

Approved
10/11/2021

September 13, 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 September 11 - 13, 2021 separately, due to the COVID-19 social distancing.

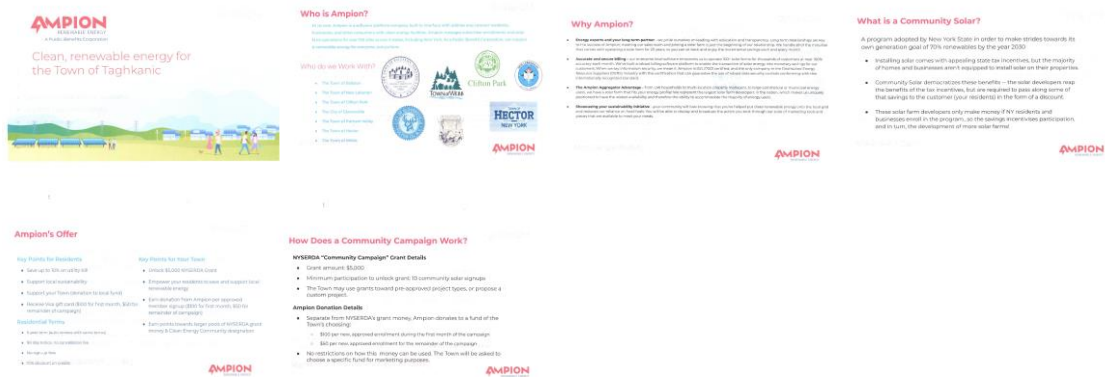
7 pm: The Taghkanic Town Board held its Regular monthly meeting on the above date with a combination of **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** and all other Board Members, Town Clerk at town hall and 2 residents attended via Zoom. **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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: Douglas Craig, Climate Smart Task Force introduced Corinna Ricard Farzan, Ampion via Zoom:



Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve signing the statement acknowledging the Town's acceptance and adherence to the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program Campaign Terms and Conditions, **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:

August 4, 2021: Town Board/Zoning Commission 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 Joyce, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda*)
0 Nays
0 Absent

August 9, 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 5 Aye (*Ryan Joyce, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda*)
0 Nays
0 Absent

August 16, 2021: Town Board/Zoning Commission meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by ***Board Member Joyce Thompson***, seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth***.

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

August 18, 2021: Town Board/Zoning Commission meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by ***Board Member Joyce Thompson***, seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth***.

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

September 9, 2021: Town Board Budget Workshop meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by ***Board Member Joyce Thompson***, seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth***.

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

The Correspondence:

- a. Tony LaSalvia, Trees for Tribes
- b. Col. Co. Board of Elections, November 2, 2021 General Elections and poll site needs
- c. NYS Department of Transportation
 - ✚ ***Board Member Linda Swartz***: printed out Taghkanic's updated inventory list for all Board Members
- d. CDPHP
- e. NYS Division of The Budget, ARPA

Reports from the Boards:

- Animal Control:** *Kyle Miller*, no report.
- ZBA:** *James Romaine*, Chair, no report.
- Planning Board:** *Katherine Bainer*, Chair report submitted.

The planning Board meeting scheduled for Sept. 7 is cancelled. There are no applications for review. There has been no action from county planning on the new Millers tavern site plan.

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 meeting no report submitted.

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

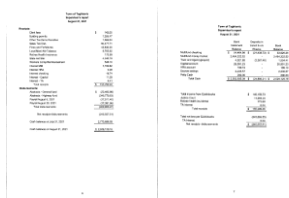
Zoning Commission: *Joyce Thompson*, no meeting to report.

- ✦ **STR Sub-Committee:** *Elizabeth Craig*, The committee has approved an amended draft that incorporates comment from the ZC, after their review of the earlier draft, and has sent the amended draft to the ZC, and copied the Town Board. We are ready to present this draft to residents and property owners at a Public Information Meeting in late October or early November.
- ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** set a date
- ✦ **Clerk Rogers:** if Public Informational meeting is in November, meeting posting can be set out on Election Day for the voter.
- ✦ **Board Member Elizabeth Craig:** The committee would like Saturday November 6, 2021 if we can use the Firehouse. We plan to make this a Hybrid Zoom/in person meeting.
- ✦ **Clerk Rogers:** volunteered to make arrangement for the use of the firehouse on November 6, 2021.
- ✦ **Board Member Elizabeth Craig** The committee will prepare a notice for the T-Gazette and a handout to be available on Election Day, as well as post information at Jo-Jo's and the gas station.

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

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

- **Digital Advisory Committee:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson*, we have two members (Nadja, Ron) and we will be meeting a week from Friday.

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

No meeting this month. Although there is no meeting of the CAC I did send the application for the Trees for Tribes that actually is under the Smart Committee action plan.

- **Taghkanic Creek Headwaters**
- **Climate Smart Community - Action Plan for. 2021 Taskforce**

The meeting was virtual and started at 4 PM. Members present were Larry Kadish, Joyce Thompson, Bob Brush, Perry Ascher, David Koehler, Tony LaSalvia, Elisabeth Albert, Tim Kennelly, Scott Marinoff, and Doug Craig (100% attendance)

Guest presenter Carina Ricard from Ampion

The minutes from the August 19th meeting were accepted.

Doug introduced Carina who presented the Ampion Community Solar plan. This plan covered all 3 electrical service providers for Taghkanic. It has solar farm capacity currently available. The company has favorable reviews from the supervisor of the Town of Balston, which has been enrolled for over a year.

Patrons who enroll within 30 days of the starting period will receive a \$100 gift card and the Town will receive \$100 for each household. After the 30 day period, the dollar amount shifts to \$50. Al, patrons will receive up to 10% discount on future electric bills.

The Task Force thought this deal was worth supporting and suggested starting work on a Scoping Document and proceeding to full discussion at the next Town Board meeting.

Bob and Scott discussed the ChargePoint presentation concerning an EV (electric vehicle) charging station. There are many questions at the start of this project, including finances, ownership, location and number of the charging stations. Work will continue on this issue. A very helpful suggestion was to use the Town's financial committee to help evaluate the monetary issues.

David presented his thoughts about a walking/biking trail from the Town Hall to near the TSP. He also discussed the possibility of a bicycle loop in the Town. These ideas will be pursued.

Tony announced that a new Trees for Tribes program behind Town Hall will take place this coming spring. Volunteers will be asked to help with the plantings (as was successfully done in the past).

Discussion about siting solar farms in general and Ampion specifically took place. The Hecate project in Copake was cited. This will be a National discussion in the coming months/years.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15

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

The Committee did not have a face-to-face meeting. Chris Tallackson attended the CDEC Broadband Meeting. There was a review of the survey results.

We will be meeting on September 15 to discuss a review of regulating grey areas not served and potential solutions.

Old Business:

1. **County Route 15 Complaint:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* Dennis Callahan issued an appearance ticket to Mr. Heesch to appear September 2, 2021 in Taghkanic Court. Mr. Heesch did not appear, the Taghkanic Court will now issue a summons to appear.
2. **Highway Facility update:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* I am meeting with Pat Pendergast and he will update the board at next month's meeting. **Asbestos Removal:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* pending meeting with Pat.
3. **Drafting Appointed Highway Superintendent job description:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* the job description drafted by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* and *Board Member Linda Swartz* has been vetted by the Columbia County Civil Service and has been sent to the NYS Civil Service for their approval.
4. **Zoning Law Review:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* the next joint special meetings are set for September 15, 23 and October 6, 2021, at 6:30 pm and all are welcome.

5. **Resolution 19-2021 TO JOIN MUNICIPAL GROUP SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM:** *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to approve Resolution 19-2021 Authorized Representative of the Town of Taghkanic desires to secure the Town of Taghkanic’s obligation to provide volunteer firefighters’ benefit law, volunteer ambulance workers’ benefit law and workers’ compensation benefits, as applicable, through participation in a group self-insurance program of which the Town of Taghkanic will be a member, seconded by *Board Member Joyce Thompson*.

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

6. **Resolution 20-2021 In Support of Diversity and Tolerance:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson* motioned to approve Resolution 20-2021 In Support of Diversity and Tolerance in support of the Columbia County Resolution 244-2021 Against Hate, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

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

7. **2022 Budget Workshop Meeting:** Next Workshop is September 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

New Business:

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

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

- B. **Trees For Tribs:** *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to approve application to increase the size of the present Trees for Tribs planting done in 2012 to meet the size requirements of the Climate Smart Communities Action for Riparian Buffers. The plan would be to have more trees, bushes, shrubs planted on the upstream side of the present planting to increase the overall size, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz*.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

- ✚ **August 21, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	# 239	-	250	\$	20,954.63
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	-		\$	

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

0 Nays
0 Absent

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

2021 General Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	102 - 103	\$	317,650.11

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

✦ **September 13, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by **Board Member Linda Swartz**, was approved for payment, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

2021 General Fund Vouchers	#	251 - 267	\$	49,120.21
2021 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	104 - 130	\$	21,335.35
2021 Escrow	#	1	\$	1,768.50

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✦ **Joshua Plass:** is there any plan to pave the end of Pumpkin Hollow where the culvert pipe was replaced?
- ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Superintendent Hotaling is not here to answer that.
- ✦ **Perry Ascher:** New Forge was on the paving list for last year and did not get done. Is there any hope for this year? Why are some roads done by contractors?
- ✦ **Board Member Joyce Thompson:** New Forge is on the schedule for the third week in September.
- ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** the Highway Superintendent determines the need for a contractor vs. the town being able to pave themselves.

Executive Session entered: none

With no further business, on a motion by **Board Member Linda Swartz**, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig** the meeting was adjourned at **8:25 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **October 11, 2021** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: Larry Kadish Joshua Plass Celine Kagan
Anne Kadish Arthur Griffith John Thompson

Audience via Zoom: Douglas Craig Perry Ascher Joanne Klein
Corinna Ricard Farzan