

**APPROVED**  
**7/13/2020**

**June 8, 2020**  
**Town of Taghkanic**  
**Town Board Meeting**

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

Town Board Members audited and signed vouchers on June 7, and June 8, 2020 separately due to the COVID-19 social distancing.

**7 pm:** The Taghkanic Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on the above date at the Taghkanic Fire House. Supervisor Ryan Skoda opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

<b>Present:</b>	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:

**May 11, 2020:** Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

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

The Correspondence:

- a) NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance, equalization rate 100%
- b) NYS Public Service Commission, Joint Petition of GTel and Valstar

Reports from the Boards:

**Animal Control:** Kyle Miller, report submitted.

I have no new entries for this month's report.

**ZBA:** James Romaine, Chair, no report.

**Planning Board:** Katherine Bainer, Chair no meeting.

**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, no meeting

**Environmental Management Council:** no report submitted.

**Zoning Commission:** Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 4 and 18 May 2020 as scheduled via Zoom.

The final review for consistency and readability made good progress and the goal is to complete the review by the end of June. We will use Zoom for the first two June meetings and in-person on 29 June at the Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company Hall.

The public is welcome to attend via Zoom. If you are interested, please email me at joyce.thompson721@gmail.com or call me at 518.851.3487 and I will send you an invitation.

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

Next meetings: 15 June via Zoom and 29 June at the Taghkanic Fire House. The meeting time will continue to be 4:00 to 6:00P.M.

**STR Sub-Committee:** Board Member Elizabeth Craig, Chair, reported that the sub-committee had their first zoom meeting. Nine (9) committee members participated and one resident.

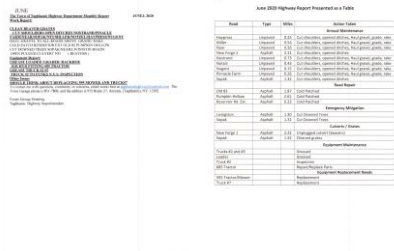
**Office for the Aging:** Joyce Thompson, no meeting to report.

**Clerk/Collector:** Cheryl Rogers, reports were submitted to the Board.

**Supervisor:** Ryan Skoda, report submitted as attached.



**Highway:** George Hotaling, report submitted.



**Advisory Board reports:**

**Financial Advisory Committee Report:** Board Member Joyce Thompson report submitted as follows:



16 Scheduled  
7 Waiting (customer signed up, but requested we wait)  
137 Unfulfilled interests

Finally, Gtel has reached an agreement with six homeowners up in the Berkshire Lake Subdivision. Sam Hill Rd is a private road, ineligible for State funding. The homeowners have agreed to pay for the trenching and conduit cost; Gtel is burying the cable there and anticipates turning on the fiber by the middle of June.

In sum, substantial progress is being made on Broadband in Taghkanic. More than half the homes in Town now have Broadband. Gtel is connecting homes via self-install during the Coronavirus emergency. Once the splicing has been finished, Gtel will be in a position to connect more customers. That should take place in weeks or months, not the years we have been waiting.

### Old Business:

1. **County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: postponed due to COVID-19, state is starting to open courts.
2. **Highway Facility:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: On hold due to COVID-19.
3. **Culvert Inventory:** Board Member Joyce Thompson: On hold due to COVID-19
4. **COVID Outreach Program:** Board Member Kara Gilmore: the volunteers in the delivery group have now volunteered to help with the recovery kitchen, everyone in town have things in order. Board Member Elizabeth Craig: volunteer social callers found everyone was doing well when making last call, neighbors are helping neighbors.
5. **Census 2020:** **Reminder to everyone to fill out the 2020 Census!**

### New Business:

- A. **August 2020 Calendar:** Board Member Joyce Thompson moved to accept the August 2020 with additions, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

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

- B. **Community Collective Aggregation:** Board Member Joyce Thompson: I attended a Webinar given by Municipal Electric Gas Alliance (MEGA) concerning savings on electric suppliers for the Capital Region. I suggest that we ask for a presentation at one of our next meetings. All agreed to set up a presentation for next month.

**C. RFPs 2021 Notice:** Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to notice for RFPs for 2021 for the following:

- Town Attorney
- Accountant
- Payroll
- ZBA Attorney

All requests should be returned no later than July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

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

**D. Appointed Highway Superintendent:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: we have discussed this before, I have not had Attorney Howard do any research on this but would like to call him at the end of the week with all of our questions and get him to research the process. All agreed. Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked the Board Members to send him their questions by Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>.

- ✚ Carl Mulert: is there an opening, have we lost Mr. Hotaling?
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: No, this position is up for election in 2021 and this is a perfect time to review and discuss how the town fills the position in the future. A decision like this would go up for a referendum which all residents will have an opportunity to vote on.

**E. Board of Assessment Review Pay per Day:** Board Member Joyce Thompson: We removed the cap on the BAR pay but we did not discuss the per day pay. I feel that \$25.00 per day is not enough for the work the BAR is responsible for. Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I totally agree. Board Member Kara Gilmore: As a resident going through the process this year I agree and motion that we need to increase the per day to at least \$50.00 and to be retroactive for this year, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

**F. Approved**      **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara)**  
**0 Nays**  
**0 Absent**  
**1 Abstained (Linda)**

**The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:**

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

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	161	-	175	\$	6,698.11
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	92	-	93	\$	6,048.08
2020 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#		-		\$	

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

✦ **June 8, 2020 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Kara Gilmore.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	176	-	189	\$	3,968.82
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	94	-	101	\$	2,398.36
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:**

- ✦ John Thompson: County Route 15, it goes back the Sheriff Sale correct?
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: When the court opens up we will get a new date for the Sheriff Sale.
- ✦ Clerk Rogers: Will there be a 60-day waiting period notice?
- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Yes

**Executive Session:** none

**With no further business,** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **July 13, 2020** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

**Audience:**

John Roberts	Larry Kadish	Anna Kadish	Susan Soltano
John Thompson	Arthur Griffith	Carl Mulert	Roy Cozzolino
Margaret Cozzolino	Joanne Klein		