

APPROVED

1/13/2020

**December 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	Supervisor
	Arthur McGuire	Board Member
	Richard Skoda	Board Member
	Linda Swartz	Board Member
	Joyce Thompson	Board Member
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Guest Speaker:

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

November 11, 2019: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Arthur McGuire, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

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

November 19, 2019: Town Board Interview Meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Linda Swartz seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

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

The Correspondence consisted of:

- a) M&T Bank
- b) John B. Auricchio, Department of Public Service
- c) McCarthy & Conlon, 2018 Taghkanic Fire LOSAP Audit
- d) Department of Taxation and Finances
- e) M&T Bank

Then followed reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Wes Powell, report submitted no activity for November.

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.

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board held its regular meeting at the Public Safety Building in Hudson on November 21, 2019.

The Town of Taghkanic had no matters before the Board.

Of major concern, the NYSDOT is once again placing engineering responsibility on the towns when submitting requests for reduced speed limits; requiring that the municipality submit their request with data using NYS DOT methodology, noting the amount and type of development within the area of the requested speed limit, roadway features and physical condition, one or more speed studies by a certified traffic engineer, and concurrence of the Columbia County DPW. Dean Knox will bring this matter up with the County DPW Committee and will recommend that County Board of Supervisors get involved. Bernie Meyer, Town of Canaan Highway Superintendent, will bring this matter up when he meets with the Association of Towns and will advise the CCTSB of any discussion.

The next meeting of the CCTSB is scheduled for January 23, 2020, at the Public Safety Building in Hudson.

Environmental Management Council: no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 4 & 18 November 2019 as scheduled. The 2 December meeting was cancelled because of a snow storm.

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

Discussion continues on several outstanding issues. As stated last month, 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. Residents are welcome to attend and add their thoughts to the discussions.

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

Next meetings: 16 December. We are meeting from 4:00 to 6:00 during these late fall months.

Office for the Aging: Joyce Thompson report submitted as follows.

The third of three fall meetings in 2019 of the OFA Advisory Council was held on 15 November at the Human Services Building, 2nd floor Conference room, at 325 Columbia Street.

The meeting was opened at 12:50 P.M. following a traditional and delicious pot luck holiday lunch.

OFA

Ken Schomaker, Columbia County OFA Accountant, reported on the completed **2019 Needs Assessment** Results. It used US Census Bureau (2010) and American Community Survey (2017; 5-year estimates). The analysis covers the poverty ratio, population density, median income, dependency ratio and OFA services to Active Clients.

The OFA has also done an **extensive survey of seniors** in many different venues. One interesting comparison between 2015 and 2019 surveys shows that four the top five concerns among Columbia County seniors remain the same in both surveys. They are Home Maintenance and Repair,

Understanding Medicare, Long Term Care Insurance and Low-Income Health Insurance options. The new one in 2019 is Managing chronic health issues.

The latest Elder Express Newsletter and a new service directory are available. Contact the OFA at (518) 828-4258 or your OFA representative Joyce Thompson at (518) 851-3487 to get a print or electronic copy.

Reminder: For people with no Medicare and using NY State of Health, the open enrollment is 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:

Town Wide Communication/Newsletter Advisory Committee: Board Member Joyce Thompson: Nadja Palenzuela

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia no meeting, report submitted.

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

The Taghkanic Broadband Committee met on November 20, 2019. Present were Chris Tallackson, Nancy Rutter, Susan Raymond and Arthur McGuire.

The group discussed upcoming Broadband reports for the TGazette and Gtel's progress in our town. The idea of a second Broadband Open House was suggested for next year once infrastructure has been completed. The three Broadband providers in our town could talk to residents about their then-current offerings, pricing, etc.

Arthur had spoken with Frank Boscarillo of Gtel and learned the following:

- Work has continued on Route 27 up to Pumpkin Hollow Road.
- Work has commenced on Pumpkin Hollow Road.
- Ten miles of strand has been run in our town. It holds the fiber in place and the fiber will follow.
- Fiber has been run by the new connection cabinet on Taghkanic Churchtown Road.
- The company has hired additional splicers to speed up the installation.
- Gtel was connecting customers on Reese and Brothers Roads. There should be six new Broadband hookups there now.
- Fiber has been installed but not yet spliced from the Ancram/Taghkanic line along Route 82 to the Taconic State Parkway.
- Gtel expects to meet its infrastructure commitment for Phases 1 and 2 by the end of the year. It is concentrating on unserved and underserved areas which include much of our town.

I have reached out recently to Gtel for a more-recent update but have not heard back. We will notify the residents when we have more news.

Old Business:

- A. **County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: November 12th we had court and the Town Attorney filed paper to show cause. Mr. Heesch’s new Attorney was given time to review until November 26, 2019. We returned to court and a settlement was agreed upon. Mr. Heesch was to have everything cleaned up by today, December 9, but has filed a motion for a 10-day extension because of the winter storm. We return to court tomorrow, December 10, and I will update the board next month.

- B. **Highway Facility:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I have finally spoken with Ray Jurkowski (he apologized for not returning my calls). Northeastern Environmental completed the Soil Management Plan, submitted it to DEC, and has received a verbal approval of the plan. He is waiting for the written one. Ray Jurkowski is also working on the asbestos removal and the storm water installation for which McCagg is still going to honor its quote.

- C. **Culvert Inventory:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I have nothing new to report. Board Member Joyce Thompson, CAC has a meeting coming up and I will ask if they have anything new to report.

- D. **Fire Protection District Lines:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: The Mutual Aid Response Agreement between Churchtown and Taghkanic Fire Companies has been drafted and Churchtown has accepted. The Taghkanic Fire Company is meeting tomorrow night and plans to vote on it then.
 - ✚ Board Member Arthur McGuire: there are a few misprints that I will discuss with the firemen tomorrow night.
 - ✚ Board Member Richard Skoda: is the funding staying the same and will this response agreement be reviewed annually?
 - ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda; yes, to both.
 - ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I am very happy that they are working together.

New Business:

- A. **January 2020 Calendar:** Board Member Linda Swartz moved to accept the January 2020 as amended, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

- B. **Bank Selection:** The Board Members have been informed that other towns in Columbia County are receiving rates of 2%. All agreed to go back to Community and Bank of Greene County to give them both an opportunity to resubmit their rate proposal. Supervisor Ryan Skoda, Board Member Joyce Thompson and Clerk Rogers will draft a letter to the banks.

C. **Budget Amendment #9:** Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to approve Budget Amendment #9-2019, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

		Budget Amendment # 9	
		9-Dec-19	
GENERAL FUND		Increase	Decrease
Town Justice Clerk	A1110.13	2,000.00	
Contingent	A1990.4		2,000.00
		2,000.00	2,000.00

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✦ **November 25, 2019 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	376 - 391	\$	35,014.69
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	221 -	\$	17,131.00
2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	-	\$	
2019 Escrow Fund Vouchers	#		\$	

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

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

2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	392 - 413	\$	6,222.23
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	222 - 248	\$	18,603.59
2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	-	\$	
2019 Escrow Fund Vouchers	#		\$	

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda because this is the last regular meeting of the year I would like to thank Arthur and Richard for their time served on the Board.
- ✦ Board Member Arthur McGuire: Thank you it's been a pleasure.
- ✦ Board Member Richard Skoda: Thank you. Ryan you have never called me "Richard". Laughter followed.

7:45 PM Executive Session: Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. Board Member Joyce Thompson Motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

9:23 PM. Exited Executive Session: Board Member Richard Skoda motioned to exit Executive Session, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

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

Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked for a roll call vote for the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Town of Taghkanic and Teamster Local 294 January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022.

COUNCILMEMBER, Arthur McGuire,	voting	<u> NO </u>
COUNCILMEMBER, Richard Skoda	voting	<u> NO </u>
COUNCILMEMBER, Linda Swartz,	voting	<u> NO </u>
COUNCILMEMBER, Joyce Thompson,	voting	<u> YES </u>
SUPERVISOR, Ryan Skoda.	voting	<u> YES </u>

Not approved

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Richard Skoda, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **January 13, 2019** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience: Stanley Scott John Thompson Kara Gilmore Nadja Palenzuela
Elizabeth Craig Chris De La Rama