

APPROVED

12/9/2019

**November 11, 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
Linda Swartz Board Member
Joyce Thompson Board Member
Cheryl Rogers Clerk

Absent: Richard Skoda Board Member

7:00 PM: Public Hearing: Supervisor Ryan Skoda opened the Public Hearing for the 2020 Preliminary Budget Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked for any questions, or concerns from the audience or Board.

7:02 PM: Public Hearing Closed: Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to close the Public Hearing for the 2020 Preliminary Budget, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

Guest Speaker:

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

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

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

October 23, 2019: Town Board Budget Workshop meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

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

The Correspondence consisted of:

- a) Donald Mac Cormack TBOGC
- b) NYMIR Subscriber Share
- c) Anna Kadish, membership for CCEMC needs to be renewed
 - + Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to re-appoint Anna Kadish as the CCEMC representative for the Town of Taghkanic, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

- d) NYMIR, annual report
- e) MVP Renewal
- f) Ray Colgrove, Maintenance for Town Hall, Ray informed the Board the heater in the Lady’s room is not working and there is no heater in the men’s room, do you want me to repair or replace the lady’s room one and add one in the men’s room. Board agreed to fix and add the heater as needed. Ray asked the Board for guidance. Do I have a spending limit if I find something that needs to be repaired?

+ Board Member Linda Swartz motioned Maintenance Repair Personnel for the Town Hall may repair up to \$200.00. Anything over that should be approved by the Town Supervisor, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

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: Board Member Linda Swartz, report submitted.

Environmental Management Council: no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 7 & 21 October 2019 and 4 November as scheduled.

Review of the Draft Code as one document was completed on 4 November.

All edits will now be implemented and a new Draft Code will be issued. The meetings on 18 November and 2 & 16 December will be dedicated to resolution of outstanding issues. The resulting approved language will go into a final Draft edition being prepared by our consultant, Ted Fink. A copy edit will then be conducted to find any discrepancies among references and referrals.

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

Next meetings: 18 November. 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 second of three fall meetings in 2019 of the OFA Advisory Council was held on 18 October at the Human Services Building, 2nd floor Conference room, at 325 Columbia Street.

The meeting was opened at 1:05 P.M.

The Hillsdale Representative, Joyce Lapenn, reported on the activities planned by the Hillsdale **Safe At Home** Committee. The upcoming event was a Senior Caregivers Workshop on Saturday, October 19, from 10am -12:30pm at their Fire Company Hall. Fifteen service providers were scheduled and Claire Parde, Executive Director of The Health Care Consortium was committed to present information about Long Time Care services.

This event is the result of a program that included a town-wide letter, a newly formatted service guide, a senior gathering, and a survey. From the survey the Hillsdale Safe At Home Committee learned that Hillsdale seniors consider socialization and home maintenance as the two most important needs.

NY Connects

Kelly McGiffert reported on The Health Care Consortium. This organization has recently taken on the ICAN program. **ICAN stands for Independent Consumer Advocate Network**. Its purpose is to assist consumers with Medicare and Medicaid issues. They are completing a five-year contract held by the Legal Aid Society and will apply to continue it for another five years.

OFA Administrator, Kevin McDonald, updated progress with the **Senior Stars Program**. They are seeking contributions from businesses for holiday items that can be distributed with a personal hello to people who live alone. The idea is to replace broken items such as toasters and other practical living tools. There is a \$500 grant from Walmart. While this is a one-time fix, it is a step toward addressing the socialization issue with seniors in our county. Eight OFA staff are participating in this program this year.

The October-December 2019 Elder Express Newsletter was distributed as was the new Directory 'Caring for Those Who Cared For Us'. This new service guide is based on the guide developed by the Hillsdale Safe At Home Committee. The OFA gratefully acknowledges their permission to use it.

And to Repeat from the September meeting information from NY Connects

Open Enrollment season is soon upon us and Kelly McGiffert urges everyone to spread the word that NY Connects stands ready to help navigate changes in healthcare plans.

There are two separate periods for Open Enrollment:

Medicare Advantage	October 15, 2019 - December 7, 2019
No Medicare - NY State of Health	November 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020

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 FAC will meet on Thursday, 14 November 2019 at 11:00AM. This is an earlier time than originally scheduled.

Overall performance report for October shows, once again, that Revenues are greater than expected and Expenditures are below the 80% level for both General and Highway Funds.

A Budget Amendment #7 is required as follows:

General Fund: move \$400 from the Code Enforcement Contractual - Litigation line to the Code Enforcement Contractual line to assure coverage of average monthly expenses the remainder of 2019.

Highway Fund: Anticipated winter preparation expenses for tires, plow blades and plow shoes will require more than the remainder on the Machinery line. Highway Superintendent Hotaling requested that \$15,000 be moved from the Road Repair line to the Machinery line to cover those bills.

A review of the 2019 Budget Amendment records with Town Clerk Rogers established a need for a process adjustment in the bill payment and budget tracking processes. The plan set out earlier this year for Department Heads to track their expenses against their budget has not worked well. For a full picture, they need to see the monthly bills for utility allocations like telephones and supplies as well as a more efficient way to authorize vouchers for other operating invoices. A recommendation will be presented to the December Town Board for review, modification as deemed appropriate, and approval for the 2020 fiscal year.

Town Wide Communication/Newsletter Advisory Committee: Board Member Joyce

Thompson: Nadja Palenzuela

November 2019

Total Sent:	229
Open Rate:	78%
Click-through rate:	77%
Bounced:	8
Unsubscribe:	0
<u>Opens by device:</u>	45% mobile
	55% desktop

Most popular articles:

1. Broadband (GTel installs more Taghkanic homes)
2. Town Board Election results
3. Highway Facility project

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia report submitted.

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

There was a lengthy discussion of the Zoning Ordinance and the work being done by the Zoning Commission. Discussions were mostly concerned with steep slopes and ridgelines and the effect on water and viewsheds. There were also discussions on trees and the preservation of them within the town.

As the work of the Commission is coming to a close and the proposed Zoning Ordinance would be soon presented to the Town Board it was thought that the CAC would have a part in the review of this document.

There was a discussion of the Comprehensive Plan and the role the CAC would have in reviewing this document for updating.

There was a discussion of what the CAC would be presenting to the TGazette for future publication and a discussion of the Agricultural history of the town with a possible presentation of this in the TGazette.

The CAC requested the Board approve Supervisor Ryan Skoda sign a letter supporting the Columbia Land Conservancy grant proposal for a project similar to the last one the board supported several months ago. Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve the signing of the letter supporting the Columbia Land Conservancy, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

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

The Broadband Committee met on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. Present were Nancy Rutter, Chris Tallackson, Susan Raymond and Arthur McGuire.

The Committee discussed the Congressman Delgado meeting; the progress of Gtel as well as that of the other Taghkanic Broadband providers; and Susan Raymond's upcoming TGazette article about both. Susan will reach out to Frank Boscarillo of GTel for updates before her article is run.

Arthur has also reached out to Frank Boscarillo for updates and can report the following:

- Gtel has 21 subscribers installed in Taghkanic so far.
- Splicing is finished in the Reesa/Brothers Roads areas with nine new subscribers expected to be installed soon.
- Two new subscribers have been connected on Sopak and Sugar Mountain Roads with nine others expressing interest there.
- Cabling is complete from the East Gallatin Hut, down Route 82 to the Taconic Parkway.
- Cabling is complete on New Forge Road I down to Tompkins Road.
- A junction cabinet has been added on Pumpkin Hollow Road.
- Strand (supporting wire) has been hung on Taghkanic Churchtown Road as far as Reservoir Road. Fiber cable will be added to this strand and connected to the Pumpkin Hollow cabinet.
- The Post Hill Road boring under the Taconic Parkway will receive cable once approvals from Verizon and National Grid have been approved. The boring contains a four-inch conduit with four individual sections. Gtel will use one, with the others available for future expansion or use by other utility companies.
- In the past three months, Gtel has run 30 miles of fiber, with ten more expected in Taghkanic by the end of November.
- The company still expects to complete the Phase 2 infrastructure by the end of this year, with the Phase 3 infrastructure finished by the middle of next year. The Phase 3 area includes the northeast part of Taghkanic and the Taconic Hills Schools.
- Only one GTel pole was blown partly down in the 10/31 - 11/1 windstorm. The cable was not severed and the damage has since been repaired.

The Broadband Committee continues to be encouraged by Gtel's progress and that of the other providers in Taghkanic. As noted above, we now have our 21 Gtel connections in addition to those served with fiber by Mid-Hudson Cable and Consolidated Communications. We look forward to the day when the rest of our residents have access to high speed Internet.

Old Business:

- A. County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Mr. Heesch's property did not sell at public auction on October 29, 2019

as Mr. Heesch's new attorney filed a motion to show cause. Supervisor Ryan Skoda: we will go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

- B. **Highway Facility:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: nothing new to report, still waiting for Northeastern Environmental to complete the Soil Management Plan and Ray Jurkowski is working on the RFP for the asbestos removal. The Highway Department can proceed with building the berm. We should be able to plant in the spring.
- C. **Culvert Inventory:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: nothing new to report.
- D. **Fire Protection District Lines:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Robert Preusser, the Churchtown Fire Co. 1 is willing to do the agreement with Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Co. 1 but would like to write the agreement.

New Business:

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

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

- B. **McCarthy Taghkanic LOSAP 2018 Audit:** Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned for Supervisor Ryan Skoda to sign the engagement and representative letters for the Taghkanic LOSAP 2018 Audit with McCarthy, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

- C. **Tax Cap 2020:** Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to stay within our 2020 Tax Cap, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

- D. **2020 Budget:** Board Member Linda motioned to approve the 2020 Preliminary Budget as presented as the 2020 Final Budget, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

- E. **Banking RFP's Interview date and time:** All agreed November 19, 2019 at 6:00 and 6:30 pm.

F. Terry Porter Col. Co. Planning Board Representative: Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to pass Resolution #21 -2019 to re-appoint Terry Porter from Gallatin to represent Region 7, Town of Gallatin and Taghkanic on the Columbia County Planning Board, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

G. Budget Amendment #7: Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to approve Budget Amendment #7-2019, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

			Budget Amendment # 7	
11-Nov-19			Increase	Decrease
GENERAL FUND				
	CODE ENFORCEMENT	3620.4	400.00	
	CODE ENFORCEMENT - LITIGATION	3620.41		400.00
			<u>400.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>
HIGHWAY FUND				
	MACHINERY	DA5130.4	15,000.00	
	GENERAL REPAIRS	DA5110.4		15,000.00
			<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✚ **November 11, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Arthur McGuire, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	360 - 372	\$	26,126.55
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	197 - 220	\$	17,129.16
2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	-	\$	
2019 Escrow Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ Arthur Griffith: word of wisdom on this year's elections.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: Early voting and November 5th have been tallied; absentees are being opened on November 18th.

Executive Session:

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **December 9, 2019** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience:	John Thompson	Roy Cozzolino	Margaret Cozzolino	Carol Fass
	Stanley Scott	Arthur Griffith	Steve Fass	Anna Kadish
	Larry Kadish	Debbie Colgrove	Ray Colgrove	Anthony LaSalvia
		Kara Gilmore	Nadja Palenzuela	