

Approved
12/11/2023

November 13, 2023
Town of Taghkanic
Town Board Meeting

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

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, 6 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
Elisabeth Albert	Board Member
Elizabeth Craig	Board Member
Kara Gilmore	Board Member
Linda Mirabelli	Board Member
Cheryl Rogers	Clerk

Absent:

7 pm: Public Hearing 2024 Preliminary Budget: **Supervisor Ryan Skoda** opened the Public hearing for the 2024 Preliminary Budget asking for any questions, comments or concerns.

- ✦ Supervisor Ryan Skoda: we have two changes one up and one down
 1. Assessor requested a raise 1355.1 Assessor Contractual raise form \$17,500 to \$18,500.
 2. General Hospitalization 9060.8 change from \$45,700 to \$42,399.

Town Board all agreed to the changes.

- ✦ **Arthur Griffith:** will there be an increase in the tax rate.
- ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** we are staying with in our tax cap.
- ✦ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** any further question, comments, or concerns

7:05 pm: Supervisor Ryan Skoda closed the Public Hearing 2024 Preliminary Budget.

Guest Speaker: Superintendent Benjamin Bragg, and Ryan Smith, Business Administrator Germantown Central School District. The Board of Education passed a resolution at its November 1, 2023 meeting to put forth a 2023 Capital Improvements Project Bond to voters on December 19, 2023. We are here tonight to review the scope, timeline and financing of the proposed 2023 Capital Improvements Project. There is a Public Information Session being held on November 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm and presentation/walk-thru December 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Germantown CSD. https://youtu.be/FZX-TNAG_Ug

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

October 9, 2023: Town Board Regular meeting minutes were accepted as written with

suggested changes and amendment 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

October 16, 2023: Town Board Budget Workshop meeting minutes were accepted as written on a motion by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** seconded by **Board Member Kara Gilmore**

Approved: 4 Ayes (Ryan, Elisabeth, Kara, Linda)
0 Nays
0 Absent
1 Abstained (Elizabeth)

The Correspondence:

- ✚ Donald MacCormack, Bank of Greene County
- ✚ Diana Carter, Director of Planning, NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- ✚ Robert Fitzsimmons, email
- ✚ Monica Cleveland, RMC Town of Ancram, PH Notice
- ✚ James Romaine, letter of interest
- ✚ KISS Bins November 27, 2023 thru December 8, 2023 Time: Tuesday: 2-5pm, Wed 9-Noon & Thursday and Friday: 9-3pm
- ✚ Peter Paden, letter of interest
- ✚ Joshua Plass, letter of interest
- ✚ Joseph Coradato, letter of interest

Appointments will be made at the December meeting. Board held a discussion concerning attendance, monthly reports and training requirements for the ZBA and PB. Supervisor Ryan Skoda will send an email to the Chairs with the boards concerns about monthly reports, attendance and training requirements.

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 October
There were no meetings in October

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.

No Traffic Safety Board report this month. We are scheduled to meet on November 16th and I will have a report for the December meeting.

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:



- **Blower Quote: Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Superintendent Burns has provided us with a quote for a State Contracted BUFFALO TURBINE BT-CPTO \$ 7,699.00 \$ 7,699.00 X 1 = \$ 7,699.00

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned to approve the purchase of BUFFALO TURBINE BT-CPTO \$ 7,699.00, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

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

- **Generator: Supervisor Ryan Skoda** I contacted Phil Schnackenberg requested he update his quote with the additional information on the two heat pumps for the garage and ask him to factor the additional energy needs I have not received the updated quote.

Advisory Board reports:

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

Financial Advisory Report to the Town Board
13 November 2023

The FAC met on Thursday, 8 November, as scheduled. Chair Thompson did not attend. Discrepancies related to deposits were resolved in conference with the Town Clerk following the meeting. Questions about the interest rate were also resolved by the Town Clerk. Board Member Mirabelli and Town Clerk Rogers agreed to sit with the FAC members in the near future to review documentation requirements and make the process smoother.

Bank Interest Rate

Supervisor Skoda and Town Clerk Rogers followed up on the board plan to address a continuing low interest rate for town money market funds. The bank has agreed to apply 2.75% interest to our accounts going forward and 5% for CDs. For the month of October an averaged rate of 1.94% was applied to the accounts because the change occurred mid-month.

Certificates of Deposit

Three CDs are now in place. Two \$500K CDs for 6 months and one \$500K for 3 months. Supervisor Skoda has more information on the distribution.

Highway Fund

General Repair Payroll (April-October) requires more funding because there was no budgeting for overtime or the summer employee approved after the budget was set. The exact amount is not yet clear because there are posting discrepancies that need to be resolved. The FAC recommends that the Board

wait for the correct amount before doing the required budget amendment. It will be ready for the December meeting review.

Budget Amendment #10-2023 addresses a higher than estimated bond payment of \$8,990 for and \$0.13 for the Bond Interest payment. A total of \$8,990.13 will be deducted from Appropriated Fund Balance (Use of Fund Balance) to cover this increase. After this amendment the remaining Appropriated FB set aside for the 2023 Budget is \$47,399.

General Fund

Budget Amendment #10-2023 also addresses an increase on the bookkeeper line of \$500 is proposed to cover \$12.40 overage and two more months of work.

Budget Amendment #11-2023 addresses the unbudgeted cost of replacing all lighting in Town Hall and the Highway Garage with LED bulbs. ARPA funds will cover the total cost of \$2,722.37.

Budget Amendment #11-2023 documents this transaction.

The following Budget Amendments are needed.

Town of Taghkanic				
13-Nov-23	Budget Amendment #10-2023			
			Increase	Decrease
GENERAL FUND				
BOOKKEEPER	A1340.1		500.00	
ASSESSOR EQUIPMENT	A1355.2			500.00
			500.00	500.00
HIGHWAY FUND				
BONDS PRINCIPAL	DA9710.6		8,990.00	
BONDS INTEREST	DA9701.7		0.13	
USE OF FUND BALANCE	DA9100			8,990.13
			8,990.13	8,990.13

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned to approve Budget Amendment #10 – 2023 as presented, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*.

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

0 Nays

0 Absent

Town of Taghkanic				
13-Nov-23	Budget Amendment #11-2023			
<i>Accounting for use of ARPA funds for Infrastructure Repair</i>				
-To recognize funds earned for ARPA in the General A FUND				
			Debit	Credit
OTHER LIABILITY-ARPA FUNDS	A688		86,548.40	
FEDERAL AID	A4089			2,722.37

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
		Budget Amendment #11-2023		
	13-Nov-23		Increase	Increase
GENERAL FUND				
	FEDERAL AID	A4089		2,722.37
	TOWN HALL	A1620.4	605.75	
	GARAGE	A5132.4	2,116.62	
			2,722.37	2,722.37

Board Member Linda Mirabelli motioned to approve Budget Amendment #11 – 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

Oct 26, 2023 Town of Taghkanic Minutes of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force
Present were Doug Craig, Betsy Albert, Bob Brush, Larry Kadish, Perry Ascher, Jean Feinberg, Peter Paden, Charlene, Paden, Celine Kagen, David Koehler.

1. The September meeting minutes were approved.
2. Meeting Format. Discussion of how to manage length of meetings while still addressing agenda items completely. Agreed to target length of 60 to 90 minutes per meeting. Ok to bump agenda items up if someone who has a particular interest has to leave early. If discussion becomes too lengthy for a particular agenda item, the interested parties can continue conversation after regular meeting
3. Taghkanic Talks. Agreed that the umbrella of TT should scope beyond the stated role of our committee and include topics beyond climate mitigation and adaption issues. Depending on the type of presentation, Bob will promote at EMC meetings and we will try to cross share events with nearby communities so that we can coat tail on theirs (ie recent Ancram presentation) and they can do the same with ours (ie more communities promoting and attending Affordable Housing presentation). Betsy will contact Joyce about best persons to contact in surrounding towns to share info on their Town newsletters and social media. Perry will connect with journalist Diane Valden. Robin Randisi (bless her heart [a motion was made to bless Robin's heart, was seconded, and the motion to bless her heart was passed unanimously) has hugely magnified our social media presence and we will utilize FB and IG as well.
4. Discussion of 2024 tree planting campaign. As presented by David Newman at the 9/25/23 EMC meeting, the goal is to plant 1000 trees in the County on Earth Day or Arbor Day. Potential project locations are the Hudson High School, and the Greenport Conservation Area or other CLC Conservation Areas. Newman would like to involve high school students, the CCCSCTF and other organizations to volunteer and participate in the planning process. Funding will be raised through private donations and grants. There will be a tree give-away for participants. The EMC resolved to appoint Barbara Hughey of Germantown to represent the EMC on the steering committee. Our own Tim Kennelty and Doug Craig are also members of the steering committee, which will meet on 10/30.

5. (Home Grown National Parks) We also discussed the idea of finding a location in Taghkanic to plant a public Home Grown National Park – something that can be seen by the public. The possibility of asking Priscilla Woolworth if she would offer part of her property on Old 82 was mentioned. A more extensive discussion of HGNP was put off until next month.
6. Heat Smart Campaign. Discussion of EMC info – the County has passed the Tier 2 mark and has been awarded additional grant monies. It was suggested at the EMC mtg that individual communities investigate how many heat pump installations have occurred in their communities after 6/1/23. The Capital District Community Energy group (Christina Bohnsack) needs date of completion, type of system (make and model) and address of installation. Betsy will check with Building Inspector if this information is available. (We aren't sure Taghkanic requires a permit for heat pump installation). Doug indicated that he did submit a scoping document for Taghkanic to participate in the County Heat Smart Campaign, and he will check on that.
7. Solar/Heat Pumps for Garage – Required Public request for bids was placed with no additional bids. Betsy and Doug will review two proposals and Doug will apply for grant.
8. Report on Repair Café held 9/23/23 at Roe Jan Library. Taghkanic co-sponsored event (thank you Perry for your efforts) and Ray and Debbie Colgrove and Andrew Soltano participated as “fixers”. Close to 60 people showed up for the 4 hour event. There were 13 “fixers” (knife sharpening, jewelry, furniture and bike repair, sewing and more). Extremely successful event, need a bigger space – it was suggested the Taghkanic Firehouse for the next one. Possible improvements to future events included scheduling repair appts to avoid long waits, and a fund to purchase needed parts and tools.
9. Taghkanic Talks Schedule – will discuss at next mtg when Tim is present.
10. Regenerating Life video – some concern about message, members agreed to see whole thing before we decide to promote, will be shown at Claverack Library in near future.

Board Member Elisabeth Albert: Solstice Community Solar Partnership with Taghkanic. The Board will discuss at the December meeting.

Digital Communication Advisory Committee: *Betsy Albert:* next meeting December 1, 2023.

Old Business:

1. **Zoning Law Review:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda,* Attorney Fitzsimmons is reviewing.
2. **STR Regulations:** *Supervisor Ryan Skoda,* are there any further questions or concerns from the Board? Hearing none motion to set the Public Hearing.

Board Member Elisabeth Albert motioned to set the STR Regulations Public Hearing for December 4, 2023 at 7 pm at the Taghkanic Fire House with a Town Board workshop at 6 pm, seconded by **Board Member Kara Gilmore.**

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

3. **Answer for vested LOSAP participants:**
 🚩 *Supervisor Skoda:* Attorney Howard, Attorney Fitzsimmons for Claverack, LOSAP Attorney Hannigan, Penflex and State Comptroller holding weekly meeting.
4. **Resolution Creating a Fire District:** Tabled

5. Application to the Comptroller: Tabled

New Business:

A. Tax Cap 2024 *Board Member Kara Gilmore* motioned to stay within our **2024** Tax Cap, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

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

B. 2024 Budget: *Board Member Elisabeth Albert* motioned to approve the 2023 Preliminary as the 2024 Budget, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*

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

C. Deferred Comp Plan Resolution: *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to approve Resolution 16 – 2023 Adoption of The State of New York Deferred Compensation Plan, seconded by *Board Member Kara Gilmore*.

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

D. Resolution Exempting Certain Referrals Mandated by General Municipal Law Section 239-m: *Board Member Elizabeth Craig* motioned to approve Resolution 17 – 2023 Exempting Certain Referrals Mandated by General Municipal Law Section 239-m, seconded by *Board Member Kara Gilmore*.

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

E. January 2024 Calendar: *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* motioned to approve the January 2024 calendar, seconded by *Board Member Elisabeth Albert*.

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

The bills were audited and approved for payment as follows:

✚ **October 23, 2023 Abstract:** on a motion by *Board Member Linda Mirabelli* was approved for payment, seconded by *Board Member Elizabeth Craig*.

2023 General Fund Vouchers	#	325	-	337	\$	29,456.04
2023 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	-	-	-	\$	
2023 Escrow	#	-	-	-	\$	

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

✚ **November 13, 2023 Abstract:** on a motion by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** was approved for payment, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

2023 General Fund Vouchers	#	338	-	361	\$	12,109.94
2023 Highway Fund Vouchers	#	141	-	152	\$	43,230.61

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

The following people commented during the fifteen minute public comment:

- ✚ **Board Member Elisabeth Albert:** conversation with Dennis Callahan looking for an assistant ZEO to start to train.
- ✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** Dennis and I have discussed this I have given him permission to look for someone with hopes that you all agree. We have the money in the budget appropriated under Clerk Personnel 3620.11; he does not have a clerk at this time. All Board Members Agree.
- ✚ **Richard Morraty:** issue with the maintenance of Greely Road, requested the Board speak to Superintendent Burns.
- ✚ **Supervisor Ryan Skoda:** I will contact him.

8:47 pm Executive Session: **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** motioned to enter Executive Session concerning contract negotiations, seconded by **Board Member Elizabeth Craig**.

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

9:05 pm Closed Executive Session: **Board Member Linda Mirabelli** to exit Executive Session, seconded by **Board Member Kara Gilmore**.

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

With no further business, on a motion by **Board Member Linda Mirabelli**, seconded by **Board Member Kara Gilmore** the meeting was adjourned at **9:05 pm**, carried unanimously by all members present. The next Regular Town Board meeting will be **December 11, 2023** at the Taghkanic Town Hall.

Audience at Town Hall: Perry Ascher Peter Beck Benjam Bragg Ryan Smith
Arthur Griffith Richard Morraty

Audience via Zoom: Celine Kagan Steven Smollens Doug Craig Sherrill Kurland