

APPROVED
8/9/2021

July 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 July 9 – 12, 2021 separately, due to the COVID-19 social distancing.

7 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 no residents attended 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: Jeff Browne, 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 Joyce Thompson**, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

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:

June 14, 2021: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by **Board Member Linda Swartz**, seconded by **Board Member Kara Gilmore**.

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

The Correspondence:

1. Morgan Stanley
2. Association of Towns- Solar Survey
 - ✚ Board Member Linda Swartz: I reviewed the survey it is very in-depth and I'm not sure I would know how to answer some on the questions
3. Stawnychy Financial Services, Taghkanic LOSAP monthly.
 - ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: I would like to hear more about the Exchange Traded Funds.

Reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Kyle Miller, report submitted as follows

For this month I only have one entry:

7/5 - Blue tick coonhound found on Tara Ln. - Owner found

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Taghkanic Planning Board Report for May 2021

One meeting was held. An application for lot-line revision was reviewed for Wally Farms. The application was complete and the public hearing scheduled for June.

Assessor: Craig Surprise report submitted.

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

Historian: Nancy Griffith, no report submitted.

Traffic Safety Board: Linda Swartz, no report submitted.

The next Traffic Safety Board meeting is July 22. I will have a report for the August meeting.

Environmental Management Council: Larry Kadish no report submitted:

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows

The Zoning Commission met on 7 June met 2021. The full draft Short Term Rental recommendation. It was reviewed keeping in mind the guiding principles of:

- a. What are the goals of the STR regulations?
- b. How does this document promote achieving those goals?

Several sets of ideas were developed for further consideration by the Short-Term Rental sub-committee.

The second scheduled meeting was cancelled because until the Town Board has reviewed the Draft Code submitted for consideration, there is no Zoning Commission business. If the Town Board finds one or more areas of major concern, the draft will be returned to the Commission for further work to address those concerns. If the Town Board accepts the Draft Code it will set a date and time for a Public Hearing at which time the public will have a full meeting to present their concerns and comments.

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

We are holding workshops to complete the re-write with the suggested changes that were recommended by the Zoning Commission, hoping to have that done with in a week.

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

The third of three spring Advisory Council meetings was held on Friday, June 18, 2021.

The following information is notable:

Nutrition Centers in Livingston, Hudson, Valatie, Stuyvesant Falls and Canaan are now open.

The NY State Police continue to administer vaccinations in the homes of those unable to journey to a distribution site. The Call Center remains open but receives very few calls.

The Healthcare Consortium has a new full-time Navigator, Steven Vandenburg, to work with applicants to find the right Medicare and Medicaid services.

The Golden Gathering will take place this fall on October 2, 2021 at Columbia Greene Community College.

Board Member Joyce Thompson: The Office for the Aging is looking to offer **Powerful Tools for Caregivers Attention All Caregivers**

Are you caring for a loved one? Would you like to learn tools to help you balance your life and assist in meeting the challenges you may face? The Office for the Aging is looking to offer **Powerful Tools for Caregivers**, a FREE 6-week, 90 minutes per class, educational program for family and friends who are caring for individuals with chronic conditions. To make it convenient for caregivers, the program will be online and will focus on providing caregivers with skills and confidence to better care for themselves while caring for others. Self-care tools to reduce personal stress, assist caregivers in dealing with difficult

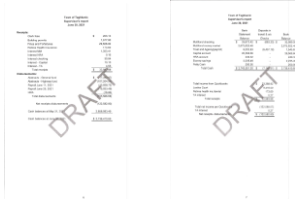
feelings and making tough caregiver decisions will be taught. Caregivers will also learn how to communicate their needs to family members and healthcare providers as well as how to communicate more effectively in challenging situations. Class participants will also receive a copy of The Caregiver Help book, which was developed specifically for the class. The Office for the Aging needs your help in determining interest in the program.

Please email us at ofa@columbiacountyny.com or call us at 518-828-4258, and let us know if you would be interested in this research-based program and whether you would prefer it be offered on a weekday or weekend and what time, afternoon or evening. Thank you for your help and we hope to be contacting you with a start date for the fall.

Board Member Joyce Thompson: Farmers Market Vouchers are now available.

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: Financial Committee has not met yet but I found no issues.

Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I received an email on July 8, 2021 “Response needed by July 9: Local ARPA Funds Application” after the meeting July 8 Clerk Rogers and I filled out the application and submitted. The town is eligible for an allocation of up to \$129, 011 - fingers crossed.

Board Member Joyce Thompson: I am suggesting the Town Board develop a new five-year capital plan. I feel we need to reach out to the residents for what their concerns are “new town hall or community center”

TGazette Newsletter Advisory Committee: Nadja Palenzuela no report submitted.

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: the newly formed Digital Advisory Committee needs volunteers. Anyone who is interested, please contact one of the Town Board Members or Town Clerk.

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia report submitted as follows:

The June meeting of the Taghkanic CAC took place June 30th at the Rheinstrom Hill Audubon Sanctuary and Forest Management Center. The walk was led by the research steward David Decker. There were 14 participants from Taghkanic.

Mr. Decker showed 3 areas that were part of a research area devoted to types of clear cutting and excluding deer or not excluding deer from specific areas. The resultant forest growths were fascinating from the point of view of carbon sequestration and wildlife. Hot weather and an imminent storm did not deter the groups' enthusiasm.

Over the summer, the CAC is organizing with the Town Board to enable a Task Force to move forward with Clean Energy or Climate Change programs for the Town.

The next walk will be September 29th at Wally Farm in Taghkanic, an innovative "modern" farm. An invitation will be sent via T-Gazette in early Sept.

Taskforce Climate Smart Community - Action Plan for. 2021: Larry Kadish: will be holding its first meeting this Thursday July 15, 2021.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Nancy Rutter, report submitted as follows:

BROADBAND REPORT JUNE 2021

On June 17th the Broadband Committee, met to prepare for our presentation at the Roe Jan Library Broadband Symposium. We asked Arthur McGuire, former Chair, to present for us on June 26th at the Roe Jan Park, Upper Barn.

This was well attended and the speakers included Dave Berman, Columbia Connect, the town Broadband Committees of Copake, Hillsdale and Taghkanic. Tammy Gaskell. Roe Jan Library Director provided copies of our guide for programs for those facing challenges in affording Broadband.

I am including our presentation and power point. Chris Tallackson and I were there. We all agreed that our town was the poster child for success in achieving Broadband along with very positive community involvement.



Establishing the Network



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Old Business:

1. **County Route 15 Complaint:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* I have been in contact with Dennis and he has sent a violation letter to the Heesch family.

✚ *Clerk Rogers:* someone was there when I drove by.

✚ *John Thompson:* very angry, four years and I'm still dealing with the mess. The son was there today mowing, Dennis was there as well, looked like they were best buddies. Removing the vehicles would be a good start. Dennis needs to be held accountable. I was advised by legal council not to approach Dennis.

2. **Highway Facility:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* I called DEC to speak to Dave Picket and found out he retired December 2020. Four calls later I was informed the person that has now taken over for Dave was on vacation, but the information in the file for the town shows the spill was closed in May 2019 and there was no reference to the town having to provide a Soil Manage Plan. I will be calling this week to Dave's replacement to confirm this information.

✚ *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* I would to start moving on this by noticing an RFP for asbestos removal on the old building.

✚ *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to notice an RFP for asbestos removal, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz.*

Approved

5 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)

0 Nye

0 Absent

✚ *Ryan Skoda:* I would also like to notice an RFP for an Engineer.

✚ **Board Member Linda Swartz** motioned to notice for an Engineer, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

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

- ❖ **Preston Stoner**: I know of a few Engineers.
- ❖ **Joshua Plass**: When all is finished being cleaned up will the Highway Employees be keeping it clean?
- ❖ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda**: that's the plan.

3. Drafting Appointed Highway Superintendent job description: **Board Member Elizabeth Craig** and **Board Member Linda Swartz** presented the draft Highway Superintendent job description for the Board's review.

4. Zoning Law Review: **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** we held special meeting on July 8, 2021 to start the review of the draft zoning and have a long way to go. We are meeting again tomorrow night July 13, 2021 at 6 pm - all are welcome.

New Business:

A. September 2021 Calendar: **Board Member Linda Swartz** moved to accept the June 2021 calendar with suggested changes, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

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

B. New Cannabis Law: **Board Member Joyce Thompson**: I am sharing this information for the Board to review and consider for our Town. "Local Opting out of Adult Use Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On-Site Consumption Sites Local Law # of the year 2021 [Choose one of the three titles] A local law to opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites as authorized under Cannabis Law Article 4 A local law to opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries as authorized under Cannabis Law Article 4 A local law to opt out of allowing on-site consumption sites as authorized under Cannabis Law Article 4"

A. Consideration of Reinstating Four-Town Day in 2022: **Board Member Joyce Thompson** I am suggesting we think about a four-town day, maybe contacting the Livingston, Ancram and Gallatin Supervisors to see if they would be interested again.

✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda**: we are in good financial position but the other town may not be.

✚ **Board Member Linda Swartz**: I am willing to contact the other towns and will report back next month.

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✚ **June 14 2021 Abstract #2:** on a motion by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**, was approved for payment, seconded by **Board Member Kara Gilmore**.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	90	-	\$ 89,900.00

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

0 Nays
0 Absent

✚ **June 24, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**, was approved for payment, seconded by **Board Member Kara Gilmore**.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	#	187	-	198	\$	12,369.23
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	75	-		\$	

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

✚ **July 12, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**, was approved for payment with all suggested changes, seconded by **Board Member Kara Gilmore**.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	#	199	-	212	\$	5,649.31
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	91	-	96	\$	8,635.90

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ **Arthur Griffith:** The County Route 10 Bridge workers are parking in the town hall parking lot and blocking the view for people trying to pull out of County 10.
- ✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** I will address that with the project manager.
- ✚ **Joshua Plass:** there is serious damage on Pumpkin Hollow from all the rain.
- ✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** I will speak to Superintendent Hotaling.

Executive Session entered: none

With no further business, on a motion by **Board Member Joyce Thompson**, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig** the meeting was adjourned at **8:20 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **August 9, 2021** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: John Thompson Arthur Griffith Larry Kadish Anna Kadish
Betsy Albert Christine Tallackson

Audience via Zoom: