

Approved
8/8/2022

July 11, 2022
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 - 11, 2022 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**, Board Members, Town Clerk, 4 residents at the Taghkanic Town Hall and 8 residents attending via Zoom. **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

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

Absent:	Elisabeth Albert	Board Member
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Guest Speaker:

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

June 13, 2022: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by **Board Member Linda Swartz** seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

Approved **4 Aye** (**Ryan, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda**)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (**Elisabeth**)

June 20, 2022: Tabled

June 29, 2022: Tabled

The Correspondence:

1. NYS Department of Transportation, Traffic Signals Transfer switches Region Wide Col. Co.
2. Assoc. of Towns, Training
3. NYSEG, energy efficient equipment

Reports from the Boards:

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

I have 2 entries for this past month:

6/20 - Report of 2 stray dogs on Martindale Rd. in Taghkanic followed by another report on the same day from a different homeowner who had 4 chickens killed by dogs in the same

area. After making contact with the owner he was aware of the situation and notified me that he was moving all the dogs on the property within the next few days. He has since complied.

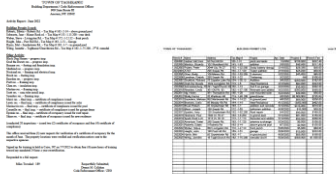
6/22 - Report of a dog fight on Old Rt. 82 in Taghkanic. The owner of the dog who got attacked did not want to press charges and was going to speak with the owner of the other dog about vet fees.

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair no report submitted.

Assessor: Craig Surprise report submitted.

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



Board member Linda Swartz: reminder we are looking for an open permit report.

Historian: Nancy Griffith, no report submitted.

Traffic Safety Board: Board Member Linda Swartz, No meeting no report submitted. Linda sharing information pertaining to the Traffic Safety Board (see below)



Environmental Management Council: Larry Kadish no report submitted:

STR Sub-Committee: Board Member Elizabeth Craig, Chair, no meeting no report

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

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

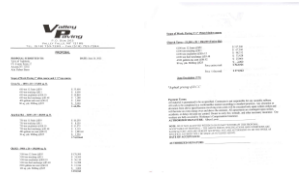
Supervisor: Ryan Skoda, report submitted as attached.



Highway: Roberts Burns, report submitted as follows:



- ✓ **Highway Superintendent Rob Burns:** Shared the following proposal for paving Cross Street, Junction Road, Old Route 82, and Taghkanic/Churchtown Road.



Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to grant permission pave Cross Street and Old Route 82 not to exceed \$389,948.00, seconded by **Board Member Linda Swartz**.

Approved **4 Aye** (*Ryan, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (*Elisabeth*)

Advisory Board reports:

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

The Town of Taghkanic Financial Advisory Committee meet on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at Town Hall. An audit of the May Financials found no discrepancies.

May and June Supervisor Reports

A review of the Supervisor’s May Report materials by the FAC Chair identified numerous errors resulting from an unclear process for recording Budget Amendments. Lisa Gill and Brianna Muniz met with Joyce Thompson by phone to review the documents and establish the correct line numbers as well as a documentation process. Corrections were made by the accountant staff on the Town’s Financial Computer.

A Budget Amendment #7-2022 is recommended to the Town Board to cover the approved, but unbudgeted, Capital Improvement of Heat Pumps for Town Hall. The recommendation is to fund the \$21,311 expense with the same amount from the Fund Balance of the Town’s General Fund. This requires adding line A1620.2 to the budget for appropriate recording.

Last month the Highway Fund line for Machinery DA5130.4 was increased with sufficient funds to cover expenses and one month at the run-rate of \$17,700. After the first Abstract for July there is \$11,944 remaining and the expense for July – to date – is only \$5,757. The recommendation is to wait another month before adding funds to this line.

Budget Amendment Overview

This year has seen a variety of new requirements that have been approved by the board as unbudgeted expenditures. They have been funded by multiple budget amendments.

Other appropriation lines have needed additional funds to cover board approved activities in the Highway Department work plan to accomplish more road repair, more internal equipment repair, more tree trimming and, additionally, to cover the unexpected rise in fuel costs.

Attached is a spreadsheet showing the Year-To-Date Budget Amendments. This is a snapshot of the year’s work to date and is intended to inform budgeting work for the coming 2023 budget discussion.

11-Jul-22	Budget Amendment #7-2022		
		Increase	Decrease
GENERAL FUND			
BUILDINGS - TOWN HALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (NEW)	A1620.2	21,311	
GENERAL USE OF FUND BALANCE	A9110		21,311
		21,311	21,311

Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to approve Budget Amendment #7, seconded by **Board Member Linda Swart**.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (Elisabeth)

TGazette Newsletter Advisory Committee: Nadja Palenzuela no report submitted
Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia report submitted as follows:



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

- **Broadband Advisory Committee Report July 2022**
- Meeting held June 15, 2022, attending Betsy Albert, Susan Raymond, Nancy Rutter, Chris Tallackson and Joyce Thompson via Zoom.
- Final editing of Broadband Guide and Financial Guide to be posted on the Town Website. All were in agreement after careful review. Susan Raymond to do final edit and then email to get posted.
- Discussion for items for postcard to be finalized at next meeting.
- The committee is thrilled that the guides have been posted and wish to thank Doug Craig for his excellent and skilled work in creating a prominent feature on the Town Website.
- Next meeting scheduled for July 20 at 2.

Climate Smart Community: Larry Kadish: report submitted as follows:

Present were Larry Kadish, Betsy Albert, Tony LaSalvia, Kelsey Jean West, Perry Albert. Doug Craig. Tim Kinnelty, Bob Brush

The minutes of the May 26th meeting were approved.

Doug Craig announced that the Town was awarded Clean Energy Community status based on the Solar Project which was considered a high impact project. Based on this and other projects, the Town is eligible for 2 \$5K grants. Doug Craig has submitted application for both grants.

The EV Charger analysis is proceeding. A meeting with the new owners of the West Taghkanic Diner took place on June 9th. The owners are agreeable to pursuing further information re grants to help finance EV Chargers and further talks are anticipated.

A side bar of the above referenced meeting is the backing for a free food Fridge program by the Town and The Diner and with a 4 H participation as well.

Tony LaSalvia is following up with data and a program to maintain the trees planted last month for the Trees for Tribes program.

Doug Craig will circulate a menu of potential new programs for evaluation for suitability for Taghkanic.

The next meeting will be July 28th

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.

Two Resolutions for approval:

- ✓ **RESOLUTION # 13 – 2022 Acceptance of the 2018 Natural Resources Inventory, Columbia County New York**

Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to approve Resolution 13 -2022 Acceptance of the 2018 Natural Resources Inventory, Columbia County New York, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

Approved **4 Aye** (**Ryan, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda**)
0 Nays
1 Absent (**Elisabeth**)

- ✓ **RESOLUTION # 14 -2022 Creation of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force and Climate Smart Communities Coordination**

Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to approve Resolution #14 – 2022 Creation of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force and Climate Smart Communities Coordinator as stated in the resolution, seconded **Board Member Linda Swartz**.

Approved **4 Aye** (**Ryan, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda**)
0 Nays
1 Absent (**Elisabeth**)

Digital Advisory Committee: Joyce Thompson and Nadja Palenzuela: report submitted as follows:

Digital Communication Advisory Committee Report
to the Jul 2022 Town Board Meeting for the Town of Taghkanic

The DCAC met on Friday, 1 July 2022 at Town Hall. Betsy Albert, Doug Craig and Joyce Thompson attended.

The group explored a variety of ideas for the Taghkanic website and the discussion re-opened the question of what differentiates the website and the TGazette. Should topical community interest items such as “Gardening” be on the website or the TGazette?

A second concern was whether it would it spark more interest, use and participation in the website if there were separate pages for each town department and committee or specific topics (like gardening)? Would that make it easier to follow a topic or project?

This discussion also raised the issue about the website itself. It has grown organically from what was originally to be a transitional tool to a full-blown new website. Following that tradition, it becomes important to ask the above questions. It is also a good time to develop a multi-year plan.

To that end, we need to consider when we should take our proprietary website developed by our valued webmaster to a public platform so that management of the site can be done by more than one person. That process will cost enough to be a consideration for the 2023 Town Budget. The committee would appreciate Town Board feedback on whether there is support for developing this project plan.

Before the next DCAC meeting, it would be helpful to get some feedback from the Town Board on these topics. Your suggestions and thoughts are most welcome.

Finally, the TGazette can be a more frequent and interesting venue for our town if we could engage more 'reporters' on topics. The committee will draft a request for help and asks the Town Board for permission to publish it on the website and TGazette.

Old Business:

1. **STR Committee:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* A great big Thank you to the STR Committee for their commitment and persistence composing the Proposed Short Term Rental Regulations to the Town Board for their review. At this time the STR Committee's job is done and I will need a motion to disband the STR Committee. *Board Member Linda Swartz* motioned to disband the STR Committee, seconded by *Board Member Kara Gilmore*.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (Elisabeth)

2. **Zoning Law Review:** next meeting were set as follows:

July 18, 2022 6:30 PM Zoning review
July 27, 2022 6:30 PM Zoning review

3. **Taghkanic/Churchtown Fire Companies becoming a District:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* Attorney Howard is look into what needs to be done to change to fire district. In two weeks there will be a meeting with the Churchtown Fire Company and AB Shaw to discuss the two companies merging will update the Board next month.

New Business:

- A. **September 2022 Calendar:** *Board Member Linda Swartz* motioned to accept the September 2022 calendar with additions, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

Approved 4 Aye (Ryan, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda)
 0 Nays
 1 Absent (Elisabeth)

- B. **Assessor request TB presents at meeting with State and Col. Co. Real Property August 1, 2022 10 am Greenport Town Hall:** Assessor Craig Surprise request the presents of a few Board members to attend a meeting he has setup with the State and

Col. Co. Real property on August 1, 2022 at 10 am at the Greenport Town Hall. Board Member Elizabeth Craig and Board Member Linda Swartz volunteered.

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✦ **July 11, 2022 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

2022 General Fund Vouchers	# 246	- 261	\$	5,680.42
2022 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 120	- 130	\$	56,326.31
2022 Hwy Project Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	

Approved **4 Aye** (*Ryan, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda*)
0 Nays
1 Absent (*Elisabeth*)

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✦ **Peter Beck:** Taghkanic Free Fridge Project, Lowes has met their quota for donations this year but are willing to consider a reduced price on a dented model Freezer/Refrigerator. All members of the Board decided to donate \$50.00 to help pay for the refrigerator. Mr. Beck will move forward with the purchase of the refrigerator.
- ✦ **Joyce Thompson:** has there been any progress on the cost per acre for the land across the street?
- ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** yes he is asking \$20,000 an acre. There are 7 acres between three parcels, two are on the north side totaling 5 acres of the driveway and one is on the south side totaling 2 acres, the owner has driveway permits for them all. I feel the two on the north would suit the town best as there would be driveway access from Route 82 and Livingston Road. All agreed to have an appraisal and feasibility survey done before moving forward.

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 **8:20 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **August 8, 2022** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: Larry Kadish Peter Beck Arthur Griffith Melvin Stoddard

Audience via Zoom: Nancy Rutter Susan Raymond Celine Kagan Donay Queenan
 Clara Cordato Doug Craig Sherrill Kurland Steve Smollens