

Town Board meeting minutes of December 12, 2005, held at the Germantown Town Hall, commencing at 7:30 pm.

Present: Supervisor, Alan Liepshutz
Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman, Graceann Lamberta
Councilwoman, Donna Diehl
Councilman, Anthony Cidras
Councilman, Andrew Marchisio
Highway Superintendent, Mike Lawson

Recording Secretary: Town Clerk, Charlene Diehl

Reporter: Debora Gilbert, The Independent

Supervisor Liepshutz led the Pledge to the Flag.

The Town Clerk announced that the Deputy Town Clerk, Phyllis Taddeo, tendered her resignation, effective December 31, 2005.

The Clerk also announced a poster contest being sponsored by the Department of Environmental Conservation; if anyone is interested contact the Clerk for details.

On a motion made by Councilman Cidras, and seconded by Councilman Marchisio, the minutes for the November Town Board meeting and the November 20 Special Meeting were approved, with a minor attendance correction to be made in the November 20th minutes; all in favor, none opposed.

Supervisor Liepshutz filed his monthly reports with the clerk and said that \$22,000 will be deposited for the Parsonage roof.

Supervisor Liepshutz read a letter of resignation from Mike Lawson as his job as dog control officer, effective January 31, 2006. Mr. Lawson states the need for the town to have a dedicated dog control officer.

The Supervisor indicated that as of December 1, 2005, New York State is waiving the sales tax on solar energy panels and systems, for any interested parties to note. He also indicated that Congressman Sweeney will be faxing to him a listing of all grants available.

There will be a Christmas party at the Activities Building on December 16th at 5:00 to benefit the children of the town. The nativity scene has been placed on George Fox's property and that Santa will be in attendance at the party.

After informing the board that an invoice from the lawyer for \$2,739 was to be attached to the voucher, Councilman Marchisio made a motion to pay bills pursuant to the Abstract dated December 12, 2005. Councilman Cidras seconded, with all in favor, none opposed.

After a question by Debora Gilbert about the year-end meeting, the Supervisor and board confirmed it will be held on Thursday, December 22nd at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

The Supervisor told the board and public that he had a meeting with Dept of Transportation, the County engineer and incoming Supervisor Roy Brown regarding the sidewalk project. Reimbursement can only be made after the project has been completed and that there has been a 10-15% increase in costs since the original project began.

Old Business

Supervisor Liepshutz went through some highlights from workshop minutes:

December 1st: approved frame repair on town truck that had rusted but was worth fixing, approved budget of \$2,000 for a maintenance 'secure' area to be built to hold valuable supplies.

December 8th: Osgood presented Comprehensive Plan Analysis Survey draft to the board and answered questions, executive session re. Employee medical coverage and IRS issues pending from 1999.

The Supervisor wants approval to accept the final version of the comprehensive analysis community survey, after the format has been amended to be more user-friendly. Councilwoman Diehl made a motion to approve the mailing and Councilman Marchisio seconded.

Supervisor Liepshutz: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye
Councilman Cidras: Aye

Supervisor Liepshutz presented the sexual harassment/harassment policy to be added per the insurance company, to reduce premium costs to the town. He went through the additions to the policy manual to be incorporated. A motion was made to accept the amendments regarding sexual harassment, visitors, and firearms and personal equipment by Councilman Cidras and seconded by Councilman Marchisio.

Supervisor Liepshutz: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye
Councilwoman Diehl: Aye

The annual Sewer audit needs to be completed; Supervisor Liepshutz is waiting to do it at a workshop but wanted the board to know it's an unfinished task they need to address.

Councilwoman Diehl thanked the volunteers who helped cook and serve the more than 70 dinners delivered on Thanksgiving.

New Business

The Supervisor informed the board that there is a Planning Board appointment to be made by the end of the year and that 2 will be available at the beginning of the year due to two members becoming councilpersons.

Supervisor Liepshutz presented a resolution to amend the Highway Law to give the Highway Department authorization to place stop signs at all Germantown town roads intersecting with another town road, as the lack of traffic control devices could be a liability to the town. Councilwoman Diehl made a motion to accept the resolution and Councilman Cidras seconded.

Supervisor Liepshutz: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye
Councilman Marchisio: Aye

The Supervisor also brought up the Highway law pertaining to the Highway Superintendent's authority to remove obstructions while removing snow and ice – the Highway Superintendent is responsible for snow removal, not the Supervisor.

Supervisor Liepshutz will follow-up with the board the easement for Anchorage Road at Thursday's workshop.

Responding to a question from the audience about a car that is sitting at the Park, the Supervisor indicated the car had been donated to the town for the proceeds to be used to benefit the town, and there is no set price on the car, a 1990 Buick Century.

Resident Schuenhoff asked about getting copies of the additions to the policy manual, and Supervisor Liepshutz indicated he will provide them.

Supervisor Liepshutz thanked his supporters and offered his assistance to Roy Brown, as needed. He indicated the Comprehensive Plan is part of his legacy and he's looking forward to the town continuing to do good work; he will be here to help.

Councilwoman Lamberta thanked Councilwoman Diehl, Councilman Marchisio and Highway Superintendent Mike Lawson as well as Supervisor Liepshutz and gave a statement expressing her appreciation. (statement follows minutes)

A motion to go into Executive session to discuss union negotiations, a non-tenured highway employee who is leaving and payout issue, assessment hearing that has been adjourned and a highway employee's time was made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilman Cidras with all in favor, none opposed at 8:20 pm.

Motion to come out of Executive session made at 9:20 by Supervisor Liepshutz and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Liepshutz stated that no formal actions were taken during Executive session.

The non-tenured Highway employee will be afforded the privilege of the Policy Manual.

Jason Shaw, the new town attorney effective January 1, 2006 will be given information pertaining to the assessor hearings that have been adjourned until after the new year.

The current town attorney is moving forward with the union representation that has been underway, and will address it on Thursday.

Councilman Marchisio made a motion to adjourn and Councilwoman Diehl seconded it at 9:12pm, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Diehl