

TAGHKANIC FIRE DISTRICT
Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes

Date: August 4, 2026

Time: 7:30 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order at 7:34 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: Tony LaSalvia - Director (left 9:10 p.m.), Paul Nostrand - Director, Bill Hilscher - Chief (left 9:20 p.m.), Arthur McGuire- Director (left 9:15 p.m.), Renée Nostrand -Secretary, Carmen Nero - Treasurer

IV. Public Comment - none

V. Reports

a. Secretary's Report

i. Approval of Prior Month's Minutes - July 7, 2026

Motion by Abbie Hodgson to approve the minutes of July 7, 2026 with one clerical correction, second by Andrew Soltano. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

b. Treasurer's Report

i. **Treasurer's Monthly Report** - July Expenses: \$8,780.14, Income - \$27.90
Balance - \$355,794.82,

ii. **Budget-to-Actual Report** - was reviewed.

c. Chair's Report - none

d. Chief's Report - Bill reported that the AEDs have arrived, boots are also in for new members. Hose and ladder testing has been completed and the Chief handed in the report that is to be kept on file. Requesting to purchase 10 sections of 5" hose. Received quotes for the hose. One of the manufacturers makes a substantially lighter in weight hose and that would be better for all to use. Reported that the fire company has had 76 calls to date. Bill handed in the bids for the AEDs that were purchased.

e. Standing Committee Reports

- **Finance** - none

- **Tech** -Scott checked in to see if everyone was good with the new emails. Offered to assist if needed.

- **Communication** - none

- **Facility/Equipment Maintenance** -none

- **Training & Safety** - none

VI. Old Business - none

VII. New Business

a. **Review and Approval of Current Month's Invoices**

- Labor: Treasurer - \$500, Secretary - \$500
- Garrison Fire & Rescue Corp. - \$139.60
- UHY Advisors, Inc. - \$3,622.50
- Luke's Garage - \$130, \$813.40, \$856.21, \$844.95
- Stryker Sales - \$338.12

Motion by Jeff Browne to approve the current month's invoices as presented, second by Vinnie Kobos. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

b. **Churchtown Fire Correspondence** - Abbie reported that we received a letter from Churchtown Fire offering some of their equipment for purchase since they are no longer functioning as a fire company and offered to have equipment housed at their building for an agreeable leasing agreement. The other Columbia County fire companies have also received similar correspondence. We have reviewed this correspondence with our attorney. Abbie drafted a response stating that we are not in a position to purchase the vehicles or to enter into a proposed long-term payment arrangement. However, if they would be willing to donate any equipment so that it can remain in service to the community for which it was originally purchased, we would be interested in certain items, for e.g., Cascade filling station, gear drying racks, radios and pagers. Abbie will send out our response.

c. **Firefighter Rehabilitation (Rehab) Guidelines** - Draft document was reviewed and comments and suggestions were made. Will be brought back for review in October, after budget work is completed so we can give it the proper attention.

Motion by Abbie Hodgson, to table the review of the Firefighter Rehabilitation (Rehab) Guidelines until October 2026, second by Andrew Soltano. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

d. **Consideration of new firefighter candidate for membership Erich Schaeffer.**

The fire company received an application for membership from Erich Schaeffer. Director Paul Nostrand vetted the candidate and brought it to the fire company for their approval. Approval was given by the fire company.

Motion by Abbie Hodgson to move into Executive Session at 8:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

No formal minutes or actions were taken in the Executive Session.

Motion by Vinnie Kobos to move out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m., second by Scott Marinoff. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Andrew Soltano to approve and accept Erich Schaeffer as a member of the Taghkanic Fire Company, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

d. **Budget Discussion** - Abbie led the discussion for the 2027 budget review. Tony reviewed the 2027 budget proposal from the Fire Company, noting that there are some projects that need to be done that fall under the building maintenance, building improvements and repairs - roof, lock system, door replacement. Commissioners asked for the Directors to review the proposed budget and see if there is any place they might be able to reduce it. Abbie reviewed the various sections of the proposed budget followed by discussion. Will work on numbers and bring back to the September meeting.

VIII. Adjourn - Motion by Jeff Browne, to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m., second by Abbie Hodgson. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.