

**APPROVED**  
**6/14/2021**

**May 10, 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 May 8, 9 and 10, 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 at town hall and 4 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:** Jim Maeuniak Gtel Switch Engineer, and Allyson Sharkey, Gtel Sales Manager



**Board Member Kara Gilmore** motioned to accept Option 1 (leasing phones monthly with hosted service, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

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

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

**April 12, 2021:** Town Board Regular 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 Joyce, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda)  
0 Nays  
0 Absent

**April 15, 2021:** Town Board Special 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 Joyce, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda)**

**0 Nays**

**0 Absent**

### **The Correspondence:**

1. Bob and Trudy Crimi, 440 Near Road
2. Didi Barrett, Member of Assembly, Booklet Women's History in the Hudson Valley
3. Carol Rusoff, Post Hill Road
4. Donald MacCormack VP and Jonathan Halligan Municipal Banking Officer, Bank of Greene County
5. Verizon
6. RE: West Taghkanic Bridge No. 96 (BIN 3342300), DEC permit: 4-1054-00101/00001
7. KISS June 7 to June 26, 2021

### **Reports from the Boards:**

**Animal Control:** Kyle Miller, report submitted as follows

I have one entry for this month.

On 4/11 I received a call about 2 dogs found on Stone Jug Rd. I picked the dogs up a short while later and brought them to the humane society. They were redeemed 2 days later.

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

**Planning Board:** Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Taghkanic Planning Board Report for April 2021

There were no meetings in April. 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 Traffic Safety Board did not meet in April. The next scheduled meeting is May 27.

**Environmental Management Council:** Larry Kadish no report submitted:

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

The Zoning Commission met on 5 and 19 April and 3 May 2021

Final review was completed on 19 April and consultant Ted Fink sent the Final Draft to the Commission for final approval on 3 May. Such approval was documented by roll call vote and the draft code was sent to the Taghkanic Town Board for its review.

On 3 May the Zoning Commission began review of the draft Short Term Rental legislation developed by the very hard working STR Sub-Committee. This draft reflects a great deal of research, thoughtful consideration and outreach to the town for concerns. It will be considered as a second and separate document and will go its own course of review apart from the Draft Zoning Code.

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

- I would like to set up a 20-minute presentation with Bruce McCaskill of Granicus/Host Compliance for the Town Board 6:30 before the next regular meeting.
- All agreed.

**Office for the Aging:** Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows

The first of three spring Advisory Council meetings was held on Friday, April 16, 2021.

The following information is notable:

COVID has kept the Nutrition Centers closed but OFA hopes to open them slowly beginning in mid to late May.

The NY State Police are administering vaccinations in the homes of those unable to journey to a distribution site.

The OFA now has a Facebook page for those interested in the latest information!  
The HEAP program has been extended through August 31, 2021. Volume of requests has increased so much that the OFA has had to hire a full-time person to handle them.

Requests for frozen Meals on Wheels has doubled. The OFA has also developed a backup program of 1000 frozen meals housed a two-week supply at the County Highway freezer to have on hand should food staff develop COVID or have to quarantine.

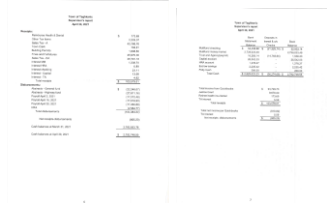
FEMA has begun to provide funeral expense relief to families suffering deaths due to COVID. To apply, call OFA at 518.828.4258.

The Healthcare Consortium is looking for a Navigator, a person who helps applicants find the right Medicare and Medicaid services.

The HCC also has some funding to help with COVID-related hardships with rent, food or internet for telehealth services.

**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:** presented tonight as approved on April 15, 2021



### **Advisory Board reports:**

**Financial Advisory Committee Report:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson* report submitted as follows: Financial Committee met and found no issues. The Financial Committee report was focused on the Road Plan 284 for this month.

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

**Conservation Advisory Committee:** *Tony LaSalvia* report submitted as follows

Meeting of April 30, 2021

Attended by: Tony LaSalvia, Larry Kadish, Anna Kadish, Doug Craig, Elizabeth Craig, Joyce Thompson, Scott Marinoff, Tim Kennelty, Charlene Paden.

The first item of discussion was the fact that we had not met since January 29, 2020 before the Pandemic.

We discussed the Upper Taghkanic Creek Connectivity Plan that has been attended by Larry Kadish and Tony LaSalvia from the Town of Taghkanic. We recently had a field trip to Rheinstrom Hill Audubon Center and Sanctuary. There we saw the forestry work being done and discussed that

could be a good thing in terms of Climate Change and diversity within the forest due to quick and dense new growth and lots of cover. The CAC had a discussion with this new information on the previous thoughts about the Doodletown Wildlife management Area and the Young Forest Initiative. We thought the CAC should have a public walk at Rheinstrom Hill and hopefully be able to meet with David Decker, Land Stuart, in the near future. A trip to the Doodletown WMA was also considered. We also went to visit Wally Farm on Crow Hill Road in Taghkanic. They are doing wonderful things to help promote good farming practices. The third stop was at the New Forge Forrest, again in Taghkanic, to see the location of the Hudson City Water intake from the Taghkanic Creek.

Joyce Thompson led us in a discussion of where the town is at with the Climate Smart Communities process. We would be working with Jill Hank, who was our contact for the Clean Energy Communities Project. Jill will help us assess which if any of the projects done for the Clean Energy Communities will apply to the Climate Smart Communities. Joyce explained that one of the first things to be done is setting up and filling the Task Force for the Climate Smart Communities work. Members of the CAC expressed interest in serving on this. A notice will go out in the TGazette to ask for interested parties. The Charging Station was discussed again as there is a DEC Grant for them, see attached. Scott later commented that we should consider the Level 3 as it makes better sense for a location like the dinner where full charges can be done while one eats. They are much more expensive though. Grants are available.

The town Zoning Commission is finishing up the Zoning Regs and should have them to the Town Bd. soon, the CAC will help with any review should the Town Board request it.

Two of our members have left Town, Moisha Blechman and Valarie Hoffman have moved away. We do have two new prospective members in Scott Marinoff and Doug Craig. Their names will be presented to the Town Board for approval.

✚ 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 alone the Hudson River, will update all next month.

**Broadband Advisory Committee:** Nancy Rutter, no report submitted.

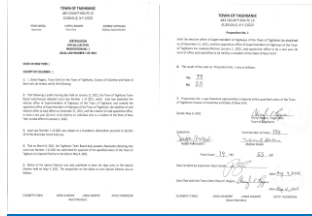
## **Old Business:**

- 1. County Route 15 Complaint:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* Attorney Howard has informed me Mr. Heesch's son and daughter have paid all the fines due at this time and have promised to get the property cleaned up. I have spoke to Dennis and asked him to move forward to getting this cleaned up.
  - ✚ *John Thompson:* very discouraging, we are now back at square one, this is never going to be over. Please push Dennis.
  - ✚ All agreed we need to keep moving forward toward the property being cleaned up.
  - ✚ *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* the kids seem motivated to keep it moving
- 2. Highway Facility:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* still on hold waiting for DEC's decision on the proposed Soil Management Plan submitted months ago. Ray Jurkowski is going to have Northeastern Environmental stay on top of DEC for an answer.
- 3. Climate Smart Community – Action Plan for 2021:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson:* Tony LaSalvia is going to make a presentation to the CAC concerning the need for a task force for the Climate Smart Community -Action Plan for 2021.

- ✚ **Board Member Elizabeth Craig Craig** is writing an article for the TGazette about the CAC, is sending to Tony and Larry for their review.
- ✚ **Larry Kadish:** looking into grant possibilities for a public place charging station

4. **GTel Proposal:** approved

5. **Referendum Results:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* the results are as follows:  
Appointed Highway Superintendent 79 yes 55 no.



**Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Thank you to Nadja P, Melissa S. Don C. and Perry A. for being the inspectors the day of the vote on the Referendum.

**New Business:**

A. **July 2021 Calendar:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson* 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

B. **Resolution 18-2021 Resolution Exempting Certain Referrals Mandated by General Municipal Law Section 239-m:** *Board Member Linda Swartz* motioned to approve Resolution 128-2021 Resolution Exempting Certain Referrals Mandated by General Municipal Law Section 239-m, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

C. **Receipt of Taghkanic Zoning Law Review Draft for Transmittal to Town Board:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson* I have sent Attorney Howard, and all Board Members an electronic copy of the draft. Attorney Howard is doing the legal review. The Draft is not public until the legal review has been completed. I am going to make 20 copies to be disbursed to the TB, ZBA Chair, ZEO, PB Chair, and CAC as hard copies for some are easier to review. I would like to thank Linda for all her time completing the minutes for the Zoning Commission.

✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** A big thank you to Joyce Thompson, Linda Swartz and the whole Zoning Commission

D. **Appointment of Two New CAC Members:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* as per Tony LaSalvia request to appoint Douglas Craig and Scott Marinoff to the CAC to replace

members Valerie Hoffman and Moisha Blechman. **Board Member Joyce Thompson** motioned to appoint Douglas Craig and Scott Marinoff as members of the CAC for the Town of Taghkanic, seconded by **Board Member Linda Swartz**.

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

**E. Drafting Appointed Highway Superintendent job description:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda, Clerk Rogers has offered us a couple examples of a job description. This is our next step moving forward to an appointed Highway Superintendent.

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

✚ **April 25, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**, was approved for payment, seconded by **Board Member Linda Swartz**.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	# 122	- 137	\$	14,222.00
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 60	-	\$	6,008.80

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

✚ **May 10, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**, was approved for payment, seconded by **Board Member Linda Swartz**.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	# 138	- 152	\$	5,064.33
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 61	- 73	\$	20,067.61

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

**The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:**

✚ **John Thompson:** are zoom meeting over?

✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** we will be meeting in person, but we will still have zoom available for those who wish to participate on line.

✚ **Clerk Rogers:** I would like to cleanup some old business, the updated PB, ZBA, and Building Dept. applications. I would like to get the updated applications up on the website but have not heard from the PB or the ZBA. **Board Member Joyce Thompson** motioned to approve the updated applications to be posted on the town website, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Craig.

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

✚ **Board Member Joyce Thompson:** I would like to see the agenda up on the website 5 days before the monthly meeting. Clerk Rogers I will start preparing the agenda earlier next month.

✚ **Arthur Griffith:** update on the County Route 10 Bridge.

✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** the bridge has been approved to be replaced by DEC, it is being removed totally, replaced with a longer structure and upgraded to NYS standard load barring.

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 **9:20 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:

John Thompson  
Harriet Shur

Ray Colgrove  
Arthur Griffith

Debbie Colgrove  
Bonnie Long

Audience via Zoom: Larry Kadish

Anna Kadish

Meridith Glabman

Scott Marinoff