

APPROVED

2/10/2020

**January 13, 2020
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.

7 pm: Justice Prochera swore in the following new Town Board Members:

 Elizabeth Craig and
 Kara Gilmore

7:01 pm: Organizational meeting.

Present:	Ryan Skoda	Supervisor
	Elizabeth Craig	Board Member
	Kara Gilmore	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:

December 9, 2019: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Approved 3 Aye (Ryan, Joyce, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent
2 Abstained (Elizabeth, Kara)

December 31, 2019: Town Board Year-End Meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Approved 3 Aye (Ryan, Joyce, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent
2 Abstained (Elizabeth, Kara)

The Correspondence:

- a) Linda Swartz, Collective Bargaining Agreement
- b) NYSLRS Employer Forum

- c) Arthur McGuire letter of interest for PB
- d) Moisha Blechman, letter of interest ZBA Alternate
- e) Xmas card Columbia County Highway Department
- f) Jennifer Prusinowski, Environmentally Preferable Lighting
 - + **Board Member Joyce Thompson:** suggested we look further into how this works, if we are eligible, prices etc.
 - + **Board Member Elizabeth Craig:** will investigate for more information.
- g) Lisa Dixon-Watson, Community Bank
- h) Jonathan Haligan, TBOGC
- i) Raymond Keyser, letter of interest PB
- j) M&T Bank
- k) Anna Kadish, letter of interest PB Alternate
- l) Stawnychy Financial Services, LOSAP
- m) Suzanne E. Muldoon, CPA, announcing PKHB new name UHY LLP

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.

Environmental Management Council: no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 16 December 2019 as scheduled. The 2 December meeting was cancelled because of a snow storm.

The Zoning Commission is reviewing the final draft.

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 January 2020. We are meeting from 4:00 to 6:00 during these late fall months.

Office for the Aging: Joyce Thompson, no meeting to report; next meeting is in April.

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 Joyce Thompson: Superintendent Hotaling has asked me to submit the draft 2020 Plan for Road Repair as required by HL 284 for the Boards review and approval at next month's meeting.

The image shows three documents from the Town of Taghkanic. The first is a meeting agenda for January 13, 2020, listing items like the Town of Taghkanic Highway Department report and a cost planning table. The second is a list of Board Members: Ryan, Joyce, Kara, and Linda. The third is a table titled '2020 COST PLANNING FOR ROAD WORK - FIRST ESTIMATE' with columns for Item, Description, Estimated Cost, and Status.

Board Member Joyce Thompson: Superintendent Hotaling is recommending the purchase of a Ten Wheeler w/plow which will dovetail to support the paver. This purchase would allow the town to haul its own gravel and sand instead of paying an outside contractor to haul it for us. He is also recommending the purchase of a tractor.

Advisory Board reports:

Financial Advisory Committee Report: Board Member Joyce Thompson reported the following need for Budget #11-2019. Based on the review, we expect to be under budget. The 4th quarter 2019 sales tax revenue is expected to be received early February. The final 2019 figures will be done after that.

Budget Amendment #11: Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to approve Budget Amendment #11-2019, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

			Budget Amendment #11	
			13 January 2020	
GENERAL FUND			Increase	Decrease
Town Hall Eqpt	A1620.2		8,087.00	
Garage	A5132.4		965.65	
Town Hall Contractual	A1620.4			104.90
Zoning Board Contractual	A8010.4			3,447.75
Zoning Commission	A8010.41			5,500.00
			\$ 9,052.65	\$ 9,052.65

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

Town Wide Communication/Newsletter Advisory Committee: Nadja Palenzuela

TGazette newsletter statistics		December 2019	
Total Sent:	230	Opens by device:	47% mobile
Open Rate:	73%		53% desktop
Click-through rate:	69%	Facebook total likes:	78
Bounce rate:	9		
Unsubscribe:	0		

Posts about Broadband continue to be the most popular, December was no exception. The story about Richard and Arthur’s retirement from the board was a close second.

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia report submitted as follows:

Tony LaSalvia, Larry Kadish, Anna Kadish, Joyce Thompson, Valerie Hoffmann, Zita Kobos

At this meeting we began by looking into the steep slope citations in the proposed Zoning Ordinance. We discussed trail connections and the State Forest. We discussed the issue of trees and forests and how they pertain to new development.

The CAC wants to see how this information can get to the homeowner so they can make good decisions on their property.

The CAC hopes to have a part in the review of the Zoning Ordinance.

The next meeting will be in late January, date to be determined.

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

The Taghkanic Broadband Committee met on December 18, 2019. Present were Chris Tallackson, Susan Raymond, Nancy Rutter and Arthur McGuire. The committee discussed broadband services now available in our town, the upcoming TGazette broadband article and recent progress by Gtel. In November, Gtel doubled the speed it provides its customers at each price point. For example, those who signed up for 50 mbs now get 100 and those who signed up for 100 mbs now get 200.

As of today, Gtel has installed 36.78 miles of the planned 58.5 miles of fiber in Taghkanic. That which remains is in the north of our town. Of the 874 Taghkanic housing units for which Gtel was awarded State grants, 538 have been passed with fiber. The company now has 31 customers fully operational here with five more to be installed by the end of the month.

Gtel has the capability to install service to about 80 houses per month. Right now, they are mostly focusing these resources to Gallatin, where the fiber infrastructure has been completed. Later, Taghkanic will see more installations to homes. The company currently has expressions of interest from 227 residents here.

Fiber infrastructure work is now underway on Taghkanic-Churchtown Road. There have been licensing delays at Post Hill Road on the east side of the Taconic State Parkway but they are being resolved. On a bright note, one of our committee members who lives near Ancram has received notice that the fiber has been completed there and installation can soon begin.

Gtel now expects infrastructure to be complete for Phases 2 and 3 by the end of April. It estimates that the last 121 houses of Phase 3 will be passed with fiber by the end of May. Installation to houses in Taghkanic will ramp up once the Gallatin installations are largely complete.

Old Business:

A. **County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Mr. Heesch was granted an extension because of the winter storm. We have been back to court advising Judge Nichols that Mr. Heesch has not removed a thing and asked Judge Nichols for a decision. We are now waiting for Judge Nichols

B. **Highway Facility:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda Supervisor Ryan Skoda, Ray Jurkowski is working on the asbestos removal; Superintendent Hotaling would like to wait until spring to remove the building.

C. **Culvert Inventory:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I have nothing new to report, Joyce has the CAC heard anything? Answer No.

New Business:

A. **March 2020 Calendar:** Board Member Joyce Thompson moved to accept the March 2020 as amended, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays

0 Absent

- B. **2020 Pine Plains Veterinary Shelter Contract:** ; Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to Authorize Supervisor Ryan Skoda to sign the 2020 Pine Plains Veterinary Shelter Contract, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz. The Board asked Clerk Rogers to ask Pine Plains Veterinary to inform the town when they receive a dog from our town so that we can help in the process of adoption.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- C. **2020 Columbia County MIS Contract:** Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to approve 2020 Columbia County MIS Contract, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- D. **2020 EMP Plan:** Clerk Rogers informed the Board she needs to get the updated Officer information from both fire companies and will have that for next month.

- E. **2020 Resolutions:** Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to approve the following Resolutions with suggested changes, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

1. **Medicare Supplement Health Insurance Benefit:** no changes
2. **Rules of Order:** *ORDER OF BUSINESS remove #10 Items for Next Town Board Meeting Agendas*
3. **Procurement Policy:** *Guideline 2. Add d. Maintenance Repair Personnel for the Town Hall may repair up to \$200.00. Anything over that should be approved by the Town Supervisor.*
4. **Town of Taghkanic Work Place Violence Policy:** no changes
5. **Code of Ethics:** no changes
6. **Investment Policy:** no changes
7. **Cash Disbursement Procedures:** *Page 5 # 5. Payroll Company cuts checks, creates a Payroll Summary Report and mails the checks and report to Town Clerk. Town Clerk gives the Payroll Summary report to the Town Supervisor for review and signing. Note: The Town Clerk maintains the necessary employee filing information. The Payroll Company is responsible for making government, medical and retirement program payments. These payments are recorded in the Payroll Company Summary Report.*
Page 6 #3. Town Board Member pulls the Bank Statements for the Accountant for the Town on first business day of each month and sends them in PDF format to the Town Supervisor, Board Members, Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk and the Accountant. This enables the Accountant to provide timely monthly financial reports for the Town Board meeting.
8. **Electronic Banking Policy:** *Page 2 Does not pertain for 2020*
9. **Hazard Mitigation:** no changes

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✦ **January 13, 2020, 2019 Payables Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

2019 General Fund Vouchers	#	452	-	459	\$	27,244.95
2019 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	281	-	284	\$	6,659.99
2019 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#		-		\$	

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

✦ **January 13, 2020 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	1	-	26	\$	35,933.36
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	1	-	4	\$	7,134.49
2020 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#		-		\$	

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✦ Larry Kadish: about four months ago the CAC was informed that the CLC grant monies were being disbursed. Have you heard anything?
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda, no but I will look into it.
- ✦ William McDonough: Thank you to the Board for the great work and as this is my first Board meeting it is the best so far.
- ✦ Arthur Griffith: any rumor about Millers Tavern?
- ✦ Clerk Rogers: the state has not issued their Liquor License yet.
- ✦ John Thompson: has Mr. Heesch paid any judgement fines?
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: no.

Executive Session: none

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **February 10, 2020** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience: Stanley Scott John Thompson Nadja Palenzuela William McDonough
Robert Prochera Diane Rodriguez Jose Rodriguez Arthur Baker
Chris Tallackson Barbara Hermance Anna Kadish Larry Kadish
Kathy Bainer Harriet Shur John Clarkson Ellen Clarkson
Arthur Griffith Robert Bertoltti
Resident Deputy Brian Molinski
Kelly Miller Simmons Col. Co. Republican Commissioner Mr. Simmons