

Approved
4/13/2020

**March 9, 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.

Present:	Ryan Skoda Elizabeth Craig Kara Gilmore Linda Swartz Joyce Thompson Cheryl Rogers	Supervisor Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member Clerk
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Guest Speaker:

Senator Daphne Jordan: presented the Town of Taghkanic with a proclamation for becoming a Purple Heart Community.

Board Member Joyce Thompson: Introduced the Safe at Home program as follows:

- ✦ William Hilscher Chief of Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company submitted the Taghkanic Fire Co. 2019 LOSAP points' record for approval for the 30 day posting. Motion to approve was made by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

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

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

February 10, 2020: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

February 25, 2020: 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 5 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The Correspondence:

- a) K.I.S.S. 2020 1ST Quarter Collection
- b) Johnson Newspaper CORP. Rate Change
- c) Suicide Prevention Center
- d) TOWN OF TAGHKANIC V. CHRISTIAN HEESCH
- e) Columbia County Board Of Elections 2020 Voting Dates
- f) Columbia County Board Of Elections "HOW TO BECOME AN ELECTION DAY WORKER"
- g) Churchtown Fire Co. Thank You and Insurance Certificate
- h) Taghkanic Zoning Commission, Recommendation To Appoint A Short Term Rental Task Force

Reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Wes Powell, no report submitted.

To the Town Supervisor, Town Board and Town Clerk,

I wish to inform you that after 35 years of being Dog Control Officer I am retiring due to health reasons.

My official last day will be March 31, 2020.

Sincerely
Wes Powell

Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to notice for the position of Animal Control Officer, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

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

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Assessor: Craig Surprise report submitted.

**Taghkanic Assessment Meetings in February
Town Revaluation Progress Meeting with the State on 18 February 2020
Third Revaluation Public Information Meeting on 29 February 2020**

Taghkanic Assessor Craig Surprise opened the meeting on Tuesday, 18 February 2020, at Town Hall. Attending were three (3) representatives from New York State Office of Real Property Services, two (2) representatives from the Columbia County Real Property Services, the Taghkanic Assessor and one (1) Town Board Member.

The revaluation is on schedule to send out letters on 1 March 2020 to property owners with both old and new assessment information. These valuations do not include any exemptions. Assessor Surprise has established time for 10-minute appointments on three (3) Saturdays and on two (2) Fridays in March. Dates, times and how to make an appointment will be stated in the letter. It is important to understand that these appointments will be kept to 10 minutes and are designed to address only one (1) parcel. An owner wishing to discuss several parcels should schedule one session for each of them.

The third public information meeting regarding the town wide revaluation process was held on Saturday, 29 February, 2020 at the Taghkanic Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to review the contents of the 1 March letter and answer any general or procedural questions. Suzette Booy, Columbia County Director of the Real Property Tax Services joined Taghkanic Assessor Surprise in answering a lot of good questions from about 40 people property owners.

The Tentative Tax Roll will be available on 1 May 2020 and the Final on 1 July 2020.

Residents are urged to check their tax information on-line shortly after those dates.

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

Historian: Nancy Griffith, no report submitted.

Traffic Safety Board: Board Member Linda Swartz, no meeting

Environmental Management Council: no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 3 & 17 January 2020 as scheduled.

February focused on a careful review of the changes to assure they are correct and final disposition on any outstanding policy issues. The Commission members are looking for clarity and consistency.

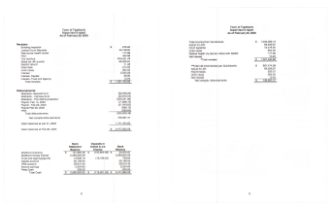
Comprehensive minutes of these meetings are available on the Town Website or upon request to Joyce Thompson at 518.851.3487.

Next meetings: 2, 16 and 30 March. We are meeting from 4:00 to 6:00 during the winter 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. Superintendent George Hotaling has submitted two proposals recommending the purchase of a ten wheel dump truck to Supervisor Ryan Skoda.



Advisory Board reports:

Financial Advisory Committee Report:

Tgazette Newsletter Advisory Committee: Nadja Palenzuela no report submitted.

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia no meeting to report:

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

Gtel continues to build out its fiber network in Taghkanic.

Some statistics:

	Total Miles to Build	Miles Left to Build
Phase 1	3.28	0
Phase 2	55.24	19.39
Phase 3	3.33	1.03

Of 874 property units in Taghkanic for which Gtel was awarded State grants, 601 have now been passed. This amounts to 68.8%

The company has installed fiber at 64 homes, has scheduled 7 more, and has 22 open up for signups. This signup area includes County Route 15 west of the Taconic State Parkway and the Livingston Road area.

Splicing continues on County Route 27, County Route 10, Pumpkin Hollow Road and Berkshire Road. Strand but not yet fiber has been placed on Taghkanic-Churchtown Road and Manor Rock Road.

Those who now have fiber internet, from Gtel, Mid-Hudson or Consolidated, seem happy with their Internet service. (But we have heard complaints about television and telephone from Mid-Hudson.) Please read Nancy Rutter’s article about her successful Gtel installation in the TGazette.

Slowly, but surely, fiber Internet service is moving toward our Taghkanic residents. You can contact Gtel with any specific questions you may have.

Old Business:

- A. County Route 15 Complaint: Supervisor Ryan Skoda: The Court denied Mr. Heesch's motion and has authorized the Town to preceede with the sheriff's sale on May 8, 2020 at 10:00 AM 401 Union Street, Hudson, N Y.**
- B. Highway Facility: Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Ray Jurkowski reports that asbestos removal can be done; then spring the old building removed. The storm water ponds will be done when weather permits. McCaggs is ready.**
- C. Culvert Inventory: Board Member Joyce Thompson reported the following:
Report on the Town of Taghkanic Culvert Assessment Project**

On 25 February 2020 representatives from the Taghkanic Town Board and Conservation Advisory Committee met with representatives from Trout Unlimited, Cornell Cooperative Extension in Columbia and Greene Counties and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to review the culvert inventory document developed over the past five (5) years. Six locations were discussed at some length. *See attached documents.*

The next step is to prioritize the top three culverts that best meet two goals: road safety and habitat improvement. A survey crew and an engineer will develop a full engineering document for one culvert and basic designs for the other two. The plan and designs will serve as the basis for funding requests to do the work.

The next meeting is set for 17 March 2020 at Town Hall beginning at 1:00 P.M.

Attendees on 25 February:

Megan Lung, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Kelsey West, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Columbia and Greene Counties
Shannon Ervin, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Tracy Brown, Trout Unlimited
George Hotaling, Taghkanic Highway Superintendent
Joyce Thompson, Taghkanic Town Board Member
Anna Kadish, Taghkanic Conservation Advisory Committee
Larry Kadish, Taghkanic Conservation Advisory Committee
Tim Kennelty, Taghkanic Conservation Advisory Committee

New Business:

- 1. May 2020 Calendar: Board Member Kara Gilmore moved to accept the May 2020 as amended, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.**

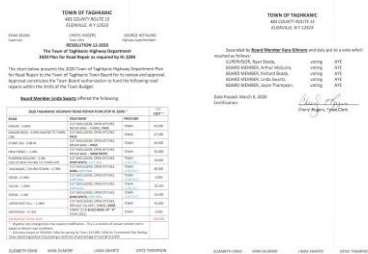
Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

2. **Resolution 11-2020:** Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve Resolution 11-2020 Inter-Municipal Cooperation agreement between the County of Columbia and the Town of Taghkanic (as attached), seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.



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

3. **Resolution 12-2020:** Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to approve Resolution 11- RESOLUTION 12-2020 The Town of Taghkanic Highway Department 2020 Plan for Road Repair as required by HL §284 (as follows), seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.



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

4. **Zoning Commission Recommendation to Appoint a Short Term rental Task Force:** Board Member Elizabeth Craig volunteered to head the task force and will present a plan proposal at the April meeting. (see copy of request)

“The Town of Taghkanic Zoning Commission strongly recommends that the Town Board immediately form a Short Term Rental Task Force to address the issue of short term rentals and transient lodging as a potentially permitted, but regulated, use of a dwelling unit. This Task Force would be charged to prepare a draft amendment to the existing Town of Taghkanic Zoning Ordinance or to the Draft Town of Taghkanic Zoning Law as applicable regarding this issue, for review and action by the Town Board.”

100. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to accept the terms and conditions of the 2020 General Fund Voucher program as set forth in the attached document. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to accept the terms and conditions of the 2020 Highway Fund Voucher program as set forth in the attached document. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to accept the terms and conditions of the 2020 Highway Project Fund Voucher program as set forth in the attached document. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to accept the terms and conditions of the 2020 Highway Project Fund Voucher program as set forth in the attached document.

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

February 25, 2020 Abstract: on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	61	-	83	\$	27,001.54
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	34	-		\$	5,826.08
2020 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#		-		\$	

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

March 9, 2020 Abstract: on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	84	-	103	\$	16 456.14
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	35	-	56	\$	19,573.14
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:

- Nancy Rutter:** Interested in the history of the Taghkanic Baskets, saw a video online with Lizzie Proper and asked if anyone knew where Liz Proper lived in Taghkanic.
- Arthur Griffith:** Liz Proper lived south of the Parkway on Route 82.

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 8:55 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **April 13, 2020** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience: Arthur Griffith Susan Raymond Nancy Rutter Shane McGinnis
 Arthur McGuire William Hilscher Chris De La Rama Diane Rodriguez
 Resident Deputy Brian Molinski
 Senator Daphne Jordon
 Halie Northrop, Senator's Community Liaison.