

**TAGHKANIC FIRE DISTRICT
Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes**

Date: July 7, 2026

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Taghkanic Fire House, 631 Old Route 82, Taghkanic, NY

I. Call to Order at 7:41 p.m

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call:

- Jeff Browne - present - Abbie Hodgson - present - Vinnie Kobos - present
- Scott Marinoff - present - Andrew Soltano - present

Others Present: Carmen Nero - Treasurer, Renée Nostrand - Secretary, Bill Hilscher - Chief,
Kali Soltano, Erin Soltano, Paul Nostrand - Director (entered at 7:59 p.m.)

IV. Public Comment - none

V. Reports

a. Secretary's Report

i. Approval of Prior Month's Minutes - June 2, 2026

Motion by Vinnie Kobos, to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2026 as amended, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0, Abstention 1 (AH)

ii. Review of Budget Timelines - Renée noted the budget timelines below:

- **July, August & September:** Budget Preparation & Workshops
- **September 29, 2026** - last day to prepare and adopt proposed budget
- **September 30, 2026** - earliest possible date to post Notice of Budget Hearing on Fire District & Town websites
- **October 1, 2026** - Commissioner vacancy for ballot
- **October 14, 2026** - Last day to publish Notice of Public Hearing
- **October 20, 2026** - BUDGET HEARING
- **October** - request roll of eligible voters from County Board of Elections
- **November 4, 2026** - LAST DAY TO ADOPT FINAL BUDGET & earliest date to publish Notice of Annual Election
- **November 7, 2026** - last day to deliver budget to town
- **November 11, 2026** - last day to publish Notice of Election
- **November 18, 2026** - last day for Commissioner Candidates to submit name to Secretary to run for District office in order to have name placed on ballot
- **November 23, 2026** - last date for posting Notice of Election on website, signboard & town website
- **December 8, 2026** - ANNUAL ELECTION

b. Treasurer's Report

i. Treasurer's Monthly Report - June expenses - \$134,351.04, Balance - \$354,517.00, Income - none, Balance with unassigned carryover - \$413,407.73 (\$48,890.00)

ii. Budget-to-Actual Report - Treasurer reviewed with the Commissioners.

Commissioners asked for clearer printing of reports moving forward.

Commissioners noted that we will need the 2% tax increase amount before we start the budget process.

Carmen is looking for an invoice from MES in order to pay them. Bill will check on it.

c. Chair's Report - Chief's vehicle has been ordered, should be delivered in about 8 weeks.

The Chief's mobile radio isn't working. Bill noted he has an appointment tomorrow morning to see if the unit can be repaired, if not, a replacement would cost approximately \$5,000.

Andrew noted there hasn't been any word from the Gallatin attorney.

d. Chief's Report - Bill reported that there were lots of calls this past week.

Repairs on trucks have been done.

He has ordered nozzles.

The chief vehicle bid was won by DePaula.

Tom Herishko is working on a grant to get additional AED pads.

e. Standing Committee Reports

- **Finance** - none

- **Tech** - Scott reported that he has completely revamped the Fire District website. He also has created .gov emails for all of us and will emailing the directions so we can set that up.

- **Communication** - Abbie reported that she has heard anything back from the Comptroller's office regarding Churchtown. We should be hearing back on the SCBA grant sometime in August and in September for the Station #2 grant.

- **Facility/Equipment Maintenance** - none

- **Training & Safety** - Vinnie reported that all testing requirements have been completed. He would like to see us have a firefighter rehab policy. All were in agreement. Vinnie worked up a draft policy and gave it to the Secretary to work on. Will put on the August agenda.

VI. Old Business

a. Revisit Driving Policy & Language Around Intersections - Reviewed and discussed concerns from the firefighters and made some changes:

- clarified guidelines for driving through intersections

- cumulative penalties are now for multiple at-fault incidents within a 10year window, rather than over the course of the member's career

Motion by Abbie Hodgson, to accept the changes as noted above, second by Andrew Soltano. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

VII. New Business

a. Review and Approval of Current Month's Invoices

- Labor: Treasurer - \$500, Secretary - \$500
- Garrison Fire & Rescue Corp. - \$5,640.38

Motion by Abbie Hodgson, to approve the current month's invoices, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

b. Set Budget Workshop Dates - will have workshops during regular meetings as needed.

c. Movement of Funds

Motion by Abbie Hodgson to move budget line item for gas in the amount of \$10,000 to budget line for equipment, second by Scott Marinoff. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

d. Executive Session

Motion by Jeff Browne for Commissioners to move into executive session at 9:01 p.m. to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person, second by Scott Marinoff. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

The Commissioners returned to open session at 9:09 p.m.

Motion by Jeff Browne that firefighters that have not completed necessary training by the end dates prescribed will be suspended, second by Scott Marinoff. Ayes 4, Nays 1 (AH). Motion carried.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by Jeff Browne to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.