

Approved

March 12, 2018

**February 12, 2018
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Meeting**

6:30 pm: Town Board members audited and signed vouchers.

7 pm: The Taghkanic Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on the above date at the Taghkanic Town Hall. Supervisor Ryan Skoda opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and moment of Silence.

Present:

Ryan Skoda	Supervisor
Arthur McGuire	Board Member
Richard Skoda	Board Member
Linda Swartz	Board Member
Joyce Thompson	Board Member
Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Absent:

Guest Speaker: none

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

January 8, 2018 Organizational: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Richard Skoda, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)
0 Nays
0 Absent

January 8, 2018: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Richard Skoda, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)
0 Nays
0 Absent

January 30, 2018: Town Board meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by Board Member Richard Skoda, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The Correspondence consisted of:

1. NYMIR, recommendation for the town
2. Columbia County Real Property, BAR appointment
3. Virginia Benedict, Letter of Interest for Town Attorney

✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson asked that this letter of interest

be placed in the RFP file for Attorneys.

4. Patty Ultimo, Fingar Insurance, RE: Endorsement
5. James Reynolds, Mid-Hudson Cable, processing of restructuring and establishing an ESOP Trust.
6. NYMIR, appraisal process
7. Janelle Scrivens, National Grid Manager Regional Account Services, initiated a municipality field audit of company – owned street lighting assets
8. Richard Juliano, Chief Technology Officer Col. CO. Share Services agreement
+ Board Member Arthur McGuire motioned to sign the shared service agreement with the Columbia County MIS Dept., seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

9. Columbia County Board of Elections, agreement to use the Town Hall for Elections.
+ Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to sign the agreement with the Board of Elections for the use of the Town Hall for 2018 election, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

10. Lori Yarotsky Executive Director, Columbia County Historical Society
11. Columbia County Free Rabies Clinics
12. Harlan Juster, Director NYS Department of Health, conducting a survey
13. Morgan Stanley, Performance Summary
14. Tara Buffa, Letter of Interest for BAR
+ Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to appoint Tara Buffa as member to the BAR term ending 9-30-2022, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

15. Jason Shelton, General Manager Hilltop Communication, Public Notice
16. Marcus Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive, Think Differently
+ Board Member Joyce Thompson very interested in this and would like to know what is being done on the County level.
+ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: I will find out, we will make this an agenda item for next month

17. DEC announces Annual Tree and Shrubs Seedling Sale
18. Eric Gaylord, resignation from PB
19. National Grid, Gas Pipeline Safety & Compliance

Then followed reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Wes Powell, no report submitted.

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Assessor: Craig Surprise report submitted.

ZEO/CEO/Building Inspector: Dennis Callahan report submitted.

Historian: Nancy Griffith, no report submitted.

Traffic Safety Board: Linda Swartz, report submitted no meeting till January 28th.

Environmental Management Council: Anna Kadish, no report submitted.

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted and read as follows.

Office for the Aging: Joyce Thompson, no report submitted no meeting.

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

Supervisor: Ryan Skoda, report submitted and the written report was available on the back table for the public.

- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: what committees do you serve on at county level?

- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: Public Safety, Soil and Water and Economic Development

Highway: George Hotaling, report submitted.

Financial Advisory Committee Report: Board Member Joyce Thompson reported the following:

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) met on Thursday, 8 February as scheduled.

No issues were found in the audit of the January Transfers, Deposits and Bank Reconciliations.

Separately, the Accountant has raised accounting issues related to the year in which Retirement Payments should be recognized. A Budget Amendment has been proposed for Town Board consideration.

2017 Payables appear to be complete. One Budget Amendment is necessary to address incorrect postings by the Payroll Company.

2017 Receivables (Sales Tax final payment of ~\$63,000) was received on 12 February and will be shown in the February report. The Accountant can now begin the Annual Update Report for 2017.

Advisory Board reports:

Conservation Advisory Committee: Anna Kadish, report submitted.

Taghkanic CAC meeting January 18, 2018

The meeting began at 5:00 PM

Present were Joyce Thompson, Moisha Blechman, Zita Kobos. Anna Kadish and Larry Kadish

Anna mentioned that she had left messages with Sam Pratt about possible future CAC activities at his property sometime during next summer or fall. Since Sam was not at this meeting, we will contact him in the coming weeks or months.

We then began discussing the possibility of Taghkanic becoming a CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY. We were not sure that our Town Board would be interested in doing this, although the members present at this CAC meeting expressed favorable opinions. We will send a summary of this suggestion to Town Board members and ask for their responses. Anna Kadish will write this up and send it to our CAC members for their comments and /or approval. If approved by the CAC we will send it to the town Board. We discussed mechanisms to inform town citizens about this possibility, including available energy fairs, in the area and discussions of energy use and saving, community solar systems, etc.

Since the town of Ancram in Columbia County has done a significant amount of work on this, we decided that asking someone from Ancram, such as Colleen Lutz or Robyn Reynolds or another Ancram CAC member to come and speak to our CAC or our Town Board about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM. The next Taghkanic CAC meeting will be on February 15, 2018.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Arthur McGuire, verbal report submitted.

The Broadband Committee did not meet; have not heard if Phase III has been awarded.

- + Supervisor Ryan Skoda: we are lucky to have GTel as they have started construction all the other companies are going to deal with the fines. All three Phases are to be done by the end of this year.
- + Board Member Joyce Thompson: would like to know why Verizon was awarded money.

Old Business:

1. **Murcott property donation update:** Supervisor Ryan Skoda we are at standstill; paperwork is all drawn up; Mrs. Murcott feels the town should pay for title search.
 - + Board Member Arthur McGuire: property owner is the one who is benefiting.
 - + Arthur Griffith: size of cul-de-sac there?
 - + Supervisor Ryan Skoda: .44 acres and the cul-de-sac built to George's specs.
2. **County Route 15 Complaint:** paperwork is ready to file with the County Court.
3. **PB appointment Joshua Plass:** Board Member Linda Swartz motioned to appoint Joshua Plass to the Planning Board term expiring 12-31-2023, seconded by Board Member Joyce Thompson.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)**
0 Nays
0 Absent

4. **Banking Policies:** Board Member Joyce Thompson: I am reviewing and making suggested changes and will send to the Board Members before the next meeting for their review.

New Business:

A. March 2018 Calendar: Board Member Joyce Thompson moved to accept the March 2018 calendar, seconded by Board Member Arthur McGuire.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)**
 0 Nays
 0 Absent

B. Intro to LL 1-2018: Supervisor Ryan Skoda introduced LL 1-2018. All Board Members agreed they did not want to set this kind of precedent and that the ZBA should make a determination on the case in front of them.

C. Budget Amendment #13-2017: Board Member Arthur McGuire motion to approve Budget Amendment 13-2017, seconded by Board Member Linda Swartz.

Town of Taghkanic			
12-Feb-18		2017 Budget Amendment #13	
GENERAL FUND		Increase	Decrease
RETIREMENT	A9010.8	\$7,958.00	
CONTINGENT	A1990.4		\$7,958.00
		\$7,958.00	\$7,958.00
HIGHWAY FUND			
RETIREMENT	DA9010.8	\$6,122.00	
ROAD REPAIRS PERSONNEL	DA5110.1		\$6,122.00
		\$6,122.00	\$6,122.00

The Retirement System Fiscal Year is 1 April to 31 March and the Town Fiscal Year is 1 January to December 31. Accounting regulations require that when the Retirement payment is made in February, 75% must be recognized in the previous year and 25% in the current year. Having paid Taghkanic's Retirement in January 2018, we must recognize 75% in 2017 and 25% in 2018 budget OR recognize 100% in 2017.

When the bill is paid in December the full amount can be recognized in that year without having to split the total between two budget years.

Our Accountant recommends that we recognize the full 100% for 2018 in 2017 budget and pay 2019 bill in December 2018. It is also recommended that we return to the December payments for future years to keep the accounting simpler.

Approved **5 Aye** **(Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)**
 0 Nays

0 Absent

D. **Budget Amendment #14-2017:** Board Member Arthur McGuire motion to approve Budget Amendment 14-2017, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda

Town of Taghkanic

		12-Feb-18	2017 Budget Amendment #14	
GENERAL FUND			Increase	Decrease
ZONING CLERK PERSONAL	A8010.11		\$112.50	
ZONING COMMISSION CLERK PERSONAL	A8010.12			\$112.50
			\$112.50	\$112.50

This corrects posting errors by the Payroll Company that attribute Zoning Commission payments to the Zoning Clerk line. There is no real shortage on either line.

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✚ **January 30, 2018 Abstract 2017 Payables:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

2018 General Fund Vouchers	# 22 - 40	\$ 13,409.16
2018 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 8 - 9	\$ 5,739.57
2018 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	# 1	\$ 293.55
2018 Escrow Fund Vouchers	# 1 - 2	\$ 871.08

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)
0 Nays
0 Absent

✚ **February 12, 2018 Abstract:** on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda.

2018 General Fund Vouchers	# 1 - 21	\$ 240,731.20
2018 Highway Fund Vouchers	# 1 - 7	\$ 21,890.97
2018 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#	\$
2018 Escrow Fund Vouchers	# 3 - 4	\$ 948.75

Approved 5 Aye (Ryan, Arthur, Joyce, Linda, Richard)
0 Nays
0 Absent

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ Arthur Griffith: wanted to thank DOT for not wasting money on lower speed limit as the potholes are slowing the traffic. Also what is going on with Gas Land?
- ✚ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: they are waiting for DOT and DEC approval.
- ✚ Board Member Joyce Thompson: Introduced information from residents that are interested in doing the Newsletter. Will discuss at March meeting.

With no further business, on a motion by Board Member Linda Swartz, seconded by Board Member Richard Skoda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be March 12, 2018 at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience: Kathy Bainer
Anna Kadish

George Hotaling
Larry Kadish

Arthur Griffith
Ilene

John Thompson
Phil Snackburge