

Approved

6/12/2023

**May 8, 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 May 7 and 8, 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 Deputy Supervisor Thompson, Board Members, Town Clerk, 20 residents at the Taghkanic Town Hall and 5 residents attending via Zoom. ***Deputy Supervisor Joyce Thompson*** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Deputy Supervisor Joyce Thompson: Supervisor Skoda sends his apologies for not be able to be here tonight.

Present:	Joyce Thompson	Deputy Supervisor
	Elisabeth Albert	Board Member
	Elizabeth Craig	Board Member
	Kara Gilmore	Board Member
	Linda Mirabelli	Board Member
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Absent: Ryan Skoda Supervisor

Guest Speaker:

Deputy Supervisor Joyce Thompson then asked for a motion to approve the following minutes:

April 3, 2023: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by ***Board Member Elisabeth Albert*** seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth Craig***.

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

April 10, 2023: Town Board STR and Zoning Review meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by ***Board Member Elisabeth Albert*** seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth Craig***.

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

The Correspondence:

1. Clara Cordato, letter of interest PB and ZBA Clerk:

Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to appoint Clara Cordato as the clerk for the Planning Board and the ZBA, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

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

2. Hinman Straub, Memorandum, State and Federal Expansion of Pregnant and Nursing Employees Rights

3. Barbara Oty Col. Co. Engineering Department, Speed Limit Request:

Board Member Elisabeth Albert motioned to approve requesting the reduced speed limit on Klein Road/East Klein Road, seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**.

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

4. Charles Schwab, LOSAP Taghkanic Monthly

5. Alex Drylewski, private driveway name change:

Board Member Kara Gilmore suggested to table for the Clerk to prepare the documents need to proceed.

6. Hinman Straub, Memorandum, 2023 Revised Sexual Harassment Prevention Model Policy

7. GTel If you dig U811

8. Michael Degano, Business Agent, Teamsters Local 294, Juneteenth

9. Kelly S. Baccaro, Clerk Col. Co. Board of Supervisors May 19, 2023 11 am dedication of 325 Col. Street Building to Elizabeth Young.

10. NYSEG wind power

11. Keeping Identities of Seniors Safe June5, 2023 – June 23, 2023

12. Stawnychy LOSAP report

Reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: *Kyle Miller*, no report submitted.

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

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

Taghkanic Planning Board Report for April 2023

No meetings were held.

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*,

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*, no report submitted.

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:



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

✚ **Permission for Highway Superintendent to go to Highway School:** *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to grant permission for Highway Superintendent Burns to attend Highway Training in June an educated superintendent makes for a good Superintendent, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

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

✚ **Permission to bring to two part-time workers back this year:** *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* motioned to grant permission for Highway Superintendent Burns to bring back the part-time workers for the summer *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*

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

Advisory Board reports:

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

Financial Advisory Committee Report meets this Thursday May 11, 2023. UHY alert us to shortage on an appropriation line Clerk Rogers and I found it to be a posting errors which will be corrected. The review of report from UHY and the monthly documentation show no issues and no budget amendments for this month.

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

April 27, 2023

Minutes of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Present were Doug Craig, Kevin Pastor, Tim Kennelty, Peter Paden, Charlene Paden, Bob Brush, Celine Kagan, Simcoe Kagan, and Jean Feinberg & guest – and via Zoom: Larry Kadish, Betsy Albert, Joyce Thompson, David Koehler

1. Doug acknowledged the town’s recent designation as an official Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community and show the team one of two signs we received from NYSERDA that proclaim our certification. The signs have a place for the Town Seal, and there was some discussion of whether we actually have a town seal currently, with the previous seal bearing the image of a Native American having been retired.
 - **Action point:** we should check into this and if we do need a new one, then reach out to Stephen Kling for ideas.

It was also pointed out that a digital banner indicating our CSC status has been place prominently on the town website.

2. Peter told the team about the presentations of the Doug Tallamy video at the Claverack Library and the Copake Grange over the Earth Day weekend, which were co-sponsored by the Taghkanic CSC. It seems both were well

attended by fresh sets of eyes, indicating growing enthusiasm for the Homegrown National Park view of landscaping that is sweeping CoCo.

- **Action Point:** Include as one of our events the Claverack May 27 library 10-noon event.
 - **Action Point:** Peter and Tim will plan Sunday event for June garden tour.
3. Bob attended a recent EMC mtg where there was talk of publicizing availability of experts to help folks make gardening and forestry decisions, how to get the word out. Perhaps this could tie into our July Garden event. Possibly offer up Tim to Taghkanic residents. Joyce suggested asking surrounding towns if they too are getting queries. Bob will pursue this.
 4. There was some question as to the start time for the May event at Town Hall. Native planting event starts at 9am on May 20th. Tim will give brief talk at Firehouse beforehand (30 min or less). Soil and wood chips delivered week of 15th, Betsy/Tim will alert Committee when it's arrived for help in prepping garden bed.
 - **Action Point:** Ask Stephen if he would be willing to create a poster for the Garden Event.
 5. David will consider more researching feasibility of roadside path. We will look at possible path area while laying out garden, possibly using surplus wood chips, during week while we prep garden area.
 6. Dan Aitchinson to confirm if he can come night before site assessment day for dinner with interested residents at Betsy's house. Dinner Sat night the 20th, site visits 21st. Dan will then prepare a customized presentation on Beaver issues using data collected during site visit. Date to be determined.
 7. Lighting upgrade paperwork at town Hall and Garage completed, waiting to hear from installers on installation date.
 8. EV chargers - will continue to check with WTD on progress of installation. Waiting to hear from James Buono on when revised initiatives are in place for Scott Marinoff and Kevin Pastor to investigate installing charger at Town Hall.
 9. Heat Pumps - Doug continuing to figure out how Taghkanic can participate in another event. Bob mentioned EMC is collating info to publicize to counter false info from Oil companies to customers. Talk of finding investors to supply bridge loans to smaller contractors to enable them to offer services to consumers and benefit from the various NYSEDA programs.
 10. Peter and headwaters folks are brainstorming ideas on ways to get more public awareness of Headwaters - Hecate kerfuffle has helped bring this into the public eye, wants to use the momentum. Larry pointed out nothing in the Headwaters pamphlet addresses solar farms.
 11. Larry no movement on Resilience Planning .
 12. Discussion of roadside invasives and Germantown's success working with Highway Dept to control. Possibly work with our Hwy Dept as well. Talk of small area of Japanese Knotweed we could possibly remove with local volunteers.
 13. Doug will distill the various energy upgrade programs into one document. Looking to get info to residents. Charlene can help.
 14. Sunday, July 23 Garden Date.

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

Old Business:

1. Zoning Law Review:

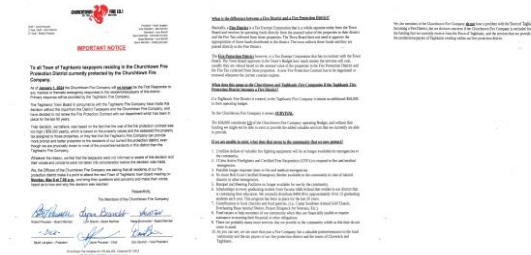
May 15, 2023 6:30 PM Zoning review

2. Answer for vested LOSAP participates: Deputy Supervisor Joyce Thompson: Supervisor Skoda and Attorney Howard have been in contact with the NYS Comptroller but have not received an answer as of yet.

- ✚ **Deputy Supervisor Joyce Thompson:** does anyone have any more questions?
- ✚ **Michael Reagan:** if I call 911 because I'm having a heart attack who will be responding?
- ✚ **Larry Kadish:** I am a member of the Taghkanic Fire Co. I am a retired Doctor and well trained in EMS. Our Fire Company just held a CPR training which

was well attended. We plan on doing annual CPR Training. All of our fire trucks are equipped with AEDs.

- ✚ **William Hilscher:** there is system in place by 911 to have the closest ambulance responded.
- ✚ **Robert Preusser:** Churchtown Fire Company, Churchtown Fire Co. has been in existence for 48 years as a Fire Protection District, we are CFR fire house 65% of our calls for Taghkanic are EMS and 80% of our calls for Claverack are EMS. I have responded to the Town Attorney concerning the information requested. This is the information for the LOSAP points requested. (gave to the Town Clerk)
- ✚ **William Hilscher:** asked the board if this was the time to discuss the letter sent out by the Churchtown Fire Co.?



- ✚ **Deputy Supervisor Joyce Thompson:** yes
- ✚ **William Hilscher:** Chief of the Taghkanic Fire Co., this letter is full of misinformation; saying that the Taghkanic Fire Co. has been part of the decision is not true.
- ✚ **Deputy Joyce Thompson:** The first paragraph is not true. **There has been no vote or decision made at all. The Town Board has been researching its options.** I believe the Town Board will make the right decision to assure the proper coverage is in place.

“As of **January 1, 2024** the Churchtown Fire Company will **no longer** be the First Responder to any medical or firematic emergency responses to the residents/taxpayers of the district. Primary response will be provided by the Taghkanic Fire Company.”
- ✚ **Paul Nostrand:** I totally agree with Joyce Thompson that the Board will make the right decision for all the residents of Taghkanic.
- ✚ **Board Member Kara Gilmore:** Kara Gilmore stated that the information that was mailed to residents that live in the Churchtown Fire Protection District was incorrect when it stated that the Town Board made this decision “without input from the District Taxpayers and the Churchtown Fire Company.” Gilmore said that the Town Board has been discussing this change publicly since at least June 2022, and that all of those discussions occurred publicly at open town board meetings, and were reported on the Town website through both written minutes, and Zoom-recorded sessions of the Town Board meetings. Furthermore, Gilmore noted that the Town Board held an open public meeting on March 13 for the distinct purpose of discussing this issue with the residents of the town and/or any members of the public, including members of the Churchtown Fire Company, and answering any and all questions that any concerned people might have. The minutes of that public hearing are also available on the town website in written and zoom-recorded

format. The public meeting was noticed properly. Gilmore ended by reiterating that the statement in the letter from the Churchtown Fire Company to residents of Taghkanic that live within the Churchtown Fire Protection District was absolutely false when it said the Town Board did not seek input from those residents or from the Churchtown Fire Company.

- 3. **Resolution 12-2023:** Tabled
- 4. **Application to the Comptroller:** Tabled
- 5. **NYS Deferred Compensation Plan:** Tabled

New Business:

A. **July 2023 Calendar:** *Board Member Kara Gilmore* motioned to accept the July 2023 as presented, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

B. **Taghkanic LOSAP points 30 day posting:** *Board Member Elisabeth Albert* motioned to approve the Taghkanic Fire Co 2022 LOSAP points that have been posted for 30 days, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

C. **Solar on Highway Garage:** *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* motioned to grant permission for the Climate Smart Communities Task Force to look into quotes for solar for the Highway Department, seconded by *Board Member Kara Gilmore*.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✚ **April 24, 2023 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

2023 General Fund Vouchers	#	118	-	128	\$	18,540.80
2023 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	53	-		\$	6,679.85

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

✚ **May 8, 2023 Abstract:** on a motion by on a motion by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

2023 General Fund Vouchers	#	129	-	144	\$	8,633.26
2023 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	54	-	65	\$	29,096.83

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ Clerk Rogers shared that she received notification that her Social Security # (SSN) had been associated with illegal activities and therefore, they had put a temporary hold on it. She called the Social Security Office in Hudson to verify if what she received was true and it was not. SCAM

Executive Session:

7:50 pm Executive Session: *Board Member Kara Gilmore* motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

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

8:20 pm Executive Session: *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* motioned to exit Executive Session, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

With no further business, on a motion by *Board Member Kara Gilmore*, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* the meeting was adjourned at **8:20 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular Town Board meeting will be **June 12, 2023** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: Louise Arenas Michael Regan Perry Ascher William Hilscher
 Robert Preusser Stanley Molinski Luccano Giovannucci Art Griffith
 Arthur McGuire Anna Kadish Larry Kadish Dennis Callahan
 David Koehler Paul Nostrand Renee Nostrand Scott Marinoff
 Donald Coons Doug Craig Russell Corcoran Jake Corcoran

Audience via Zoom: Sherrill Kurland Steven Smollens Stephan Kling Nadja Palenzuela
 Iona Fromboluti-Wirls