

Approved
7/8/2019

**June 10, 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: Thea Schoep, the 2020 Census plan is that most people will register online. The Claverack Library computers will be available to help residents register their 2020 information. Thea is available to help form a committee in Taghkanic to get the word out about the 2020 Census.

- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: do you have print information?
- ✚ Thea Schoep: We are using the government information provided.
- ✚ Alice Platt: I encourage people to fill out the forms and to get the information out that the Claverack Library is available with representatives to help.

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

May 13, 2019: tabled

The Correspondence consisted of:

- The Update
- Joyce Musso, HTA
- Ray Colgrove, Town Hall Maintenance

Inspecting the town hall revealed some issues that should be addressed in the very near future.

- In the past I have rebuilt the "guts" of both toilets and installed a whole house filter. The issues were caused by rust, mineral build up and neglect. This can be avoided or at least prolonged with chlorine toilet tablets to keep the tank water issues handled and regular cleaning of the toilets. When we first became involved with the Town Hall, we discovered that The Works, a \$1.00 bottle cleans the toilets and removes rust build up. This was not found in the town hall and neither toilet tank had a tablet. Preventive measures can go a long way towards saving maintenance dollars in the future. **Clerk Rogers: I have purchased The Works and the chlorine tablets and they have been installed.**

- While Debbie cleaned windows, it was discovered that the trim paint done by CUTH in 2012, 7 years ago, needs redoing. The wood is very weathered and should be replaced but a coat of paint would go a long way in preventing further rotting and any insects making a home in the wood. Debbie also told me that the real dirt on the windows is between the window and storm window but she hesitated taking the windows apart without an agreement from the town that the windows should be cleaned for fear of the clips or windows breaking since it is obviously MANY years since they have been dismantled for cleaning. Is this something the town wants done? **The Town Board agreed that there is no need to dismantle the storm windows at this time. No decision was made about painting.**
- The USA and NY state flags have been replaced in town hall but the old flags have remained folded at the town hall, in a bag, stuck in a corner. Do you want me to take care of proper disposal of these flags? **Clerk Rogers: Ryan said he has the flags that were taken down in his truck and will deliver them to the County for proper disposal. I have made arrangements for the other flags in the file cabinet, thank you.**
- Inside the town hall I found numerous piles or stacks of cardboard. Is there a reason empty boxes are being kept on top of the file cabinets and book shelves or should these cardboard boards be placed in recycling? **Clerk Rogers: all cardboard has been removed and disposed of.**
- Behind the copy machine there are many rolls of what I assume are maps. I would like to propose buying some pvc pipes to insert the maps and possibly put them in a better suited location to preserve them rather than having them getting destroyed. I assume these maps have cost money and should be preserved.
- It was necessary to use the town hall vacuum to clean up from installing the blinds. The filters on the vacuum were buried in an extreme amount of dust and grime. I took them outside and banged them on a tree to clean them out. I would like to suggest that shaking out the filters should be a regular part of maintaining the vacuum, as much as emptying the canister. Cleaning the filters allows the machine to work better and prevents an abusive amount of extra wear on the motor. It also stops the machine from spewing dust back into the room. **Clerk Rogers: I have asked Kobi the cleaner to make sure he empties the vacuum and to regularly check the filter and shake them out.**
- As I mentioned previously, I have no access to the upstairs portion of the building, however, Craig Surprise has requested a new light in the hallway leading to his office. How would you like to handle this issue? **Clerk Rogers: The light in the hallway leading to the Assessor's office has been resolved.**
- The court clerk (Beverly) has asked for help in cleaning out some records and files upstairs. Again, this is an issue regarding my upstairs access **Clerk Rogers: I spoke with Beverly and she is going to find out what the State Court System recommends before proceeding with any clean out of records. They may help with the process of archiving the records.**
- There still needs to have miniblinds installed on three windows in the hallway upstairs for a uniform appearance from the outside. I have not had access to the various rooms upstairs to know about blind needs in those rooms. CUTH has finished their funding of projects so it would be up to the town to finish the remaining upstairs blinds. CUTH provided Wal-Mart inexpensive blinds that I think

were about four dollars each. Does the town want to do this and provide access so the job can be finished? **Access is available while the Assessor and ZEO have hours.**

d) Debbie Colgrove, Directory

As you are aware, I was one of the people who assisted in the blinds being installed at town hall. I am writing to inform the board of a lack of information being provided by the town. While I was there, at a time when normally no one is at the town hall, I had five people stop looking for town information. Information that could have easily been provided by a directory at each door way since not all town offices are located at the town hall.

In one of the incidents, a New York State DOT truck driver asked, "Are you the town clerk", to which I answered no and explained where he could find the town clerk. At that point he asked "That would be your town's DPW?" I said no and sent him to the highway garage as I did not have the phone numbers for anyone with me.

All of these incidents left me wondering how many opportunities the town has missed simply because a person couldn't find the correct person when an opportunity arises and I can only imagine how much time is chewed up on the court clerk since she is usually the only one there.

Would it be possible to post a real directory of ALL departments involved with the town so that people could find the needed person involved with the town of Taghkanic? Maybe even what is on the town website with the links transformed to information? I would not suggest adding another piece of paper to the door but condensing all of the information into an easy to read format so that people had one place to look. (I would exclude answers to "Where is the nearest gas station?", which was asked while they left the car running and complained that they had had their gas light on for the past 15 miles and weren't sure they would make it to Bells Pond... and that wasn't one of the five LOL)

Thanks for your consideration of this issue! **Clerk Rogers has posted by both doors a directory in a frame.**

- e) Columbia County's Endangered Wetlands
- f) Town of Livingston, Public Hearing Notice
- g) NYS Taxation, 2019 Final State Equalization Rate
- h) MVP, Notice of Proposed Premium Rate Change

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.

- ✚ Board Member Linda Swartz: who is responsible to contact the BAR members of the date of grievance?
- ✚ The board all agreed the Assessor should notify the members.
- ✚ Clerk Rogers will send an email to the Assessor.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: what happen to our equalization rate, it has dropped from over 100% to 95.60?
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: that is an answer you need to get from the Assessor.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: are all towns doing re-vals?
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Not all towns but I will get that information for you.

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

Historian: Nancy Griffith, no report submitted.

Traffic Safety Board: Linda Swartz, report submitted.

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board met at The Chatham Grill for their Annual Dinner Meeting on May 23, 2019.

The CCTSB held Election of Officers, which resulted in re-electing the current board:

- Fred Schultz, Chairman
- Henry Swartz, Vice Chair
- Linda Swartz, Recording Secretary

The County has officially appointed Frank Bevins as the Executive Chair of the CCTSB.

The next meeting of the CCTSB is scheduled for July 25, 2019, at the Public Safety Building in Hudson.

✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: What are the duties of the Traffic Safety Board?

✚ Board Member Linda Swartz: The TSB helps towns with requests for speed reduction on roads, overgrown vegetation requests etc. I am the liaison for the town so if the town requests a speed reduction on a road; I first ride the road to gather the widths and conditions. Then I produce a report with pictures to help the process.

Environmental Management Council: no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 6 and 20 May 2019.

The Draft Code is now one document and the Commission reviewed Sections 10,30,40,50 and some of Section 60. Section 20 is being updated following the April review.

Issues of consistency have been identified and resolved. Consistency, reasonableness and clarity are the primary concerns in this review.

The Commission is looking at a topical map and County GIS maps to inform ridgeline discussion.

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 June. If a meeting date or time is changed, it will be noticed on the town website at www.taghkanic.org.

Office for the Aqing: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The second 2019 meeting of the OFA Advisory Council was held on 17 May 2019 at the Human Services Building, 2nd floor Conference room, at 325 Columbia Street. The meeting was opened at 1:00 P.M.

News from the OFA:

Home Health Aides: The shortage continues and there are currently 15 people on the waiting list. **To correct an error in last months' report**, the State has assigned \$15M to address the problem and **Columbia County's portion is \$30,000**. OFA is working with the Department of Health to establish a program in which the Aide will be paid ~ \$25 per hour plus mileage.

Of that amount, approximately \$12 goes to cover the cost of a Nurse Supervisor, Social Security payment and background checks. Several program iterations have failed for a variety of reasons but the County Agencies continue to work the issue. As of the date of this OFA Advisory Council meeting, the latest program was not yet finalized.

Administrator Kevin McDonald asks that when making an inquiry at the OFA, please ask for an Intake Worker. It is the fastest way to get information and help.

Department of Health:

Residents need to be aware that ticks and rabies are a severe problem this year.

Also, DOH now offers a Lifestyle Coach for people suffering from diabetes and obesity.

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.

Advisory Board reports:

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

The Town of Taghkanic Financial Advisory Committee meeting is schedule for this Thursday June 13, to review the May financials.

Budget Amendment #3-2019: Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to approve Budget Amendment #3-2019, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

June 10, 2019		Budget Amendment # 3	
GENERAL FUND		Increase	Decrease
ASSESSOR EQUIP	1355.2	\$ 71.61	
CONTINGENT	1990.4		\$ 71.61
		<u>\$71.61</u>	<u>\$71.61</u>

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

Town Wide Communication/Newsletter Advisory Committee: Board Member Joyce Thompson: Nadja, newsletter update June 2 and statistics as follows:

TGazette newsletter statistics

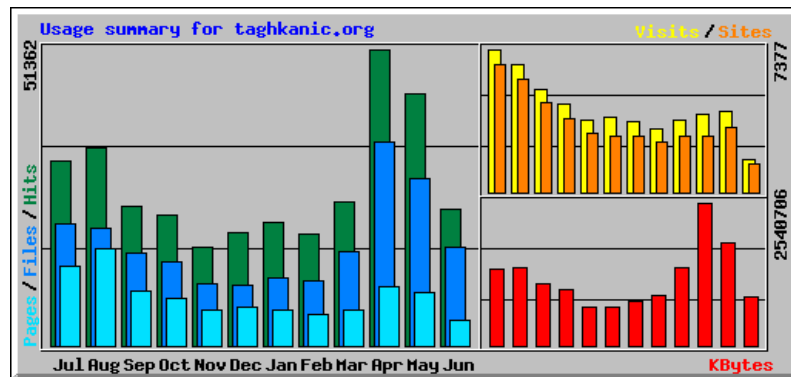
	April 2019	mid-May 2019	June
Total Sent:	60	171	202
Open Rate:	76%	66.5%	74%
Click-through rate:	64%	11.9%	75%
Bounce rate:	1.7%	4.1%	2%
Unsubscribe:	0	0	1 person
Opens by device:	41%	mobile	43%
	59%	desktop	57%
<u>Facebook</u>			
Total likes:	60		68

- Susan Raymond: we welcome articles from residents.
- Nancy Rutter: fantastic communication with the TGazette and thank you to the Board for going ahead with the post card announcing the Broadband event.

The Accompanying Report from the Website statistics is as follows:

Website Statistics: taghkanic.org

Summary Period: Last 12 Months
Generated 10-Jun-2019 03:08 EDT



Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Jun 2019	2635	1903	498	185	1478	857482	1666	4483	17134	23718
May 2019	1410	937	296	135	3316	1831225	4210	9197	29060	43714
Apr 2019	1712	1173	339	133	2910	2540706	3999	10193	35205	51362
Mar 2019	801	525	202	120	2925	1392019	3730	6267	16304	24856
Feb 2019	688	401	197	116	2603	892053	3253	5535	11236	19290
Jan 2019	687	378	202	117	2889	789910	3643	6276	11746	21312
Dec 2018	635	341	219	124	2884	690279	3861	6819	10574	19713
Nov 2018	569	356	210	125	3017	698259	3752	6307	10686	17070
Oct 2018	730	471	262	146	3828	987074	4528	8125	14606	22653
Sep 2018	805	532	320	177	4615	1099559	5325	9610	15975	24160
Aug 2018	1109	653	539	213	5824	1381105	6614	16722	20251	34380
Jul 2018	1031	684	442	237	6573	1353035	7377	13719	21204	31962
Totals						14512706	51958	103253	213981	334190

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia, no report submitted; next meeting is June 20, 2019.

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

The Broadband Committee organized the Broadband Open House on Saturday, May 18th. Attendance estimate ran from 125 to 150. Dave Berman, founder of Connect Columbia and a driving force in bringing Broadband to our County, gave the keynote address. Representatives from Gtel Communications, Mid-Hudson Cable and Consolidated Communications addressed the group and later met individually with residents. We also had a representative from ViaSat who spoke with those interested in a satellite solution. Susan Raymond, with the assistance of the Broadband Committee, has written the article about this program which is now posted on the TGazette. It is a recommended read for all residents. Further, Frank Boscarillo of Gtel sent a letter to the State Broadband Office describing the program. A copy of that letter is attached to this report.

I have since been in touch with Gtel for recent updates:

- The East Gallatin hut has been operational for two weeks. This is a critical connection facility for Taghkanic residents.
- New fiber lines are now being added to Route 82 and Old Route 82 as well as New Forge, Klein and Doodletown Roads.
- A fiber connection box has been installed on Route 82 near the firehouse.
- Connect America fund applications have all been approved. This is a ten-year grant to support service in rural areas.
- The boring under the Taconic State Parkway at Post Hill Road should start in about 3 weeks.
- Gtel is in touch with the Taghkanic Lake State Park regarding its broadband needs.
- And, most importantly, last week Gtel made its first fiber connection to a home in Taghkanic. I spoke with the Taghkanic Road resident today and she said that she was “ecstatic.

Board Member Arthur McGuire read the following letter from Frank G. Boscarillo, GTel General Manager

All –

I wanted to drop you a quick note about the Broadband Open House in Taghkanic yesterday. It was a fantastic event.

We got there about 30 minutes before 10:00, and the place was already packed. It stayed that way all the way through noon. I would estimate that there were 150 to 200 people. It was standing room only for the opening remarks and people came and went throughout the morning. I do not believe any members of the press were in attendance.

Besides Town Board Member Arthur McGuire (who is also the Chairman of the town's Broadband Committee), Sandy Mathes and I were joined by:

David Berman - Chairman of Connect Columbia

Bill Mulrein - Consolidated Communications

Dave Fingar and Rachel Puckett - Mid-Hudson Cable

There was also a representative from Viasat, but he did not speak.

All of the speakers spoke about the difficulty of building broadband networks in rural areas, and emphasized that the NY State Broadband for All program is the real game-changer. There were a lot of questions about how certain areas were awarded, and fortunately Mr. Berman and Mr. McGuire handled those. Mr. Berman did a great job explaining the challenges associated with the Make Ready process. Sandy Mathes emphasized the economic development and quality of life improvements that broadband infrastructure would bring to Taghkanic and Columbia County. Many residents asked specific questions about the individual companies' service offerings, the installation process, timelines, etc., and all were asked to visit the companies at their individual tables.

I believe that 125 to 150 people came to the GTel table. We walked out with a stack of new interest forms, and many visitors told us they had already signed up on our company website. I did field many questions about timelines, and I reiterated that we

expect mainline construction to be complete during the 4th quarter - but will be turning up some areas sooner. All of the residents I spoke with seemed to be happy with that answer; they just wanted to make sure that we were still committed to building to them. I had a chance to meet about a dozen Taghkanic residents who I have spoken with over the past 3 to 4 months.

This was a great opportunity to meet scores of prospective customers, and I am very grateful for the support of the Taghkanic Broadband Committee. They are very well organized and absolutely committed to helping all of the companies to get the word out.

Thanks, Frank Frank G. Boscarillo | General Manager GTel | 210 Main St, Germantown, NY 12526 frank.boscarillo@gtelcorp.com gtelfiber.net | 518-537-GTEL Direct: 518-537-1122 | Fax: 518-537-1123

- ✚ Joanne Kline: Verizon trucks were on her road adjusting the wires on the poles in preparation for fiber lines to be installed.

Old Business:

- A. **County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: we will be going into Executive Session to discuss the ongoing litigation concerning this matter
- B. **Highway Facility:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Northeastern Environmental is working on the water management document and Ray Jurkowski is working on the RFP for the asbestos removal? Superintendent Hotaling reported that at the Pumpkin Hollow/Route 27 intersection the pole has been moved; the wires have not been moved from old pole to new pole yet. When that is done the old pole needs to be removed and then the County can do the intersection.
- C. **Culvert Inventory:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: there is nothing new to report at this time. We are waiting for a response from CCE and Trout Unlimited.
- D. **Speed Sign:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: After finding out the results of the sign being placed on Route 82, I am not sure we need one.
 - ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I agree, I feel there are more important things that the Board is working on require money. For example the Clean Energy Program. Maybe we can put an article on the TGazette about the speed-read sign and ask for input from residents.
 - ✚ All agreed to table at this time.
- 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: I was hoping to have hard copies of the maps but they are not ready yet. I met with the

Taghkanic Firefighters and they unanimously are in favor of the district line changes. I still need to meet with the Churchtown Firefighters but have been dealing with schedule conflicts.

+ Board Member Joyce Thompson: Very happy to see it moving forward.

+ Lisa Testa: Who covers my area?

+ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Churchtown Fire Company.

New Business:

A. July 2019 Calendar: Board Member Linda Swartz moved to accept the June 2019 as amended, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

B. Clean Energy Program: Board Member Joyce Thompson
Information Regarding Four Quotes Received from
Plugin Stations Online (PISO) Installer, Christopher Carmody.

General Notes:

1. NYS Contract Status:
 - a. Plugin Stations Online is on the NYS Contract for the ChargePoint equipment.
 - b. The EVBox L2 is not under NYS Contract and would require several quotes.
2. Each product is attached to its own network:
 - a. That measures usage for NYSERDA
 - b. Has its own mobile app for activation
 - c. Provides a user charging mechanism
3. According to Installer Chris Carmody, both products are acceptable. His quality comparison between EVBox and ChargePoint is below:
 - a. The EVBox is less rugged, has had some mechanical issues and he finds the component quality lower than that of the ChargePoint product.
 - b. ChargePoint has RFID tap to pay or with Apple and Google pay program
4. We have the option to install L2 ports this year under the Clean Energy program. With becoming a Clean Energy Town, we would be eligible for rebate or grant to install faster ports next year. The site survey suggested L2 and Faster Ones at opposite ends of the Diner.

General Cost Facts:

1. L2 ports cost about \$0.85/hour for the customer
2. Network Charges are:
 - a. EVBox L2 is \$245 x 2 = \$490/year
 - b. ChargePoint L2 is \$280 x 2 = \$560/1-year plan
 \$250 x 2 = \$500 for 2-year plan
 \$225 x 2 = \$450 for 4-year plan

C. Miller's Tavern Liquor License waiver: Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to grant permission for Supervisor Ryan Skoda to sign the letter waiving the town's

rights to the 30 day hold and consents to the processing and issuance of the Miller's Tavern Liquor License, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✦ **May 27, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	187 - 194	\$	4,615.70
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	
2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	1 - 3	\$	3,535.00
2019 Escrow Fund Vouchers	#		\$	

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

✦ **June 10, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

✦ 2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	195 - 216	\$	6,753.88
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	114 - 132	\$	14,817.06
2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	1 - 3	\$	3,535.00
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:

- ✦ Christopher De la Rama: Smithsonian contacted him about the baby rattlesnake he found in his garage. He asked Superintendent Hotaling if he had seen any rattlesnakes in the area.
- ✦ Superintendent Hotaling: no.
- ✦ Susan Raymond: Why do we not have a Post Office in Taghkanic?
- ✦ Board Member Richard Skoda: we have not had a Post Office since before the 1920s.
- ✦ Karen Lansing: Thank you Superintendent Hotaling for the great work on Old Oak Road. When will it get paved?
- ✦ Alice Platt: Thank you for uncovering the Tibbets Lane sign.

8:30 pm Executive Session: Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

9:03 pm Exited Executive Session: Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to exit Executive Session, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to have Attorney Howard commence with collection proceedings against Christian Heesch on the judgment obtained by the Town, including but not limited to a Sheriff's Sale for property bearing tax map number 172.-1-38 owned by Christian Heesch located at 644 County Route 15, (Taghkanic) Elizaville, N Y 12523, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

Clerk Rogers informed the Board that the laptop for the bookkeeper is starting to act up. I have a quote from MIS for a new one and am asking permission to order a new one before it totally stops working. Board Member Arthur McGuire asked if there is money in that appropriation line to cover the cost or do we need to move money before granting permission for the purchase? Supervisor Ryan Skoda, this money can come from the contingent appropriation line.

Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to grant permission to purchase a new laptop for the Bookkeeper/Accountant, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

****Board Member Linda Swartz: informed the Board Members that she will not be at the July meeting.**

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Richard Skoda, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **July 8, 2019** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience:	Arthur Griffith	Nancy Rutter	Susan Raymond	Kara Gilmore
	Karen Lansing	Joshua Plass	Theo Schoepp	Lisa Testa
	George Hotaling	Dennis Callahan	Alice Platt	Joanne Kline
	Andrew Howard	Christopher De la Rama		