

Approved
3/8/2021

**February 8, 2021
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 February 6, 7, and 8, 2021 separately, due to the COVID-19 social distancing.

7:03 pm: The Taghkanic Town Board held its Organizational and Regular monthly meeting on the above date with a combination of Supervisor Skoda and all other Board Members, Town Clerk and 8 residents attending via Zoom. Supervisor Ryan Skoda opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Present:

Ryan Skoda	Supervisor
Elizabeth Craig	Board Member
Kara Gilmore	Board Member
Linda Swartz	Board Member
Joyce Thompson	Board Member
Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Guest Speaker: Postponed for March 8, 2021 Kelsey Jean West (Cornell), Jo-Anne Humphreys (Trout Unlimited), Audrey Kropp (Cornell) and Tracy Brown (Trout Unlimited) Presentation

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

January 11, 2021, Organizational: Town Board Organizational meeting minutes were accepted as written, motioned by ***Board Member Joyce Thompson***, seconded by ***Board Member Linda Swartz***.

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

January 11, 2021: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written with suggested changes, motioned by ***Board Member Joyce Thompson***, seconded by ***Board Member Linda Swartz***.

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

January 14, 2021: Town Board book auditing meeting minutes were accepted as written, motioned by ***Board Member Joyce Thompson***, seconded by ***Board Member Linda Swartz***.

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

The Correspondence:

1. US Census 2020 Thank you
2. Notice Hecate Energy
3. NYS Department Transportation, SEQR
 - ✦ **Board Member Joyce Thompson:** Which bridge is this referring to?
 - ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** the County is replacing the bridge on County 10 near the Town Hall and the State is replacing a bridge on the Parkway not sure which one.
4. Tony LaSalvia, phone (Clerk called Phone Company on hold for over 45 min. not resolved)
5. Brittany DuFresne | *Mktg & Ops* GTel, email, telephone service plan
 - ✦ **Board Member Kara Gilmore:** phone service from GTel?
 - ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Jason Shelton General Manager of GTel the first project manager mentioned free telephone service but it was not added to the franchise agreement.
 - ✦ **Clerk Rogers:** I will call Brittany tomorrow.
6. Ray Colgrove, town hall maintenance (from last month)
 - ✦ **Board Member Elizabeth Craig:** what is the protocol to responding to a resident's correspondence, how is this handled?
 - ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** I had a conversation with the Acting Superintendent Mike Conn committed to keep up the town hall property.
 - ✦ **Board Member Linda Swartz:** A letter will be written to Ray, correct?
 - ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** yes
 - ✦ **Board Member Kara Gilmore:** town hall parking a lot is in deep need of repair.
 - ✦ **Clerk Rogers:** suggested that maybe the County would be willing to repair the parking lot when they finish replacing the bridge on County 10.

Reports from the Boards:

Animal Control: Kyle Miller, report submitted as follows

For this past month I have 2 reports.

One on Jan. 27th where a woman on Half Circle Drive found 2 stray dogs. She was able to contain them until I arrived. Upon arrival we discovered a phone number on one of the dogs collars and we were able to locate and reunite the owners. The finder also reported a stray cat she had been taking care of since early last year. No owner has come forward yet.

On Feb. 4th I received a report of a stray dog picked up on Taghkanic Rd. The finders had taken the dog back home and located a microchip number on the collar. Using the number I was able to locate the owner and reunite her with the dog.

ZBA: James Romaine, Chair, no report.

Planning Board: Katherine Bainer, Chair report submitted.

Taghkanic Planning Board Monthly Report for January 2021

A Public Hearing was held for Scott Simeral lot line adjustment. There were no public comments. The lot line adjustment was approved.

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, no report no meeting.

Due to the higher COVID 19 numbers, the Public Safety Building was closed to outside meetings, and the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board was therefore not able to meet as scheduled on January 28, 2021.

However, I spoke with Dean Knox at the Columbia County Highway Department, and asked him for information about any County Highway Department projects in or near Columbia County.

Dean advised me that the County is making very good progress on final design of the County Route 10 Bridge in West Taghkanic, and they hope to put the project out for construction bids sometime in February. The bid package will also include a second bridge that is located on County Route 7 near the Ancram/Gallatin Town line. If the County receives good bids in March, they will likely be able to begin work in early June and have the structures completed by late fall 2021. The two-month delay between the receipt of bids (March) to start of construction (June) is due to NYSDEC trout stream restrictions in place for April and May.

The next CCTSB meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2021

Environmental Management Council: Larry Kadish no report submitted:

Zoning Commission: Joyce Thompson, report submitted as follows.

The Zoning Commission met on 4 and 18 January 2021.

As stated in the previous month, review of edits and remaining points for discussion raised by Commission Members or Consultant, Ted Fink, was the focus of both January meetings. The Commission completed this review as planned.

Final rewording on a few paragraphs will be provided by Consultant Ted Fink in early February. Co-Chairs Swartz and Thompson will create the final draft that incorporates all changes agreed to by the Commission or proposed by Consultant Fink over the past few months and distribute it for individual member final review. Any final questions will be addressed at the 15 February meeting. Final approval is expected at that meeting and the Approved Draft #3 will be sent to the Town Board for its review.

All meetings are being held via Zoom from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. and the public is welcome to request a zoom link by emailing joyce.thompson721@gmail.com before noon on the day of the meeting.

STR Sub-Committee: Board Member Elizabeth Craig, Chair report submitted as follows:

Report on STR Subcommittee meetings January 2021; submitted 02.08.2021

- The STR Subcommittee met twice in January '21.
- We continue to work on refining our draft for proposed legislation, and also continue to review adopted or developing local legislation in neighboring towns, as well as in the City of Hudson. We are confident thus far that our own proposals are both in line with prevailing trends and well-tailored to the specific needs of our Town.
- We're also staying abreast of developments at the County level, where it appears a 4% tax on STR income may well be in place by 2022.
- This makes our goal of getting a final draft to the Zoning Commission by the end of March more urgent, as we think this should be included in the new Zoning Code and ready for adoption by the Town Board well before the County moves to tax this income.
- We intend to send a postcard mailer to all residents and property owners in Taghkanic, in an effort to "take the temperature" of public opinion, and ask the Board to approve a budget of \$500 for this purpose, at the Board's earliest convenience. We would like to get some response from residents and property owners before sending our final draft to the ZC. We are nearly finished preparing both the text for the postcard and a similar online survey to get out via the T-gazette.

Board Member Joyce Thompson motioned to approve \$500.00 for the STR Subcommittee to proceed with a postcard mailer to all residents and property owner to gather their opinion on short term rentals in Taghkanic the money will be appropriated from line A8010.41, seconded by **Board Member Linda Swartz**.

Approved

5 Aye

(Ryan, Elizabeth, Joyce, Kara, Linda)

0 Nays

0 Absent

- We're also working on an outline for a public hearing by the STR subcommittee on the subject of STRs in Taghkanic and an effective presentation of the impact on the Town, and regulation of these businesses by the Town of Taghkanic. We'd like to set a date in

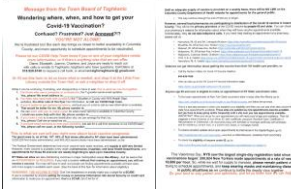
early April for this hearing, as we think this would be good timing, while the matter is still in the hands of the Zoning Commission, and before the final laws are enacted.

- We still need to run our latest draft by the Town’s attorney, and the ZC’s consultant, to get whatever guidance they can offer as to the legal issues that pertain to the proposed regulations. We should have the draft ready for that review by next week.

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

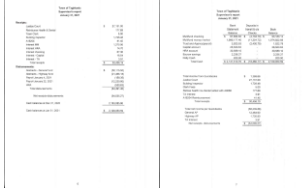
Board Member Joyce Thompson: COVID VACCINE UPDATE: check the County Health Department website <https://www.columbiacountynyhealth.com> for them regularly.

Board Member Elizabeth Craig: I am drafting a flyer to drop off to the people we were contacting early in 2020 at the start of COVID.



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

Supervisor: Ryan Skoda, report submitted as attached.



Highway: George Hotaling, report submitted by Acting Highway Superintendent Michael Conn as attached:



Board Member Kara Gilmore: we now have another tow bill, have we heard anything whether we are covered under the insurance road side assistance coverage?

Clerk Rogers: I sent Mr. Fingar an email still waiting for an answer will call tomorrow.

Truck bids for a Pickup: **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** tabled from last month



Truck Bids for big dump truck to replace #7: **Supervisor Ryan Skoda,** Acting Highway Superintendent Conn has requested quotes for a dump truck but has received only one, he is waiting for more to come in, will table till next month.

Advisory Board reports:

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

The Financial Advisory Committee January financial reports no issue. We do need to approve Budget Amendment #8 as follows: End of Year adjustments:

Town of Taghkanic

08-Feb-21	2020 Budget Amendment #8	
GENERAL FUND	Increase	Decrease
Justice Personal	A1110.1	\$0.08
Garage	A5132.4	\$492.44
Contingency	A1990.40	\$492.52
	\$492.52	\$492.52

Board Member Elizabeth Craig motioned to approve Budget Amendment #8 as presented, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz* as follows:

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

TGazette Newsletter Advisory Committee: Nadja Palenzuela report submitted as follows:

January 30, 2021

Total Sent: 239
Open Rate: 69%
Click-through rate: 74%
Bounces: 4 (all valstar.net accounts)
Unsubscribe: 0

Opens by device: 50% mobile
50% desktop

Posts

407 site sessions are up 39% from last month
612 post views are up 64% from last month 2 new site members, 120 total Vaccinations for COVID-19
most popular Free library next most popular

Facebook

Following: 279

Conservation Advisory Committee: Tony LaSalvia no meeting to report:

Although the CAC has not met this month, Larry, Anna and I met with the Taghkanic Creek Watershed Committee for the first time. At this meeting we met the other participants in a Zoom meeting. We did not do any of the work on the plan itself but will be meeting on Jan 27 to set up goals and strategies. We will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month for the months leading into summer.

Broadband Advisory Committee: Arthur McGuire, no report submitted.

Old Business:

1. **County Route 15 Complaint:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* nothing new to report Executive Order in place no evictions until May 1, 2021.
 - + *Board Member Elizabeth Craig:* would it be worth contracting a state representative? The Executive Order is on evictions, can we do anything with the vehicles?
 - + *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* Attorney Howard and I have been researching every avenue. I will contact Attorney Howard about the vehicles. If you remember correctly, we were ready to move with sale in 2019; Mr. Heesch hired a new attorney and filed just cause which held up the sale.
 - + *John Thompson:* what happened to all the fines he owes?
 - + *Judy Thompson:* why does the town have zoning laws?
 - + *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* we understand your frustration. The Town has liens on everything he owns. All the fines are gathering interest which is giving the town more leverage with the judgment Mr. Heesch signed promising to pay \$300.00 a week.
 - + *Board Member Kara Gilmore:* The Executive Order is the hold up
 - + *Board Member Elizabeth Craig:* does the town get all the proceeds or just what is owed. So, at the auctions it sells for \$50,000 we get all the money.
 - + *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* Correct, the town would get up to what the fines are with interest.
 - + *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* I will keep John and Judy Thompson (jude052664@gmail.com) in the loop.
2. **Highway Facility:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda:* still on hold waiting for DEC's decision on the proposed Soil Management Plan submitted months ago.
3. **Culvert Inventory:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson:* presentation from Kelsey Jean West (Cornell), Jo-Anne Humphreys (Trout Unlimited), Audrey Kropp (Cornell) and Tracy Brown (Trout Unlimited) has been postponed till next month March 8, 2021.
4. **Police Reinvention Program - Progress Report:** *Supervisor Rya Skoda:* nothing new to report.
Board Member Joyce Thompson: I have been following and all are welcome to do the same (To watch recordings or read transcripts of what has been presented to date, go to <https://sites.google.com/columbiacountyny.com/police-reform-panel>.)
5. **NYS Public Employer Mandatory Health Emergency Plan:** *Board Member Elizabeth Craig:* draft has been submitted to the Teamster Union for their review, awaiting their response.
6. **2021 Resolutions:** *Board Member Joyce Thompson* motioned to approve the following Resolutions with suggested changes and for further review when the time clock procedures have been set in stone, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

- Resolution # 9 Cash Disbursement Procedures
- Resolution # 10 Electronic Banking Resolutions

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

New Business:

A. April 2021 Calendar: *Board Member Linda Swartz* moved to accept the April 2021 calendar with suggested changes, seconded by *Board Member Joyce Thompson*.

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

B. Resolution # 11 In Support of Upholding Local Zoning: *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to approve Resolutions In Support of Upholding Local Zoning as presented, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz*.

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

C. COVID Point Resolution:

- **Resolution # 12 for Taghkanic Fire Company COVID Point:** *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to approve Taghkanic Fire Company COVID Point Resolution, seconded by *Board Member Joyce Thompson*.

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

- **Resolution # 13 for Churchtown Fire Company COVID Point:** *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to approve Churchtown Fire Company COVID Point Resolution, seconded by *Board Member Joyce Thompson*.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✚ **January 25, 2021 2020 Payables Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Joyce Thompson*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz*.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	435	-	\$	295.50
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	206	-	\$	1,862.78

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

✦ **January 25, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Joyce Thompson*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz*.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	24	-	23	\$	3,187.64
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	2	-		\$	6,008.80

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

✦ **February 8, 2021 2020 Payables Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Joyce Thompson*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz*.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	436	-		\$	7,976.00
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#		-		\$	
2020 Hwy Project Fund vouchers	#		-		\$	

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

✦ **February 8, 2021 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Joyce Thompson*, was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Linda Swartz*.

2020 General Fund Vouchers	#	33	-	57	\$	273,362.45
2020 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	3	-	17	\$	31,171.51

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment: none

8:44 pm Executive Session: *Supervisor Ryan Skoda* asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss Contract modification, seconded by *Board Member Kara Gilmore*.

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

9:13 pm Exit Executive Session: *Board Member Linda Swartz* motioned to exit Executive Session, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

With no further business, on a motion by *Board Member Linda Swartz*, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* the meeting was adjourned at **9:13 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular meeting will be **March 8, 2021** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall:

<u>Audience via Zoom:</u>	Larry Kadish	Anna Kadish	Perry Ascher	Nadja Palenzuela
	Stephen Fass	John Thompson	Judy Thompson	Joanne Klein
	Meridith Glabman			