the properties in Town. Nancy Rutter has had small posters printed that we are placing at nearby businesses. Susan Raymond has prepared a press release and is sending it to the Register Star and the Columbia Paper. The fire Company sign now announces the event. Invitations were sent to the offices of our Member of Congress, State Senator and State Assembly member but we have received no response. We are following up with them. We do not know how many residents will attend but we expect at least 50 and are hoping for about 100. The Firehouse holds 200 sitting and 400 standing, but such numbers may be wishful thinking.

At Wednesday's meeting, Arthur reported on a recent conversation with Gtel's General Manager, Frank Boscarillo. Current progress includes:

- He and Sandy Martin, Gtel's outside public relations consultant, will speak at the Open House. They recently made a short presentation at the Livingston Town Meeting.
- Final pole applications have been made. There are now several thousand poles in make ready. New poles can be seen in the areas of New Forge, Klein and Doodletown Roads. The Gallatin Hut should be lit in a couple of weeks.
- They have a new plan for the drilling under the Taghkanic State Parkway. Instead of drilling 2,400 feet at Route 82, they will drill about a quarter of a mile away which will only require 800 feet of boring. They still plan to drill at Post Hill Road. — Design is largely done in Phase 3.
- Substantial progress has been made in Phase 2.
- Splicing cabinets for phases 1 and 2 have been installed. Phase 3 cabinets should be installed in a couple of weeks.
- Installation to the home in Phase 1 is expected within two months.
- work to extend the fiber to Taconic Hills School is expected next year and they are in contact with the School Superintendent.
- Regular weekly phone conferences with the State, Gtel, National Grid and Verizon continue.

In short, Gtel and the other providers appear to be living up to their commitments in Taghkanic. We look forward to our residents' learning more at Saturday's Open House.

Old Business:

A. County Route 15 Complaint: Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Mr. Heesch's 60 days are up to clean up the mess and nothing has been done. Supervisor Ryan Skoda reported that he has instructed Attorney Howard to proceed with the next steps. One option is to seize the property. We will need to go into Executive Session to discuss anything further.

B. Highway Facility: Supervisor Ryan Skoda: We have good news. DEC has closed the spill with conditions. Ray Jurkowski said Jamie McCagg is still willing to do the storm water portion of the project. I have instructed Ray to get started with an RFP to gather prices for the asbestos abatement.

Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to proceed with an RFP to gather prices for the abatement, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

C. **Culvert Inventory:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: there is nothing new to report at this time. We are waiting for a response from CCE.

D. **Speed Sign:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: The Sheriff sign was set on Route 82 for a week. There were 59,000 cars detected only on the south bound lane; average speed was 44MPH. The sign was not placed on Livingston Road.

+ Board Member Arthur McGuire: Asked if it could be placed again recording the north bound traffic?

+ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I will put in a request.

+ Board Member Richard Skoda: What are we going to gain with the purchase of a sign? This is a lot of money.

+ Board Member Arthur McGuire: Reducing speed and speeders.

+ Arthur Griffith: Has the Resident Deputy been issuing tickets?

+ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Do not know the answer to that, will try to find out.

E. **Draft Junkyard Local Law:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Tabled for further review by the Town Board, ZEO Dennis Callahan and Attorney Andrew Howard.

F. **Draft Junk Storage Local Law:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Tabled for further review by the Town Board, ZEO Dennis Callahan and Attorney Andrew Howard.

G. **Fire Protection District Lines:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: This is a work in progress. Maps are being drafted now and both companies will be involved with the process. I will meet with the Taghkanic Firemen tomorrow night and will set a meeting with the Churchtown Firemen.

New Business:

A. **June 2019 Calendar:** Board Member Joyce Thompson moved to accept the June 2019 as presented, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

+ **April 24, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz holding the Highway Project vouchers 1 & 2, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|----|-----------|
| 2019 General Fund Vouchers | # | 146 - 160 | \$ | 20,988.78 |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|----|-----------|

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----|-----|----|----------|------|
| 2019 Highway Fund Vouchers | # | 93 | - | \$ | 1,703.31 | |
| 2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers | # | 1 | - 3 | \$ | 3,622.00 | HOLD |
| 2019 Escrow Fund Vouchers | # | 1 | - | \$ | 211.50 | |

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

✚ **May 13, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz holding the Highway Project vouchers 1 & 2 paying voucher #3 in the amount of \$87.50, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----|-------|----|-----------|------|
| ✚ 2019 General Fund Vouchers | # | 124 | - 145 | \$ | 14,399.62 | |
| 2019 Highway Fund Vouchers | # | 93 | - 113 | \$ | 15,769.85 | |
| 2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers | # | 1 | - 3 | \$ | 3,622.00 | HOLD |
| 2019 Escrow Fund Vouchers | # | - | | \$ | | |

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ Karen Lansing: Need repair to Old Oak Road, just one big speed bump with potholes.
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: We are working with George drafting a long term plan. We are also working with George to look at different options for road paving.
- ✚ Tony LaSalvia: there will be a Blood Drive at the Taghkanic Fie House on June 3, 2019, from 1-6 pm.
- ✚ Kathy Bainer: DEC spill at the gas station here on Route 82 has been closed.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: Does anyone know what gas company is taking over the station?
- ✚ Ryan Skoda: Citgo.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: Has the spill at Shazam been closed?
- ✚ Kathy Bainer: Yes, years ago.
- ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: The complaint from Mr. Varelli, has anyone answered him.
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Yes, I spoke with him.
- ✚ Larry Kadish: The owner from the gas station was at the Planning Board Meeting and indicated the project was on schedule.

8:20 pm Executive Session: Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

8:50 pm Exited Executive Session: Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to exit Executive Session, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

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

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be May 13, 2019 at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

| | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Audience: | John Thompson | Arthur Griffith | Nadja Palenzuela | Nancy Rutter |
| | Susan Raymond | Kara Gilmore | Tony LaSalvia | Kathy Bainer |
| | Karen Lansing | Larry Kadish | Anna Kadish | Mr. White |