

**September 9, 2019
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Meeting**

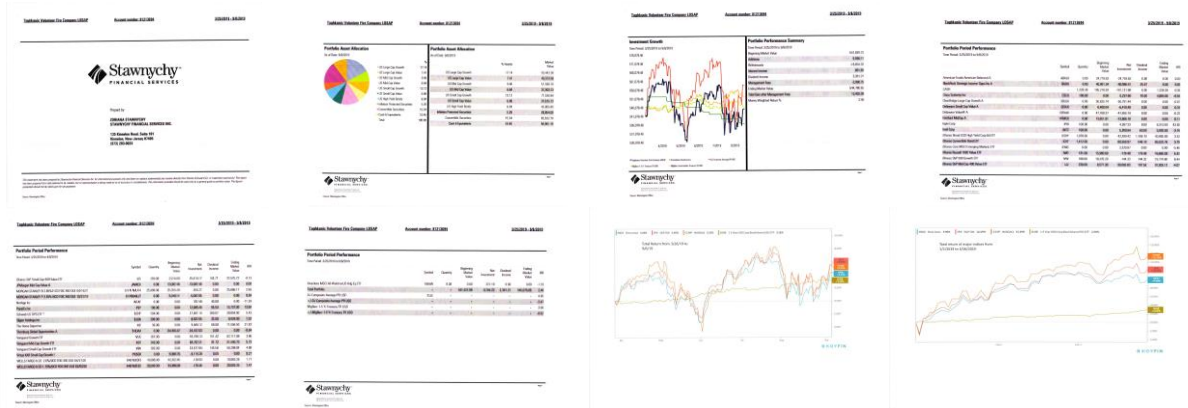
Note all documents in these minutes may be clicked on and enlarged for easier reading

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 Arthur McGuire Richard Skoda Linda Swartz Joyce Thompson Cheryl Rogers	Supervisor Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member Clerk
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Guest Speaker: Zoriana M. Stawnychy and Giuseppe Roveccio, Stawnychy Financial Services presentation as follows:

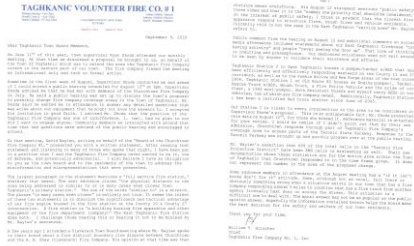


Supervisor Ryan Skoda then asked for a motion to approve the following minutes:

August 12, 2019: Tabled

The Correspondence consisted of:

- a) KISS September 9-20, 2019
- b) Public Hearing Notice Town of Livingston Planning
- c) Col. Co. Scale Closed September 25- 27, 2019
- d) The Golden Gathering October 5, 2019
- e) Plenflex, Churchtown
- f) William T. Hilscher, Chief, Taghkanic Fire Company No. 1, Inc (read)



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, no report submitted next meeting **September 26, 2019.**

Environmental Management Council: no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 5 & 19 August 2019.

Review of the Draft Code as one document continues and September will address Articles 80-110. August meeting also reviewed the Local Law 2-2019 re Solar Equipment more carefully and made recommendations to Consultant Ted Fink. The modified law is now ready to be sent back to the Attorney for the Town for legal review. Upon legal approval, it will be posted and ready for public Hearing before the October Town Board meeting.

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

Next meetings: 16 and possibly 30 September. 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 meeting to report.

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 Arthur McGuire:** replacing or upgrading the tractor is this part of the equipment replacement schedule?
- ✚ **Board Member Joyce Thompson:** yes, that is correct. Highway Superintendent George Hotaling has gone to Salem Tractor in Claverack for a quote on a tractor that has been there for a while. Will report on that next month.

Advisory Board reports:

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

The FAC will meet on Thursday, 12 September 2019 as scheduled. Quick review of revenues and expenditures shows no major issues at this time. Budget Amendment #5-2019 is needed to cover an additional \$0.18 over amount budgeted for the annual Bond Interest payment and Web Input is increased to cover more work done by the web input person instead of the web master. This is an overall reduction of web maintenance. See transactions below:

		Budget Amendment # 5-19	
		Increase	Decrease
TOWN OF TAGHKANIC			
September 9, 2019			
GENERAL FUND			
	WEB INPUT	A1410.11	450.00
	BONDS INTEREST	A9710.7	0.18
	CONTINGENT	A1990.4	450.18
		450.18	450.18
HIGHWAY FUND			
		0.00	0.00

Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to approve Budget Amendment #5-2019, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

Town Wide Communication/Newsletter Advisory Committee: Board Member Joyce Thompson: Nadja, no statistics submitted in time for the meeting. New format is working out well and has added easier access for comments by readers.

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia report submitted as follows

"The meeting was held on August 22 at 4 PM. Present at the meeting were: Anna Kadish, Larry Kadish, Moisha Blechman, Valerie Hoffmann, and Joyce Thompson from the Taghkanic CAC and also Christine Vanderlan, from the CLC and Ms. Beth H. Mills, the Director of Conservation Programs from the CLC Trust.org. She is in charge of CLC Conservation easement work and public conservation staff and stewardship. She works with landowners helping manage county properties, easements, and programs. In particular she is involved with local forests, streams and ponds. She attended our CAC meeting to discuss the headwaters and watershed of the Taghkanic Creek. This also includes preservation and migration of local wildlife and also studies of local climate change, erosion, and changes with global warming. Other local towns such as Copake, Ancram, and others may also be involved.

One of the goals of this project could also be to produce a short document for education purposes, lectures and possibly for some future grant applications. Recent changes in climate were discussed, as well as tree and possible damage from ozone, etc. Decreases in monarch butterflies, and effects on other animals were also talked about.

After this we had a short meeting about our CAC, we discussed future CAC walks and decided to call Gretchen Stevens about this."

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

The Taghkanic Broadband Committee met August 14, 2019, at GTel's East Gallatin Hut. Present were Chris Tallackson, Nancy Rutter, Susan Raymond and Arthur McGuire. We had been invited there to meet with Jim Maruniak, GTel's Central Station Engineer. Jim has been with GTel for 20 years after a long career in telecommunications at NEC America. He also finds time to volunteer with the Germantown Fire Company, including as Assistant Chief there, after having served as Chief at the Greenport Fire Company.

Among Jim Maruniak's many duties in connection with the Broadband buildout has been the construction of the Hut. The company started with a prefabricated cell tower building, set it on a strong basement foundation on land that had been graded to avoid ground water damage. There are Seven aluminum rods set into the earth to ground the equipment and protect against lightning. The building has its own HVAC system, a complex alarm system, a state-of-the-art fire suppression system and electric generator capability.

All of this is critical given the purpose of the building. It serves as a junction for fiber coming from the Gtel main office, under the Taconic State Parkway to the East Gallatin area. Within weeks some of that fiber will be connected to a junction box in front of the Taghkanic Firehouse. Fiber will then be connected to homes in that area, beginning with Reesa and Brothers Roads as well as County Route 15. Other strands will go directly from the Hut to homes in Northeast Gallatin and Southeast Taghkanic. The East Gallatin Hut was built solidly and has plenty of space for future development in this area. It is now an important part of GTel's expansion into Taghkanic and other nearby towns.

All the fiber lines are carefully labeled to show their destinations. But these labels are not GTel's only means of tracking its customers. Complex systems in the head office will be able to troubleshoot customer broadband and WiFi issues, including identifying specific home computers and other devices that may be using excess service, slowing down the home's WiFi speed.

While visiting with Jim Maruniak at the Hut, we were able to learn more about GTel's recent progress in and toward our town:

- Since July 1st, it has constructed 9.9 miles of fiber in Taghkanic and passed 107 homes. Four residents have been converted to fiber with one more underway. All of these are in the original GTel service area along Taghkanic Road.
- With the connection of the junction box by the Taghkanic Firehouse, the company will be able to connect its first residents in Phase 2, perhaps within four weeks.
- All pole licenses with NYSG have now been obtained, allowing faster construction in Phase 2 areas.

— Two crews are working on the second and third borings under the Taconic State Parkway at Post Hill Road and Lake Taghkanic Road. If the weather cooperates, both should be finished within a week.

— GTel has received expressions of interest from 174 Taghkanic residents. As the system becomes available in more areas, we expect more connections.

In sum, the Broadband Committee has been impressed with GTel's progress so far. The visit to the East Gallatin Hut bolstered the members' opinion that the company is working both hard and smart to bring Broadband to this area. With this success and that which we have seen at both Mid-Hudson Cable and Consolidated Communications, Broadband is moving closer to our residents.

Old Business:

- A. **County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Notices have been posted pursuant Supreme Court Columbia County; Mr. Heesch's property will sell at public auction on October 29, 2019 at 10 am at the Columbia County Courthouse.

- B. **Highway Facility:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: still waiting for Northeastern Environmental to complete the Soil Management Plan and Ray Jurkowski is working on the RFP for the asbestos removal. Planting should be able to start in the spring. Colarusso Blacktop and Paving has started paving Pumpkin Hollow today.

- C. **Culvert Inventory:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: CCE and Trout Unlimited are around inspecting culverts. Larry Kadish offered clarification that the \$50,000.00 grant received is being used to inspect all of the culverts in town, provide information to develop a plan and that, in turn, will allow us to apply for more grant money.

- D. **Fire Protection District Lines:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: The Public Hearing remains open and no decisions have been made. Last month good ideas were brought forth and the two fire companies will be meeting to come up with a common ground decision. I have been asked to attend to keep me in the loop. We will report more next month and resume the Public Hearing when a plan is ready for consideration.

- E. **Local Law 2-2019 to amend the Zoning Law regarding Solar Energy Systems:**
 - ✚ Public Hearing for Local Law 2-2019 remains open and the town will re-notice the continuation of the Public Hearing when Board Member Joyce Thompson informs the clerk that the revised Local Law is ready for review. It will be placed on the town website at least one week before the resumption of the Public Hearing.

New Business:

A. October 2019 Calendar: Board Member Linda Swartz moved to accept the October 2019 as amended to add two Budget Workshop meetings, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✦ **August 26, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	283 - 292	\$	21,036.13
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	
2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	-	\$	
2019 Escrow Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	

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

✦ **September 9, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	293 - 308	\$	50,967.66
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	165 - 177	\$	8,713.64
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: Was the tower in Livingston approved?
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I don't know.

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 8:05 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **October 14, 2019** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

<u>Audience:</u>	Lisa Testa	John Thompson	CorDel Hall	Larry Kadish
	Anna Kadish	Luciano Giovannucci	Andrew Soltano	Sal Aufiero
	Carmine Aufiero	Dennis Callahan	Paul Nostrand	Alice Platt
	Kara Gilmore	Arthur Griffith		

