

APPROVED

5/8/2023

**April 3, 2023
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 April 2 and 3, 2023 separately, due to the COVID-19 social distancing.

6 pm. The Taghkanic Town Board held its Regular monthly meeting on the above date with a combination of Supervisor Skoda, Board Members, Town Clerk, 3 residents at the Taghkanic Town Hall and 4 residents attending via Zoom. ***Supervisor Ryan Skoda*** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Present:	Ryan Skoda	Supervisor
	Elisabeth Albert	Board Member
	Elizabeth Craig	Board Member
	Kara Gilmore	Board Member
	Linda Mirabelli	Board Member
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk
	Robert Burns	Highway Superintendent

Guest Speaker: Chief William Hilscher, Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company submitted the Taghkanic Fire Co. 2022 LOSAP points' record for approval for the 30-day posting. Motion to approve was made by ***Board Member Elizabeth Craig***, seconded by ***Board Member Linda Mirabelli***.

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

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

March 13, 2023: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by ***Board Member Linda Mirabelli*** seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth Craig***.

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

March 22, 2023: Town Board STR and Zoning Review meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by ***Board Member Linda Mirabelli*** seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth Craig***.

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

The Correspondence:

1. Stephan King, President , Board of Trustees, Claverack Free Library,

2. Mark J. Tiano, P.E. Regional Design Engineer, NYS Department of Transportation
3. AOT, Town Finance Schools May 8-9, 2023 or May 15-16, 2023
4. Donald X. Clavin, Jr. Supervisor, Town of Hempstead
5. PERM Safety Coordinator Certificate Training
6. Col. Co. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day April, 29, 2023 8am to noon
7. Zoriana M. Stawnychy, Stawnychy Financial Services, Safety of Your Asset

Reports from the Boards:

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

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

Planning Board: *Katherine Bainer*, report submitted as follows

Taghkanic Planning Board Report for February 2023

There was one meeting. Lot line adjustment for the Zachary 2020 Trust was reviewed. A public hearing was scheduled for March.

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 as follows

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board met at the Public Safety Building in Hudson on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

The following speed limit requests were **approved**:

- Main Street in New Lebanon (all): 30 mph
- Sunset Drive in Stuyvesant (all): 30 mph
- CR 9 in Canaan: 45 mph
- CR 7 in Austerlitz and Hillsdale: 45 mph

CR 11 in Taghkanic and Hillsdale, CR 7 in Copake (portion), and Extension Street in New Lebanon (all) were **denied**.

Columbia County reports that approximately 57% of the speed limits requests that have been processed over the last ten years have been approved.

Bells Pond Intersection, Livingston:

NYS DOT Resident Engineer for Columbia County, Tina Crowley and Moe Islam from Region 8 Traffic Engineering and Safety were in attendance to provide an update on the Bells Pond Intersection. They advise that new "signal ahead" signs have been installed, "Do Not Drive on Shoulder" signs have also been installed and shoulder hatching will be done. Signal analysis continues along with analysis of the span wire support. The new signal is expected to be in place by Memorial Day.

The NYS Association of Town Highway Superintendents is pushing for an increase in CHIPS funds and they have the backing of the State Senate.

The next meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board is scheduled for May 25, 2023.

Environmental Management Council: *Robert Brush* no report submitted:

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

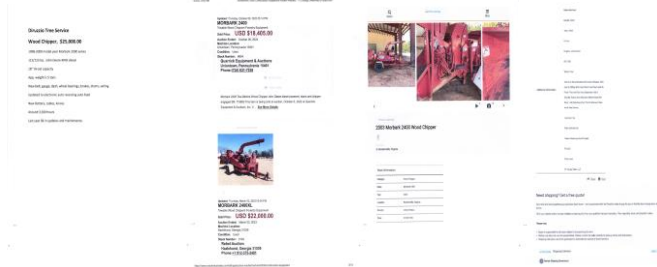
Clerk/Collector: *Cheryl Rogers*, reports were submitted to the Board.

Supervisor: *Ryan Skoda*, no report submitted at this time.

Highway: Roberts Burns, report submitted as follows:



Wood Chipper Proposals:



Board Member Kara Gilmore motioned to approve the purchase of the wood chipper for \$25,000.00 from Diruzzio Tree Service money to come from the unappropriated fund balance, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

Approved

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

0 Nays

0 Absent

Highway Law Section 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys 2023:



Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to approve Highway Law Section 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys 2023 as presented by **Highway Superintendent Rob Burns**, seconded **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**.

Approved

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

0 Nays

0 Absent

Town Wide Cleanup Day: the Highway Department is having a cleanup day May 13, 2023 from 8am to 2pm.

✓ **Clerk Rogers:** I received a call from Sally Wohlbach asking if there would pick up available? Ms. Wohlbach has some metal items for the metal bin.

✓ **Board Member Elisabeth Albert:** will be contacting Ms. Wohlbach.

Advisory Board reports:

Financial Advisory Committee Report: *Joyce Thompson* report submitted as follows: We have not met yet. The review of the abstract Clerk Rogers and I discussed moving forward the bills for Attorney fees for the fire district will be billed under the Town Board Contractual 1010.4

Conservation Advisory Committee/Climate Smart Community: *Doug Craig* report submitted as follows:

March 23, 2023

Town of Taghkanic

Minutes of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Present were Doug Craig, Tim Kennelty, Larry Kadish, Peter Paden, Charlene Paden, Tony LaSalvia, Bob Brush, Perry Ascher, Betsy Albert, Joyce Thompson, Celine Kagan, and Jean Feinberg.

Taghkanic Talks:

- There was a discussion of how to proceed with the publication announcing Taghkanic Talks. It was decided that a team of Bob, Celine, and Peter would finalize the document and get it published in the appropriate publications.

- Peter will contact the Columbia paper
- Betsy will contact the Register Star
- Perry will reach out to Rural Intelligence

- A review of the Gardening with Deer presentation of March 18th indicated it was well received by some 55-65 attendees (in person & Zoom). The Kids Corner addition was a big success thanks to Joanne Klein, but with the low kid-turnout this feature will probably not be included in future programs. There was a brief discussion of following up with the AVID (Assessing Vegetation Impact of Deer) program, as well as deer ex-closures to allow re-growth of forested areas. Celine expressed reservations, based on her experience with fences and the unintended ensnarement of small animals, as well as the need for constant maintenance. Need to follow up with Tracy Testo-Smith.

- The team discussed whether there would be a benefit to assigning specific numeric goals to any of the HGNP-related events (e.g., X number of residents agreeing to shift 100 sq ft of lawn to a native garden). There was little enthusiasm for this idea at this time. Instead, the educational objective itself is the goal.

Good Plant / Bad Plant

- It was agreed that Tim, Betsy, and Doug get their act together and make a section in the Tgazette for an ongoing series of articles by Tim that would highlight one good native plant and one undesirable invasive plant. The section is named Good Plant / Bad Plant. (done)

Charlene indicated that she identified a number of programs that offer state assistance / subsidies for various home energy upgrades to households meeting certain income requirements. The committee is working on how to make this information available in the most efficient and cost-effective manner to residents who may meet the eligibility requirements. Based on the success of the Broadband committee's success with their postcard mailer, we are considering going this route.

The team discussed the difficulties and advantages of pursuing a local Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for Taghkanic. We concluded that it would not be something that we would initiate in 2023, but that we would continue to explore in more detail what it would involve in number of people and costs with an eye toward taking it on next year, or alternatively moving directly to the creation of an open-space plan. Maybe do this jointly with another town. Since developing a local NRI will require the help of an outside consultant, we'll need to both figure out about how much that would cost and look into sources of funding / grants to help with the expense. (Peter)

Larry indicated the DEC is developing the guidelines for a Resiliency Program, and that Taghkanic is slated to be involved in evaluating the program. So, although it is not currently clear what exactly is involved, we will pursue this Resiliency Program as it is rolled out.

Digital Communication Advisory Committee: *Betsy Albert*: we are now meeting quarterly

Old Business:

1. **Zoning Law Review:**
April 10, 2023 6:30 PM Zoning review
2. **Answer for vested LOSAP participates:** Tabled
3. **Resolution 12-2023:** Tabled
4. **Application to the Comptroller:** Tabled

New Business:

- A. **June 2023 Calendar:** *Board Member Kara Gilmore* motioned to accept the June 2023 as presented, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*.

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

- ✚ **March 23, 2023 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

2023 General Fund Vouchers	#	90	-	99	\$	14,127.80
2023 Highway Fund Vouchers	#		-		\$	

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

- ✚ **April 3, 2023 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

2023 General Fund Vouchers	#	100	-	117	\$	6,339.80
2023 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	38	-	52	\$	28,263.03

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ *Perry Ascher*: nothing
- ✚ *Steven Smollens*: thanked the Board for all their hard work.
- ✚ *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*: more coverage for the town with cell service, I have contacted Verizon and have been communicating with a Verizon Rep.
- ✚ *Clerk Rogers*: the Town does have a Local Law for cell towers. I will send a copy to the Town Board.
- ✚ *Clerk Rogers*: Highway Superintendent Rob Burns share information concerning

New York State Deferred Compensation Plan webinar. I attended the webinar; I have made copies of the information for the Board to review for their consideration for adoption for the town Employees.

Executive Session: *None*

With no further business, on a motion by ***Board Member Kara Gilmore***, seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth Craig*** the meeting was adjourned at **7:54 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular Town Board meeting will be **May 8, 2023** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: Perry Ascher William Hilscher Robert Burns

Audience via Zoom: Joyce Thompson Doug Craig Sherrill Kurland Steven Smollens