

**Approved
11/13/2023**

**October 9, 2023
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Meeting**

Note all documents in these minutes may be clicked on and enlarged for easier reading

6 pm: Interviews:

- ✚ 6 pm Jeannine Dubiac Priority One Payroll
- ✚ 6:20 pm Robert Patterson Accountant
- ✚ 6:40 pm Michael A. Torchia RBT Accountant

7 pm. The Taghkanic Town Board held its Regular monthly meeting on the above date with a combination of Supervisor Skoda, Board Members, Town Clerk, 7 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	
	Joyce Thompson	Deputy Supervisor	via Zoom
	Elisabeth Albert	Board Member	
	Elizabeth Craig	Board Member	
	Kara Gilmore	Board Member	
	Linda Mirabelli	Board Member	
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk	

Absent:

Guest Speaker: Thea Schoep, Claverack Free Library

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

September 6, 2023: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes on a motion by ***Board Member Linda Mirabelli*** seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth Craig***.

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

September 18, 2023: Town Board Budget Workshop meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes on a motion by ***Board Member Linda Mirabelli*** seconded by ***Board Member Elizabeth Craig***.

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

The Correspondence:

1. Thea Schoep, Claverack Free Library
2. Steven Schuster, Highway Landscaping project

- ✦ **Board Member Elisabeth Albert:** has anyone reached to Mr. Schuster?
 - ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Mr. Schuster emailed Joyce and me only. The first time September 19, 2023 the day I left to be away for ten days. The second time September 22, 2023 three days later. The third time September 27, which was emailed to the whole board. I was home that day and called him. Cheryl has also answered his email with the draft response **Board Member Kara Gilmore** suggested using.
 - ✦ **Clerk Rogers:** I was not included in the email process, Linda forwarded the email to me.
3. Col. Co. Office For The Aging, PH Notice 10-25-2023 & 10-26-2023 11:30 am
 4. Col. Co. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day 10-29-2023 8 am – Noon
 5. Craryville Fire District PH Notice 2023 Budget

Reports from the Boards:

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

I have one entry for this past month:

9/25 - Loose white komondo spotted on Manor Rock Rd. No further sightings since.

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

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

Taghkanic Planning Board Report for September 2023

There were no meetings in September.

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 Mirabelli*, report submitted as follows.

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Board met at the Public Safety Building in Hudson on Thursday, September 28, 2023.

Columbia County Highway Department Highway Work Updates:

- Fish & Game Road is on schedule for completion by the end of October.
- Culvert replacements on County Route 7 in Gallatin and in Austerlitz will require road closure and detour.
- Stall Bridge on Pleasantvale Road in Clermont is on track for the 2024 construction season, but Mill Bill Bridge over the RoeJan in Gallatin has been pushed off until 2025.

New York State DOT:

- Slow-downs and long back-ups have been reported at the Bells Pond intersection since the new traffic signal sequence went operational. DOT will meet with Livingston representatives and members of the CCTSB on October 3rd.
- Members of the CCTSB brought to the attention of DOT several areas where roadside vegetation needs to be cut back to improve sight distance at intersecting roads.

The next meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board is scheduled for November 16, 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

Highway: *Roberts Burns*, report submitted as follows:



- ✚ **Generator:** *Board Member Elisabeth Albert* presented 3 quotes for generators from:
 1. R. P. Schmidt & Son Electrical Contractors
 2. Hudson Valley Wind and Solar
 3. Schnackenberg Electric Inc.
 - Supervisor Ryan Skoda is going to circle back to Phil Schnackenberg with the additional information on the two heat pumps for the garage and ask him to factor the additional energy needs and revise quote.
 - All Board Members agreed that we need all quotes to be apples to apples and to have all quotes to include the addition of the heat pumps.

✚ **Resolution 15 – 2023:** Resolution granting permission for the Climate Smart Community Coordinator to apply for grants.

Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to approved Resolution 15 – 2023 granting permission for the Climate Smart Community Coordinator to apply for grants for the solar and heat pump installation at the highway garage, seconded by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*.

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

✚ **RFP Solar installation:** *Board Elisabeth Albert* motioned to approve the posting of an RFP for Solar installation at the Highway Garage, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

✚ **RFP Heat Pump installation:** *Board Elisabeth Albert* motioned to approve the posting of an RFP for heat pump installation at the Highway Garage, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Fran Murcott you have a request for the Town Board and Highway?



Fran Murcott: yes and I have my request in writing. (attached) I am requesting that the Town of Taghkanic turn over 4/10 of a mile, part of New Forge Road II which is in front of my house and to the old bridge over to me and turn it into a private road. I own the property on both sides of the road all the way down to the where the old bridge was.

Supervisor Ryan Skoda: please the letter with the Clerk tonight. Superintendent Burns and I will look into what can be done.

Advisory Board reports:

Financial Advisory Committee Report: Joyce Thompson: no report at this time.

The following Budget Amendments are needed.

Town of Taghkanic			
9-Oct-23	Budget Amendment #8-2023		
		Increase	Decrease
GENERAL FUND			
TOWN JUSTICE ASSIST CLERK	A1110.14	4,700	
CONTRACTUAL ZC	A8010.41		4,700
ZBA CLERK PERSONAL SVC	A8010.11	400	
CONTRACTUAL ZC	A8010.41		400
		5,100	5,100
ASSESSOR CONTRACTUAL	A1355.4	12,770	
ASSESSOR LITIGATION	A1355.41		12,770
		12,770	12,770
HIGHWAY FUND			
GENERAL REPAIRS - CONTRACTUAL	DA5110.4	150,000	
GENERAL REPAIRS - DIESEL	DA5110.41	20,000	
BUDGETED FUND BALANCE	DA9100		170,000
		170,000	170,000

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned to approve Budget Amendment #8 – 2023 as presented, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

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

Conservation Advisory Committee/Climate Smart Community: Doug Craig report submitted as follows: the lighting upgrade project for the

Sep 28, 2023

Minutes of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Present were Doug Craig, Betsy Albert, Tim Kennelty, Bob Brush, Larry Kadish, Perry Ascher, Jean Feinberg, Peter Paden, Charlene, Paden, Celine Kagen, and special guests Katy Flammia (Claverack) and Barbara Hughey (Germantown).

1. The August meeting minutes were approved.
2. We welcomed Katy Flammia, from the Claverack CSC. She wanted to see how we conducted our meetings. It seems the Claverack CSC is stuck on revisiting their Climate Action Plan each time they meet, without making further progress. We all contributed input about what has enabled us to make progress.
3. Barbara Hughey, from Germantown, shares her experience with enlisting the help of the Highway crew in identifying and managing invasive plant species along the roadside. Among the ideas she shared were:
 - In approaching the highway personnel, be sure to recognize (honor) the work they already do in maintain the roads and the vegetation along the roads, etc.
 - Timing of cuttings is critical and species dependent; e.g., you have to cut vegetation when the seeds won't germinate, and cutting at the wrong time will just propagate the plant.
 - Germantown is picking specific sites to concentrate on with the highway dept.
 - With grant money, you can hire a crew to attach specific problem areas
 - We think now is not the time to approach the highway crew about this, as they work to catch up on needed maintenance of Taghkanic roads, but this will be something for later.
4. Larry gave an update on the Sep 26 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency workshop at Columbia Green Community College (attended by Larry, Anna, Doug, Bets, Peter, Bob). The workshop was aimed at identifying specific climate-related threats in each town. A follow up workshop is scheduled for Oct 27.
5. Bob & Betsy provided an update of the Sep EMC meeting. The EMC passed a resolution in support of Reforestation Day 2024. Bets indicated the meeting is a source for a wide variety of interesting info, including reports on the incidents of type of various communicable diseases, including but not limited to Covid. Bob will continue to serve on the EMC.
6. Betsy Updates:
 - Dan Aitchison recommends that we start the process of obtaining any required permits related to the various beaver dam sites that were evaluated earlier this year and which are potential intervention sites. The process can take a while, so we should get them in place. We may schedule a talk by him in early 2024.
 - It was agreed that we should not lose focus on the Home Grown National Parks project, and that we should do some things to further promote it, publicize it, maybe actually join it as a town, put up signs, etc. Will think about it and discuss ideas next time. o Tim and Bets will weed the garden.
 - Electrical upgrades at TH and Garage have been completed. We were not pleased with our experience working with Potentia, and would not elect to work with them again. When we get the final invoices documenting the completion of work, then we can apply for points / grants.
7. The Repair Café will take place on Sat, Sep 30th at RoeJan Library. Ray and Deb Colgrove and Andrew Soltano will be the 'fixers' representing Taghkanic. We need to be sure to acknowledge their contribution.
8. Window Insulation project will be postponed.
9. Tim and Doug discussed the preparation, with Dave Newman, of a steering committee to plan Reforestation Day 2024, with the aim of planting 1000 native trees on public and private land on Arbor Day weekend of next spring. This will involve a number of Taghkanic Talks relating to the subject as the time approaches.
10. Tim proposed a number of in-person and video presentations that can serve as Taghkanic Talks over the next several months. How frequently do we want to have these talks: monthly, every other month, whenever?
11. Charlene conveyed that there will be a Taghkanic Talk on Oct 28 at the firehouse on affordable housing efforts in Columbia County to be presented by Habitat for Humanity and the Columbia County Housing Task Force.

Digital Communication Advisory Committee: Betsy Albert: meeting held October 6, 2023.

Old Business:

1. **Zoning Law Review:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda*, Attorney Fitzsimmons has sent us his revisions on the STR please review and we will discuss this further at our Budget Workshop on October 16, 2023.

2. Answer for vested LOSAP participants:

✚ **Supervisor Skoda:** I have had a conversation with Chief Hilscher asking if the Taghkanic Fire Company is will and able to cover both Fire Protection District, his answer was yes. I have to have conversation with the Board of Directors of the Taghkanic Fire Company to discuss money.

✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** I had a conversation with Bob Preusser he proposed that the Town of Taghkanic fund the First Responder Program with half of the amount that we now give for 2024.

3. Resolution Creating a Fire District: Tabled

4. Application to the Comptroller: Tabled

5. October 16, 2023 6pm Budget Workshop: reminder

6. Payroll and Accountant:

✚ Jeannine Dubiac, Priority One Payroll: **Board Member Kara Gilmore** motioned to appoint Jeannine Dubiac, Priority One for the position of Payroll Service Provider for the Town from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert.**

Approved: 5 Ayes (Ryan, Elisabeth, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda)

0 Nays

0 Absent

✚ Robert Patterson, Certified Public Accountant: **Board Member Elizabeth Craig** motioned to appoint Robert Patterson, CPA the Accountant for the Town of Taghkanic from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli.**

Approved: 5 Ayes (Ryan, Elisabeth, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda)

0 Nays

0 Absent

New Business:

A. December 2023 Calendar: Tabled October 16, 2023

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✚ **September 22, 2023 Abstract:** on a motion by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** was approved for payment, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert.**

2023 General Fund Vouchers	#	288	-	303	\$	26,906.22
2023 Highway Fund Vouchers	#		-		\$	
2023 Escrow	#	1	-		\$	1,000.00

Approved: 5 Ayes (Ryan, Elisabeth, Elizabeth, Kara, Linda)

0 Nays

1 Absent

✚ **October 9, 2023 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*.

2023 General Fund Vouchers	#	304	-	323	\$	7,557.78
2023 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	121	-	139	\$	95,850.85

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

✚ *Larry Kadish*; the state is discontinuing the first responder training.

Executive Session: none

With no further business, on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert* the meeting was adjourned at **8:10 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular Town Board meeting will be **November 13, 2023** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: Doug Craig Perry Ascher Thea Schoep Peter Beck
Fran Murcott Susan Soltano Arthur Griffith

Audience via Zoom: Joyce Thompson Anna Kadish Larry Kadish Celine Kagan