

APPROVED
9/12/2022

August 8, 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 August 7 - 8, 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, 3 residents at the Taghkanic Town Hall and 3 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
	Elisabeth Albert	Board Member
	Elizabeth Craig	Board Member
	Kara Gilmore	Board Member
	Linda Swartz	Board Member
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

ZOOM

Absent:

Guest Speaker:

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

June 20, 2022: Tabled

June 29, 2022: Tabled

July 11, 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 Abstained (**Elisabeth**)

July 18, 2022: Tabled

The Correspondence:

1. Columbia County Board Of Elections, August 23, 2022 Federal Primary & Special Elections
2. The Col. Co. Office of the Aging Senior Scoop
3. Board of Supervisors Resolution 279-2022
4. KISS August 29 –September 9, 2022
5. Penflex, Taghkanic LOSAP report

6. Patrick J. Prendergast, Private Road Specifications

- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Rob shared this for an example he and I will be working on a draft for the Town of Taghkanic Private Road Specifications to be sent to Attorney Howard for a draft Local Law for Board review.

Reports from the Boards:

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

I have one entry for this past month:

7/9 - Stray keeshound found in New Forge State Forest in Taghkanic. I was unable to make contact with the owners of the dog so the dog was brought to the humane society. He was unclaimed after the stray hold, went up for adoption, and has since been adopted.

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

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

Assessor: *Craig Surprise* report submitted.

ZEO/CEO/Building Inspector: *Dennis Callahan* no 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, July 28, 2022.

Chairman Fred Schultz has resigned from the CCTSB, citing health issues. This leaves the CCTSB without a Chairman and without an Executive Secretary. Election of Officers has been scheduled for our September meeting, and we expect to elect a new Chairman, as well as Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary. The Executive Secretary, however, must be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Vice-Chairman Henry Swartz advised that the County is hoping to budget for an engineer, whose duties will include serving as the Executive Secretary to the CCTSB.

Work on the Transco Power Line system throughout Columbia County is nearly complete. The company is reaching out to towns regarding mitigation of damages caused to public roads during the project.

Reconstruction of TSP from Route 217 to I-90 has begun. The road is reduced to one lane in both directions during the project.

Route 20 through New Lebanon has been made a part of the National Medal of Honor Highway.

Laws have passed both the Senate (S3532) and the Assembly (A811A) allowing for more visible green lights or alternating green and amber lights on municipal vehicles used for snow and ice (not a requirement for towns at this time).

The Columbia County Highway Department provided the following update:

- CR 15 in Taghkanic: Work has been completed. Shoulder back-up to begin in August.
- CR 9, Livingston and Gallatin: Paving is complete; shoulder back-up to begin in August.
- CR 9, Ghent and Chatham: Paving is underway and striping will be done late summer/early fall.
- CR 7, Gallatin: Intersection realignment at CR 11 junction is complete.
- Ongoing drainage projects CR 19 Livingston, CR 7 Gallatin, and CR 5 Canaan.
- Woodward Bridge reconstruction (CR 7) in Gallatin is progressing.
- CR 18 (Fish & Game Road) Claverack: Contracts signed, construction to begin late summer.
- Stall Bridge, Pleasant Vale Road in Clermont closed permanently to vehicle and pedestrian traffic due to deteriorated girders. Construction of new bridge not expected before 2025.

The next Meeting of the Traffic Safety Board is scheduled for September 22, 2022.

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* no report submitted

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

Supervisor: *Ryan Skoda*, report submitted as attached.

Highway: Roberts Burns, report submitted as follows: Both lanes of Old Route 82 have 1st coat of paving done. Rob hopes to have it finished Wednesday.

Advisory Board reports:

Financial Advisory Committee Report: Chair Joyce Thompson report submitted as follows: **Updated Fund Balance work sheet**

2022 ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE**	2022 ACTUALS	2022 ACTUALS	ESTIMATED BASED ON 2021 ACTUALS	2022 ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE**	2022 ACTUALS	ESTIMATED BASED ON 2021 ACTUALS
ESTIMATED HIGHWAY FUND - 2022	NO CHRG	NO CHRG	NO CHRG	ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND - 2022		
FUND BALANCE @ 1/1/2022	1,080,877	1,086,477	PER 2021 AGR REPORT	FUND BALANCE @ 1/1/2022	1,080,872	PER 2021 AGR REPORT
JANUARY HOURLY RATE INCREASES FUNDED FROM BUDGETED FUND BALANCE	25,270			INTERFUND TRANSFER TO HIGHWAY PROJECT TO COVER EXTRA EXPENSES FOR ABSETER REMOVAL AND GARAGE BUILDING DEMOLITION PLUS STEVEN WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS	20,000	
JANUARY ADJUSTMENT TO BUDGET FOR BUSHES AND WEEDS FROM BUDGETED FR AT REQUEST OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	10,000			INCREASE AVAILABLE TO UPGRADE GARAGE TOOLS AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFICIENT OPERATIONS	20,000	
MAKES BUDGETED FUND BALANCE TRANSFER FOR MACHINERY LINE	20,000		TOTAL OF \$5,110 FROM ADJUSTMENTS FR OF \$71,799, \$0, \$5,209 FROM INCREASE OF \$0 MAY	NEW POSITION: JUSTICE CLERK ASSISTANT	5,000	
JUNE 28-30-2022 TO COVER HIGH DIESEL AND GAS COSTS PLUS REPAIRS IN MACHINERY LINE. MACHINERY NUMBER IS ONLY OPERATING FUND OVERAGE AND 1 MONTH OF RUN RATE OF \$7,700 - INCREASE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FR	55,000			ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY GARAGE OPERATING FUNDS: TOOLS AND REPAIRS	40,000	
AUGUST 4 2022 TO COVER TOWN ROAD APPROVED PURCHASE OF A USED 10 WHEEL TRUCK TO HAUL ROAD MATERIAL. RESOURCES INCLUDING COSTS AND PUT RESOURCES INTO ROAD REPAIR	130,000			INSTALLATION OF TWO HEAT PUMPS (HEATING, COOLING, CONDENSERS) IN TOWN HALL. ONE ACTION: REDUCTION OF FORMAL FUEL USE, IMPROVED COOLING AND NOISE REDUCTION	21,511	
AUGUST 8 2022 TO PROVIDE REMOVAL OF YEAR FUNDING OF MACHINERY LINE OPERATING COSTS AT AVG \$8,000/MONTH * 4 MONTHS	32,000			TOWN BOARD APPROVAL TO ENGAGE A LABOR ATTORNEY TO ASSIST WITH UNION NEGOTIATIONS: NEW LINE 4 438.41	10,000	
RESULTING FUND BALANCE	794,637	794,637		RESULTING FUND BALANCE	1,225,541	
+ACTUAL REVENUES + FR TO DATE JULY 2022	476,642	476,642	BUDGETED REVENUE: \$886,300 PRODUCE REVENUE AND SALE OF BUDGET FOR TOTAL OF \$4,563 UNBUDGETED REVENUE	+ACTUAL REVENUES TO DATE JULY 2022	527,312	BUDGETED REVENUE: \$874,792 + TOWN CO GRANTS TO VALUE \$0,000 AND SECOND AGR MONEY OF \$4,765
-ACTUAL EXPENDITURES - YTD JULY 2022	712,814	712,814	AMENDED BUDGET \$217,497 (\$70,741 + \$146,756) \$5,110 OF NEW BUDGET	-ACTUAL EXPENDITURES - YTD JULY 2022	419,254	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES \$274,770 + \$146,756 = \$421,526 ADDITIONAL APPROVED EXPENDITURES
ESTIMATED JULY BALANCE	794,643	794,643		ESTIMATED JULY BALANCE	1,343,689	
+PROJECTED REVENUES TO DATE	4,364	395,174	REVENUE LAST YEAR: \$125,000 CHRG \$125,000 PAY BY \$41,000 NEW \$50,174 (\$83,826)	+PROJECTED REVENUES TO DATE	37,543	
-PROJECTED EXPENDITURES TO DATE	307,451	307,451	NEW AMENDED BUDGET OF \$1,339 FOR PUMPS AND MATERIALS + \$125,000 FOR TRUCK AND MACHINERY CONTRACTORS	-PROJECTED EXPENDITURES TO DATE	253,912	
ESTIMATED FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END 2022	491,477	491,477		ESTIMATED FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END 2022	1,127,320	
ALLOCATION OF FUND BALANCE				ALLOCATION OF FUND BALANCE		
NEW TRACTOR	0	0	ENGINEER 177,000	NEW HALL ESTIMATE FOR PROPERTY ON ST 81	90,000	
PAVING OLD 40 AM CROSS STREET	350,000	350,000	APPROVED CAP FR TR 11 2021	NEW WELL AT TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE A 5132.4	35,833	DRIVER + 2022 \$884.47 (\$884.47 + \$5,944.47) (\$6,828.94)
UNBUDGETED / ASSIGNED / APPROPRIATED	6,500	6,500	71,799 ASSIGNED AS BUDGETED FR FOR 2022	UNBUDGETED / ASSIGNED / UNAPPROPRIATED		
ESTIMATED FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END 2022	80,000	397,200		ESTIMATED FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END 2022	1,291,278	
ROAD: 3 MONTHS AVG EXP OF 25K + 47K FOR EMERGENCY / UNBUDGETED WORK	100,000	100,000		ROAD: 3 MONTHS AVG TOP OF 25K + 50K FOR REV LOSS / EMERGENCY / UNBUDGETED WORK	100,000	
PROJECTED REMAINING FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT AT END OF 2022	500,011	132,250	* SOME MEMBERS WILL CHANGE NEW ACCOUNT CORRECTIONS BUT THIS IS TO BE DETERMINED TO SEE THE CURRENT RESOURCE LEVELS	PROJECTED REMAINING FOR INVESTMENT AT END OF 2022	911,278	* SOME MEMBERS WILL CHANGE NEW ACCOUNT CORRECTIONS BUT THIS IS TO BE DETERMINED TO SEE THE CURRENT RESOURCE LEVELS

GENERAL FUND: The Town Board approved \$10,000 for engagement of a Labor Attorney to assist with Union Negotiations. It requires a new line in the budget.
HIGHWAY FUND: Town Board Approved \$118,000 to purchase a used 10 wheel truck to haul material and \$32,000 to provide funding on the DA5130.4 MACHINERY CONTRACTUAL line for remaining 4 months at average of \$8,000/month.

08-Aug-22	Budget		
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	Amendment #8-2022		
		Increase	Decrease
GENERAL FUND			
LABOR ATTORNEY(NEW)	A1420.41	10,000	
GENERAL USE OF FUND BALANCE	A9110		10,000
		10,000	10,000
HIGHWAY FUND			
MACHINERY EQUIPMENT (NEW)	DA5130.2	118,000	
GENERAL USE OF FUND BALANCE			118,000
MACHINERY CONTRACTUAL	DA5130.4	32,000	
GENERAL USE OF FUND BALANCE			32,000
		150,000	150,000

Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to approve Budget Amendment #8, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swart*.

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

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

Conservation Advisory Committee: *Tony LaSalvia* no report submitted.

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

- The Broadband Committee met on July 20, 2022 at 2.
- In attendance were Susan Raymond, Nancy Rutter and Chris Tallackson.
- The postcard messaging and potential designs were discussed.
- We agreed to verify the programs that are available via Affordability Connectivity Program, the Library digital navigator process, and the ease of applying, online, or phone.
- We agreed to email results and draft copies.
- We have since then a created a draft copy to show to the Town Board our goal to mail it in the next few weeks.
- Our next meeting to take place August 17 at 2

The Town Board agreed the design with the framed color was the best. The Town Board asked the Broadband Committee to change the first line **from** THE TAGHKANIC BROADBAND COMMITTEE OFFERS TWO WAYS TO KEEP **to** NEWS THE

TAGHAKNIKC BROADBAND COMMITTEE and second line to read **KEEP MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET**. All Town Board Members thanked the Broadband Committee for their spectacular hard work.

Climate Smart Community: *Larry Kadish*: no report submitted.

Digital Advisory Committee: *Joyce Thompson and Nadja Palenzuela*: no report submitted.

Old Business:

- ✚ **Land off of Route 82:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda*: Mike Tucker recommends that the town do a Feasibility Study first; he is also getting me a list of companies. *Board Member Kara Gilmore* motioned to post an RFP for companies interested in doing a Feasibility Study for the Tow of Taghkanic, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz*.

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

- ✚ **Zoning Law Review:** next meeting set as follows:
September 7, 2022 6:30 PM Zoning review

- ✚ **Taghkanic/Churchtown Fire Companies becoming a District:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* a meeting between AB Shaw and Churchtown Fire Companies took place and there is a consultant being hired to advise them how to proceed. I met with Bob P. and a few firemen at the Churchtown Fire House. They feel that the merger is going forward. One question they had was what was happening with the money the Town of Taghkanic contributes to the Churchtown Fire Company Fire Protection District. With that all said we need to make a decision on moving forward with changing to a Fire District or to stay as a Fire Protection District.

- ✚ *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*: what is the difference between the two?
- ✚ *Supervisor Ryan Skoda*: with a Fire Protection District the town oversees the Fire Companies, whereas a Fire District forms a Board of Commissioners by election and the Commissioners would oversee the finances of the Fire Company.

All agreed to have Attorney Howard investigate further into the process of changing to Fire Districts.

New Business:

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

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

- B. **Budget Workshop dates:** meeting set for as follows
September 19, 2022 6:30 PM Budget Workshop 2023 budget

C. **Annual RFPs:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* I would to start the process of posting for RFPs for outside contractors that are up to renew, we do need to RFP for payroll services this year. *Board Member Linda Swartz* motioned to notice an RFP for Payroll Services, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*.

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

Clerk Rogers I will send out the RFP schedule to the Board Members for next month.

D. **EMC:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* I received an email today we need to update the town representative to the County EMC. Representing us now are Anna and Larry Kadish. *Board Member Elisabeth Albert* will contact them tomorrow to see if they are still interested. If they are not she will ask the members of the Climate Smart Committee for volunteers.

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

+ **July 20, 2022 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Craig*.

2022 General Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	
2022 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	131	-	\$ 118,000.00

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

+ **July 22, 2022 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Craig*.

2022 General Fund Vouchers	#	262	-	276	\$	19,792.38
2022 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	-	-	-	\$	

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

+ **August 8, 2022 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Craig*.

2022 General Fund Vouchers	#	277	-	292	\$	9,008.78
2022 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	132	-	143	\$	41,674.45
2022 Hwy Project Fund Vouchers	#	-	-	-	\$	

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

+ **August 8, 2022 Abstract #2:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Craig*.

2022 General Fund Vouchers	#	293	-	294	\$	279.32
2022 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	-	-	-	\$	

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- + Arthur McGuire:** what property is the town interested in?
- + Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** the property across Route 82 from the B & B
- + Bill Hilscher:** Will the town still keep up with this property?
- + Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** we haven't gotten that far yet.

8:28 pm Executive Session: *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by *Board Member Kara Gilmore*.

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

8:50 pm Executive Session: *Board Member Linda Swartz* motioned to exit Executive Session, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

With no further business, on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* the meeting was adjourned at **8:50 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **September 12, 2022** at the Taghkanic Town Hall and via Zoom.

Audience at Town Hall: Peter Beck Arthur McGuire Bill Hilscher

Audience via Zoom: Nancy Rutter Susan Raymond Donay Queenan