

**APPROVED**

**11/9/2020**

**October 12, 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 October 10, 2020 separately, due to the COVID-19 social distancing.

**7:03 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:** Fabian Johnston, Quick Response, presented via Zoom.

- ✦ Arthur McGuire: via zoom asked how does Quick Response get paid?
- ✦ Fabian: this is a donated service we are providing for First responders and Municipalities.
- ✦ Board Member Joyce Thompson: what kind of disinfectant do you use?
- ✦ Fabian: a planet based very safe on all surfs it has a magnetic component to stick to the surf.
- ✦ Larry Kadish: The Fire House would be included in this service?
- ✦ Fabian: yes
- ✦ Cheryl Rogers: how long does it last?
- ✦ Fabian: as long as there are no cases of an individual that test positive for COVID. If someone enters that has tested positive you would need to disinfect again.

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

**September 14, 2020:** Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

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

**September 28, 2020:** Town Board Budget Workshop meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Joyce Thompson, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

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

## The Correspondence:

- a) NYS Department of Public Service, Spotlight On: COVID 19
- b) Quick Response
- c) Columbia County Department of Public Works, Replacement of West Taghkanic Bridge
- d) National Grid, Update We're restarting normal business operations
  - ✚ [Board Member Joyce Thompson](#) suggested the TGazette post the National Grid Update.
- e) Alex Campbell, Project Developer, Hecate Energy LLC, Shepherd's Run Solar Project
- f) Stawnychy, Taghkanic LOSAP monthly report
- g) Robert Prochera, thank you card

## Reports from the Boards:

### **Animal Control:** [Kyle Miller](#), report submitted as follows

For this month I have a report of a dog bite on 9/17 in Taghkanic. The case is still outstanding and the owners are set to appear in court on October 15th.



I also have a report of a missing dog since 9/20. She has been spotted numerous times on Old Route 82, but has yet to be captured. Please keep an eye out for her. I have attached a flier as well.

**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 as follows:

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board met at the Public Safety Building in Hudson on Thursday, September 24, 2020.

The Board welcomed new member, Kevin Smith, from the Town of New Lebanon.

Rick Frick from NYSDOT, who had been a vital and active member of the CCTSB, has retired from the State. Resident Engineer Mike Duval attended this meeting and was informed of the importance of DOT's participation in the CCTSB. He will find a replacement for Rick on the Board.

I presented to the CCTSB the request for a reduced speed limit on Taghkanic-Churchtown Road and asked for the support of the TSB with the request. A motion was made by John Leach from Stockport that the CCTSB send a letter to County Engineering in support of the request. The motion was seconded by Chuck Stiffler from Stuyvesant and carried. The Secretary of the TSB (that would be myself) will prepare a letter for signature by Chairman Fred Schultz.

A master list is being created of all bridges in the county that have some type of restriction, i.e. reduced weight limit, restrictions or closures, which, when completed, will be provided to all fire departments so that they all have the same information. This information is particularly important at this time due to low membership numbers at fire departments and the increased need for mutual aid. The master list will be updated as changes are made.

The next meeting of the CCTSB is scheduled for November 19, 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 7 September and cancelled the 21 September 2020 meeting.

The Co-Chairs, Linda Swartz and Joyce Thompson, worked almost daily during those weeks to work through the Draft Code as reviewed and revised by the Commission and enter all approved changes approved by the Commission, copy edit for grammar, punctuation, numbering consistency and confirmation of all references within the document. Some areas remain for final disposition by the Commission and will be discussed at the upcoming 19 October meeting. The Consultant serving the Commission throughout the life of the Commission is currently reviewing this latest edited version to further confirm all work authorized by the Commission and answer remaining questions.

The next Zoning Commission meetings are scheduled for 19 October and 2 & 16 November. All meetings are being held in-person at the Taghkanic Fire House from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. As always, these meetings are open to all and public attendance is welcomed. Masks and social distancing practices are required for in-person attendance. Zoom participation may be also requested by emailing Joyce Thompson at [joyce.thompson721@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.thompson721@gmail.com).

**STR Sub-Committee:** Board Member Elizabeth Craig, Chair, no report submitted.

**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 as attached.



### Advisory Board reports:

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

SEPTEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE TOWN OF TAGHKANIC TOWN BOARD

Monday, October 12, 2020

The Financial Advisory Board met on Thursday, 8 October 2020 to audit the September financial records. No discrepancies were found when comparing Abstracts, Transfers, Deposits and Bank Statements for each of the accounts.

The report received from the Accountant for the Town, Suzanne Muldoon, includes the Balance Sheets by Fund as requested by the Town. She also reports that the inquiry by the Office of the State Comptroller regarding the Town's Retirement obligation has been resolved. There is no change to the number submitted in the 2019 AUD.

A review of Revenues and Expenses through September 2020 finds no significant issues. At the end of third quarter the General Fund Revenues stand at 85% and Highway Fund Revenues are at 94% of budget. General Fund Expenses stand at 56% and Highway Fund Expenses at 43% on September 30, 2020.

In September the Town Board authorized an additional transfer of \$200,000 from the Highway Fund Balance to the Highway Operating Budget's Road Repair Contractual Line, DA5110.4. It will provide the total funding needed for paving on three roads. There are two pending bills for asphalt in the amounts of \$171,368.11 for Maier/Manor Rock Road and \$53,265 for Stone Jug Road. The plan is to pave as much of New Forge I as the remainder of money on that line will allow.

COVID safety preparations for opening the Courts required work that caused A1110.4 (Court Contractual) and A1620.4 (Town Hall Contractual) in the General Fund to go over budget by a total of \$424.63 in September. Budget Amendment #3 in the amount of \$1,300 is proposed to cover those expenses and provide funding for fourth quarter bills on those two appropriation lines.

**Tgazette Newsletter Advisory Committee:** Nadja Palenzuela no report submitted.

**Conservation Advisory Committee:** Tony LaSalvia no meeting to report:

The CAC has not had a meeting this month but we did have discussions with the Columbia Land Conservancy as you already know. Larry Kadish and I will be representing the town for meetings with a group working on the Taghkanic Creek Headwaters Project that the CLC has initiated. We have both had meetings with the coordinator of the group, Strong Outcomes. We are scheduled to meet with the entire group later in October.

I have also been contacted by Venissa Bertozzi of the New World Foundation to see if the town is interested in a program called "Local Champions: Support for NY State's Climate Smart Communities Coordinators. This program would have individuals that would be part of a group that would help towns coordinate their efforts to complete the Climate Smart Program. I think they are under the impression that we had applied for that program. They are looking for individuals in the town that may wish to participate in this program for which they have obtained a grant. At this time I am not available for this program due to my commitment to the above CLC program but if someone in the town is interested in this program I will be glad to share what information I have.

✚ **Board Member Joyce Thompson:** if the Board is interested in the Climate Smart Program we will need to find someone else to head as Tony and Larry from the CAC are involved with the Headwaters Project. I will find out if anyone else is interested from the CAC.

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

The Broadband Committee met on September 17, 2020. The main topic of discussion was the preparation of a guide providing information to residents regarding Internet access for students, seniors and those of limited financial means. Members of the committee had researched the issue and presented their findings. Nancy Rutter has spearheaded the task of converting this information into a guide. Drafts are now being reviewed by the committee members. We should be finished within the next month or two.

I have since communicated with Frank Boscarillo of Gtel regarding the company's recent progress in Taghkanic. It now has 223 locations on fiber in our town as of last Thursday. The company has changed its way of reporting. In the past, Gtel had reported each of multiple services at a location; for example, if a location had Internet and TV, that would have counted as 2 connections. The reporting criterion has been changed to now only include the number of active locations with fiber. This accounts for the lower number of installations than in last month's report. There are 855 locations with 911 addresses in Taghkanic.

Gtel connected 20 new customers in Taghkanic in September, and two so far in October. There are five more now scheduled for this month. Every area in Taghkanic awarded to

Gtel is ready for connection; potential customers just have to sign up.

**Old Business:**

1. **County Route 15 Complaint:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Attorney Howard informed me we are on hold until January 1, 2020 because of the Governors Executive Order extending the ban on evictions. I have contacted Attorney Howard and the Sheriff's Department to look into it further as the town has a judgement in place already.
  - + John Thompson: I read Governor Cuomo executive order it is all concerns renter and foreclosures being evicted; in my opinion it has nothing to do with this judgement. I am asking the Board to please take a ride sit in my driveway and look at what my wife and I have to look at. This has gone on to long. To top it off my assess value was raised \$50,000 this year.
  
2. **Highway Facility:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Everything is still on hold waiting for DEC's decision on the proposed Soil Management Plan submitted months ago.
  
3. **Culvert Inventory:** Board Member Joyce Thompson: Superintendent George Hotaling and Tracy met to look at the New Forge I box culvert. No more information at this time.
  
4. **Census 2020: Reminder to everyone to fill out the 2020 Census!**
  - + Supervisor Ryan Skoda: nothing new to report
  
5. **LOSAP Audit RFP:** Clerk Rogers informed the Board she received no replies. The Board asked Clerk Rogers to call the list she received from Penflex.
  - + Supervisor Ryan Skoda will contact George Keeler the County Fire Coordinator and see if he knows of any auditors that do LOSAP.
  
6. **ZBA Alternate request – responses:** Clerk Rogers informed the Board she received no letters of interest.
  - + Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to notice for all the open seats for 2021, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

**Approved**

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

7. **Police Reinvention Program - Progress Report:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda at this time I have no updates my County meeting is Wednesday night and will email the Board with the new information.
  
8. **Training Opportunities - Solar Energy Regulations:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda reminded everyone of the upcoming training for the solar energy.

**New Business:**

1. **December 2020 Calendar:** Board Member Linda Swartz moved to accept the December 2020 calendar with additions, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

**Approved**

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

2. **NYS Public Employer Mandatory Health Emergency Plan:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda on Labor Day Governor Cuomo signed legislation requiring all public employers to create contingency operations plans to protect public workers in future health emergencies. We need to prepare this plan by February 4, 2021 and submit it to the Teamsters Union and the plan must be finalized by April 1, 2021.

✚ Board Member Elizabeth Craig volunteered to draft a plan, Board Member Linda Swartz and Board Member Kara Gilmore volunteered to help. Clerk Rogers will forward the template that was part of the webinar.

3. **October 21, 2020 Budget Workshop at 6:30 pm Town Hall:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda reminded everyone we have a budget Workshop on October 21, 2020 at 6:30 at the Town Hall.

4. **Budget Amendment #3:** Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to approve Budget Amendment #3, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

**2020 Budget Amendment #3**

**12-Oct-20**

GENERAL FUND		Increase	Decrease
Justice Contractual	A1110.4	\$1,000.00	
Building Contractual	A1620.4	\$300.00	
Contingency	A1990.4		\$1,300.00
		<b>\$1,300.00</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>

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

- ✚ **October 12, 2020 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, was approved for payment including voucher #211, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	306	-	327	\$	68,035.52
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	154	-	154	\$	173,116.86
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: very impressed with the congeniality of the Board.
- ✚ Arthur Griffith: does anyone know what all the covered signs are about on County Route 15?
- ✚ Clerk Rogers: it is my understanding they are going to be repairing a culvert in the middle of the hill and it will take 3 to 4 days.

**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 8:05 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **November 9, 2020** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

**Audience:** Larry Kadish                      Anna Kadish                      Arthur Griffith                      John Thompson

**Audience via Zoom:** Arthur McGuire