

APPROVED
6/10/2024

May 13, 2024
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 May 13, 2024

7 pm: The Taghkanic Town Board held its Regular meeting on the above date with a combination of Supervisor Skoda, Board Members, Town Clerk, 7 residents at the Taghkanic Town Hall and 5 residents attending via Zoom. Supervisor Ryan Skoda asked for a moment of silence in honor of Robert (Rob) Burns.

Present:	Ryan Skoda	Supervisor
	Elisabeth Albert	Board Member
	Perry Ascher	Board Member
	Doug Craig	Board Member
	Linda Mirabelli	Board Member
	Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Guest Speaker: William Hilscher, Taghkanic Fire Volunteer Fire Company LOSAP points.

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned to approve the Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Company LOSAP point record for the 30-day posting, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned to approve the Churchtown Volunteer Fire Company LOSAP point record as presented and posted for the 30 days, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

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

April 9, 2024: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

April 22, 2024: Town Board Special meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The Correspondence:

1. Donald MacCormack & Jonathan Halligan, Bank of Greene County
2. Katherine Snelson, Craryville Road
3. Doug Craig, STR Update
4. Barbara Ray, Noise Pollutant
5. KISS Keeping Identities of Seniors Safe June 17-June 28, 2024
6. Charles Schwab, Taghkanic LOSAP monthly
7. Mike Tucker, Pro-Housing Community Certification Process
 - Resolution 9-2024 Pro-Housing Community:

Board Member Perry Ascher motioned to approve Resolution 9 – 2024 Pro-Housing Community, seconded by **Board Member Doug Craig**.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

8. Katherine Bainer, Scott Schneider, 1524 County Route 10 (GreenHaus Zoning)
9. Robert Lopez, Director of 911, Town of Chatham Radio frequency

Board Member Elisabeth Albert motioned to approve with provisions stated in the Statement of Concurrence, we have no objections to The Town of Chatham, N.Y. using this frequency, seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

Reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Kyle Miller, no report submitted.

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Taghkanic Planning Board Report for April 2024

There were no meetings in April.

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 Mirabelli, no meeting.

Environmental Management Council: Robert Brush no report submitted:

Office for the Aging: Celine Kagan and Susan Silverman, report submitted as follows:
we meet Wednesday

- ✚ Taghkanic Senior Network: Susan Silverman, shared their design for the flyers, postcards and ad for the first event BINGO on Saturday June 15th 6-8 @ Taghkanic Fire House.



BINGO FLYER (3).pdf



Bingo Postcard3
(5).pdf



TSN BINGO! ad
(2).pdf

- ✚ Clerk Rogers has sent the designs for the postcards and flyers to County Printing (cost is \$24.00), ordered address label (cost \$40.36) from Real Property and have ordered the stamps (cost \$320.35).

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



Supervisor: Ryan Skoda, report submitted.

Highway:

**Taghkanic Highway Report
May 2024**

- Replaced culvert on Taghkanic-Churchtown Rd @ Reservoir Rd. Cut ditches and new top on NF2 East, Miller and Sheldon Ln. Removed dead and diseased trees along Hoyle Rd.
- Replaced Culvert on Sheldon and installed new culvert at intersection of Sheldon and Taghkanic Churchtown Rd. Replaced driveway culvert for resident on Sheldon Ln. Started process of re-configuring intersection from a Y to a T.
- Installed culvert, repaired base and new top on Hay Press Rd.
- Met with Peckham, Colarusso and Valley paving to obtain quotes for proposed paving projects. See



Taghkanic - various roads VALLEY Paving attached. Taghkanic - Paving Quote - 2024 COLARL

Supervisor Ryan Skoda I am asking for approval for the quote from Valley Paving for Reese and Brothers Road in the amount of \$105,489.

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned to approve the Valley Paving quote for Reese and Brothers Road in the amount of \$105,489, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- Assisted Town Clerk in answering FOIL request regarding Sopok Rd.
- Request approval to declare 2016 GMC 3500 pickup surplus and sell on auction.
- Request approval to declare Eager Beaver Wood Chipper Model #C110hp4, surplus and sell on auction.

Board Member Perry Ascher motioned to approve the Eager Beaver Wood Chipper Model #C110hp4 and the 2016 GMC 3500 pickup surplus and sell on auction, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- + **Board Member Elisabeth Albert:** Ronadale residents are very happy with the road repairs but have concerns with the logging that is going on. Are there any weight limits on our roads?
- + **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** not on that road. Logging permits are a joint process by the Superintendent of Highways and the Building Inspector/ZEO/CEO who issues the permit.
- + **Board Member Perry Ascher:** County Route 10 concern from last month any updates?
- + **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** yes, being it was an anonymous complaint I have brought it to Dennis attention and he is working on it.

Supervisor Ryan Skoda one more thing for highway lawn mowing, the trailer that is used to move the lawn mower is not in great shape. I am suggesting we look into purchasing a shed for here at the Town Hall to store the lawn mower, weed eaters and other tools need to care for the property. Maybe we would be able to use the ARPA money.

Board Members Elisabeth Albert and Doug Craig will look into the ARPA grant to see if this would be a valid use of the grant money.

Advisory Board reports:

Financial Advisory Committee Report: *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* reported submitted as follows:

**Taghkanic Financial Advisory Committee
Meeting Report
May 2024**

The FAC met on May 9, 2024 to review the April financial documents submitted by the Town’s accountant, payroll firm, and our Town Clerk. Town Clerk Cheryl Rogers attended this meeting in person to provide information and answer questions.

The “washed check” problem we experienced in February has resulted in our check template being copied and used to make up a phony check, which was caught by our new fraud protection service, “Positive Pay”. This new service costs \$25 a month and the FAC feels that it’s well worth it.

Interest and earnings in both the General Fund and the Highway Fund are well over what was budgeted for the year, thanks to the Town’s investment in Certificates of Deposit, Two \$500K certificates matured on May 7. A \$500K Certificate that was assigned to the General Fund was rolled over for another six months. The other, which was assigned to Highway, was reduced from \$500K to \$250K for another six-month term, and the remainder, \$260,667.02 with interest, was moved into the Money Market to pay for upcoming summer roadwork projects.

Cheryl will check the original deposit amounts, dividend rates, and maturity dates of each Certificate and provide the FAC with complete information.

Court deposits which were incorrectly deposited into the General Checking account were moved into the Money Market Account on May 7. The FAC will look for this in next month’s review.

Overages on budget lines A13544, Assessor Cont, and on A73104, Youth Prog Cont Exp, were incorrectly posted and will be applied to the correct budget lines.

A review of the financial records shows that all deposits and checks align with the bank statements, and the Transfer forms match the Abstracts.

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

Apr 25, 2024

Town of Taghkanic

Report - Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Present at the meeting were: Doug Craig, Larry Kadish, Tony LaSalvia, Peter Paden, Perry Ascher, and Bob Brush.

- The Minutes of the Mar 28 meeting were approved.
- We reviewed placement of posters for the May 11 event at TSP.
- The following folks have been confirmed as helpers on planting day: Heather McKenna, David Noles, Don Coons, Sue Critchell, Celine Kagan, Bob Brush, Mel Harris, Robin Randisi, Joshua Kaplan, Joanne Klein.
 - o We will be collecting the 300 plus plants from Behn’s Nursery (4569 SR 66, Malden Bridge) the week of May 6th. Peter Paden, David Noles and Celine Kagan have all volunteered to help ferry them to LTSP.
 - o Waiting to hear from Chris Rickard, the Park Manager, on what date the area will be ready for dirt delivery so that we can have it ready to go and unload plants directly into the planting area.

- It was confirmed that a Taghkanic Talk on the Nature of Oaks (Doug Tallamy video) would be held on May 18 @ 10am – noon. It will feature the 1.5-hour video and a presentation on the Taghkanic Homegrown National Park efforts, by Heather McKenna.
- Tony approved the placement of an HDMI cable in the drop ceiling of the firehouse room, which will allow Zoom meetings to be run from behind the audience, rather than under the television.
- A date of Sept 28th was proposed for an Emergency Preparedness presentation at the firehouse in the fall. Tony will check with the presenters to see if they are agreeable to that date.
- Doug has received updated quotes for the solar installation and heat pumps at the town garage, plus a quote from Bill Hilsher for a battery-operated chainsaw and kit. These will be incorporated into a grant application for \$50K upon board approval.

Board Member Doug Craig I have put together a NYSERDA grant application for \$50,000. Their format requires that the amount requested equals the exact amount (\$50k) that is offered. To make this work out, here are the things I have put in the application:

Solar for town Garage:	\$35,683.20
Heat Pumps for Garage:	13,430.00
Chainsaw for Fire Dept:	971.00
<u>Total</u>	\$50,084.20

Board Member Doug Craig I am asking for approval for the town to contribute \$84.20 to make this exactly \$50K, seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**

Approved **5 Aye** (**Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda**)
0 Nays
0 Absent

✚ **Board Member Doug Craig:** reminder I need the battery-operated equipment wish list for the highway department.

Digital Communication Advisory Committee: Elisabeth Albert no meeting held in April. Next meeting is June 2, 2024.

Old Business:

1. **Update on Zoning Review:** **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Attorney Fitzsimmons goal timeline is to have it to us by June 1st.
2. **Update on Letters sent to Sands and Jutkofsky:** **Board Member Linda Mirabelli,** a second letter has been sent out to Mrs. Sands and Mrs. Jutkofsky. Nothing from Mrs. Sands but I did receive a call from Rosalie she has concerns about the extra traffic, and her realtor told her there is more value if she keeps the property as one parcel. She did say to keep her in mind.
3. **ADU:** **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** last month **Board Member Doug Craig** shared a sample draft proposed ADU regulations for the board to review for tonight meeting as follows.



Sample Draft ADU
Law.pdf

Board Member Doug Craig motioned to start the process for an ADU Regulations Local Law, seconded by **Board Member Elisabeth Albert.**

Approved **5 Aye** (**Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda**)
0 Nays

0 Absent

4. **LL # 1 -2024: Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** does the board have any further concerns with the regulations? **Board Member Linda Mirabelli, Clerk Rogers** asked me to make the changes from the last month meeting that were concerns. They very minor changes. One thing I am a little concerned with is residents having more than one STR do we have verbiage to cover that? It was decided that it was covered under Section 3.

✚ **SEQRA Full form: Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** reviewed the part two questions and asked for a motion for a negative declaration for the purposes of SEQRA.

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned with the review of part two of SEQRA finding no significant negative environmental impacts will arise from adopting STR regulations I move we issue a negative declaration for the purposes of SEQRA, seconded by **Board Member Doug Craig**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

✚ **LL #1 – 2024 STR Regulations: Supervisor Ryan Skoda** asked for a motion to approve LL 1-2024

Board Member Elisabeth Albert motioned to approve the passing of LL 1-2024 STR Regulations, seconded by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

Board Member Perry Ascher: are there any updates from the County concerning STRs?
Supervisor Ryan Skoda: the county is waiting for the law to be passed by the state. If it happens the county can start collecting occupancy tax.

New Business:

- A. **Scott Schneider, 1524 County Route 10 (GreenHauss Zoning): Supervisor Ryan Skoda** acknowledge Scott Schneider, he explained what his ideas where for the 1524 County Route 10, 175-acre parcel. The Board asked him to send them more detailed information with his sketches. The Board advised him to contact NYS DOT with his project as it will involve an approval from them as it is right off the Taconic Parkway.

- B. **July 2024 Calendar: Board Member Perry Ascher** motioned to accept the July 2024 calendar as presented, seconded by **Board Member Doug Craig**.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- C. **Open Positions to notice: Supervisor Ryan Skoda** asked for permission to notice for the following open positions due to the loss of Robert Burns and Stephen Kling.

- ✦ **Appointed Highway Superintendent:** *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* motioned place a notice for the position of Appointed Highway Superintendent, seconded by *Board Member Perry Ascher*.

Approved

5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- ✦ **PB Member:** *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* to post for letters of interest for the open position on the Planning Board cut off date of May 31, 2024, seconded *Board Member Perry Ascher*.

Approved

5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

- ✦ **April 22, 2024 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Doug Craig*.

2024 General Fund Vouchers	#	-	\$	
2024 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	38	-	\$ 38,691.00

Approved

5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- ✦ **April 24, 2024 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Doug Craig*.

2024 General Fund Vouchers	#	119	-	130	\$	7,536.71
2024 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	-	-	-	\$	

Approved

5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

- ✦ **May 13, 2024 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Doug Criag*.

2024 General Fund Vouchers	#	131	-	158	\$	17,199.20
2024 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	39	-	54	\$	39,099.43
2024 ARPA Fund Vouchers	#	-	-	-	\$	

Approved

5 Aye (Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✦ *Arthur Griffith*: equalization rate?
- ✦ *Supervisor Ryan Skoda*: don't know
- ✦ *Arthur Griffith*: shared information about the Mohawk Tribe, Wawyachtonoc Lived in Dutchess and Columbia County eastward to the Housatonic River in Litchfield County Connecticut.
- ✦ *Joyce Thompson*: Thank you all for your hard work.
- ✦ *Celine Kagan*: interested in the PB position.

- ✚ **Arthur Griffith:** Nancy missed the historian county meeting; Bill Better was appointed as the County Historian. Columbia County Historical Society has received money that the local historians can apply for money for their township but there should be a town account setup for that purpose.
- ✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** thank you for the information. Will look into it.

9:05 Executive Session: *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation, seconded by *Board Member Doug Craig*.

Approved 5 Aye (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

9:25 Executive Session: *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* motioned to close Executive Session, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*.

Approved 5 Aye (*Ryan, Elisabeth, Perry, Doug, Linda*)
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

With no further business, on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli*, seconded by *Board Member Doug Craig* the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **June 10, 2024** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: Scott Schneider Arthur Griffith Susan Silverman Bill Hilscher
 Preston Stoner Peggy Cozzolino Roy Cozzolino

Audience via Zoom: Celine Kagan Donay Queenan Joyce Thompson Joanne Klein
 Meredith Glabman