

APPROVED

5-10-2021

**April 12, 2021
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 April 11 and 12, 2021 separately, due to the COVID-19 social distancing.

7:06 pm: The Taghkanic Town Board held its Regular monthly meeting on the above date with a combination of **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** and all other Board Members, Town Clerk and 7 residents attending via Zoom. **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

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

Absent:

Guest Speaker:

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

March 8, 2021: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by **Board Member Joyce Thompson**, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

Approved **4 Aye** **(Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)**
0 Nays
1 Abstain **(Ryan)**

The Correspondence:

1. Arthur McGuire resignation from the Broadband Committee
2. Laberge Group
3. Columbia county MIS Department, Shared Services Agreement 2021

✚ Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to sign the Shared Service Agreement for 2021 with Columbia County MIS Department, seconded by **Board Member Linda Swartz**.

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

4. State of NY Fleet Card Program
 5. 2021 Columbia County DOH, Free Rabies Clinics
 6. GTel Proposal for Hosted Telephone System
 7. 10 Woodland Road Residents' complaints
- ✚ Kenneth Synder:** the ditches are very deep.
✚ Michael Simmons: the road being paved is wonderful but I was told that the road was not

prepped correctly by the paving company. Ditches are getting deeper in three spot and more dangerous.

✚ **Board Member Joyce Thompson:** it is my understanding the ditches need to be deep for the water runoff, to prevent it running over the road.

✚ **Board Member Elizabeth Craig:** it sounds like the problem is more the width of the road. When was the road paved?

✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** two of three years ago.

✚ **Board Member Linda Swartz:** the only way to address the width of the road would be for land owners to give a portion of their property to the town so the highway would be able to widen the road.

✚ Nancy Rutter: if the road wasn't prepped properly why did the paving company go forward with the job?

✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Good question but paving company was told the road was prep ready; Highway Superintendent hires the paving company through road bids. There are solutions. I am not sure why George isn't working on them. On May 4th 12-7 the residents can vote on the referendum for Highway Superintendent to be appointed or elected.

✚ **Board Member Kara Gilmore:** the board understands the pressing urgency to make Woodland Road safe.

✚ Sebastian Lebski: totally support Michael Simmons.

✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** complaints are not falling on deaf ears.

8. Stawnychy Financial Service, Charles Schwab March report

Reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Kyle Miller, report submitted as follows

I apologize for the late report.

On 3/19 I was notified of a lost Rottweiler on Taghkanic Rd. The dog was found by the owner a short while later.

On 3/20 I received a call about 2 found dogs on Miller Rd 2 in Taghkanic. Upon collecting them I knew of the owners and the dogs were reunited with her.

On 3/25 I received a report of a missing dog on Pumpkin Hollow Rd. That dog was also found by the owner a short while later.

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Taghkanic Planning Board Report for March 2021

No meetings were held. There were no applications for review.

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 met at the Public Safety Building in Hudson on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Reconstruction of the bridge on the Taconic State Parkway over County Route 27 has been completed and all lanes are reopened.

The Election of Officers, held annually in May, was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic. Attempts to hold the election at the few meetings that were held since that time were tabled for various reasons.

The Election of Officers is now scheduled to be held at the May 2021 TSB Meeting

Environmental Management Council: Larry Kadish no report submitted:

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted.

The Zoning Commission met on 2, 16 and 29 March 2021.

Review of the draft zoning code was completed and a final list of issues developed. The reviews held in January through March did identify some important areas that required further discussion or clarification. All but one has been resolved. Commission members are tasked with a full read-through in April and will meet on the 19th to finalize the document.

The 2021 Draft Zoning Code for the Town of Taghkanic will be delivered to the Town Board for its consideration at the May 10th, 2021 Town Board meeting.

All Zoning Commission meetings are being held via Zoom from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. and the public is welcome to request a zoom link by emailing joyce.thompson721@gmail.com by 2P.M. on the day of the meeting.

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

- Services offered by Granicus/Host Compliance: Board Member Elizabeth Craig: I will send the Board Members the information for their review, also I will send the draft.
- Board Member Joyce Thompson: the Zoning Commission will be taking a hard look at the draft material the first meeting in May.

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

Board Member Joyce Thompson: COVID VACCINE UPDATE: check the County Health Department website <https://www.columbiacountynyhealth.com> for them regularly.

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

Supervisor: Ryan Skoda, report submitted as attached.

Highway: George Hotaling, report submitted as attached.

2021 Taghkanic Highway Dept. plan for Road Repair as Required by HL §284: Town Board set a Special Meeting set Via Zoom for April 15, 2021 at 9 am with Highway Superintendent George Hotaling to discuss road plan.

The 284 Plan is very ambitious but reflects what is needed. All is up for discussion in terms of how best to spend the Highway Fund monies between road repairs and equipment (which can also be used for CHIPS).

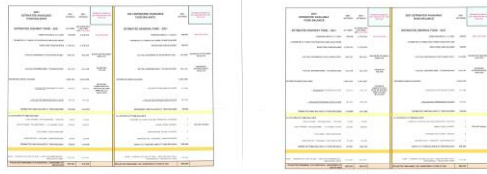
Truck bids for a Pickup: tabled from last month

- ✚ **Truck Bids for big dump truck to replace #7: Board Member Joyce Thompson,** Superintendent Hotaling, still is waiting for more quotes for dump truck to come in,

Advisory Board reports:

Financial Advisory Committee Report: Board Member Joyce Thompson report submitted as follows: financial committee met and found no issues.

Please find below two versions of the Fund Balance Estimate for Q1 2021. There are two versions because George has received from the State two versions of the CHIPS, EWR and Pave NY funding for this year. The larger one is only “Proposed”.



TGazette Newsletter Advisory Committee: Nadja Palenzuela no report submitted.

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia no meeting to report:

- ✚ **Larry Kadish:** the Taghkanic Creek Headwater committee continues to meet; the upper portion of the Taghkanic Creek has a very good rating from DEC. This month is a field trip along the Hudson River, will update all next month.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Nancy Rutter, report submitted.

FROM: Broadband Committee

DATE: March 17, 2021

ATTENDING: Arthur McGuire, Susan Raymond, Nancy Rutter, Chris Tallackson

The Broadband Committee has been asked to participate in an Open House, at the Roe Jan Park, on May-June by Roe Jan Library along with other Broadband Committees to discuss our Town’s broadband availability and how we have achieved success with GTel, MidHudson and Consolidated. Members will attend.

Once again, the Broadband Committee has news from GTel regarding a digital voice over phone option being offered at a special rate of \$27 per month for all of the US and Canada for its broadband clients.

Sadly, Arthur McGuire has confirmed that he will be stepping down from the committee. He expressed his appreciation for all of our friendship, hard work and humor as we achieved our goals.

The Broadband Committee will continue to post new affordable options and new initiatives as they become available via the TGazette.

The Committee will meet next in June 16th and plan to elect a new Chairperson.

- ✚ **Board Member Elizabeth Craig:** the Broadband Committee has done a bang up job thank you!

Old Business:

- County Route 15 Complaint: Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Executive Order in place, no evictions until May 1, 2021, all Departments are ready to move forward. Supervisor Skoda: a month ago I sent a strongly worded letter to Governor Cuomo, Senator Jordan, and Assemblywoman Barrett, to date no response. He also sent an email to Jack Mabb at the Columbia County Health Department, to date no response.

2. **Highway Facility:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda*: still on hold waiting for DEC's decision on the proposed Soil Management Plan submitted months ago. I will reach out to Ray Jurkowski.
3. **Culvert Inventory:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson*: nothing new to report at this time.
4. **Local Law #1-2021 Referendum Appointed Superintendent of Highway:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda*: Joyce and I are suggesting a simple mailer to all voters to inform them of the special election on May 4, 2021 12-7 pm, all members agreed.
Board Member Joyce Thompson, Elizabeth Craig and Linda Swartz will work on a draft mailer.
Supervisor Ryan Skoda the Board of Elections will provide the ballots and tally at the end of the evening, but we need to find volunteers to sit that day to identify & register voters, and issue ballots. Nadja Palenzuela volunteered, Clerk Rogers suggested Melissa Skoda.
5. **Climate Smart Community – Action Plan for 2021:** all agreed to place a notice to form a task force.
6. **Resolution 17-2021 NYS Public Employer Mandatory Health Emergency Plan:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson* motioned to approve Resolution 17-2021 NYS Public Employer Mandatory Health Emergency, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz*.

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

New Business:

- A. **June 2021 Calendar:** *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* moved to accept the June 2021 calendar with suggested changes, seconded by *Board Member Kara Gilmore*.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

- ✦ **March 24, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	#	84	-	98	\$	22,175.63
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	44	-		\$	11,858.80

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

- ✦ **April 12, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	#	99	-	121	\$	8,024.07
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Approved 2021 Highway Fund Vouchers # 45 - 59 \$ 21,802.36
5 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- + Board Member Joyce Thompson:** Police Reform Panel has submitted a plan; and has been adopted by Col. Co. Board of Supervisor. A committee to implement is being formed; the committees first order of business is the policy for the body cams.
- + Board Member Linda Swartz:** update on Taghkanic/Churchtown Road request for a speed limit review?
- + Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Town of Claverack has agreed to send a letter for a request for a speed limit review for their portion of the road as well.
- + Board Member Linda Swartz:** the planters at the Town Hall are in really bad shape and need to be replaced or removed. I am still willing to keep the planters up.
- + Board Member Joyce Thompson:** I will donate new ones.

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 **9:03 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **May 10, 2021** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall:

Audience via Zoom: Larry Kadish Anna Kadish John Thompson Sebastian Lebski
Perry Ascher Kenneth Synder Michael Simmons Joel Denny
Nancy Rutter Meridith Glabman Joanne Klein Nadja Palenzuela
Elisabeth Albert