

Minutes of the Regular/Organizational meeting of the Germantown Town Board, held January 10, 2005 at the Germantown Town Hall, commencing at 7:30pm.

Present: Supervisor, Alan Liepshutz
Councilwoman, Graceann Lamberta
Councilwoman, Donna Diehl
Councilman, Anthony Cidras
Councilman, Andrew Marchisio
Deputy Highway Superintendent, Joe Hull
Lawyer, James Peluso

Recording Secretary: Town Clerk, Charlene Diehl

Reporters: Debora Gilbert, The Independent

Supervisor Liepshutz called the meeting to order at 7:47pm and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion made by Councilwoman Lamberta, and seconded by Councilwoman Diehl, to approve the budget meeting minutes, the December 13 meeting minutes, and the year-end meeting minutes. All in favor, none opposed.

The supervisor filed his monthly report, capital reserve report and bank balance statement with the clerk.

Supervisor Liepshutz confirmed with the Town Clerk that the applicable oaths of office had been filed. She reported that all but two have been filed.

Supervisor Liepshutz thanked George and Diane Fox for letting the town use their front lawn for the holidays, Mr. Marchisio and the highway department as well, and said the holiday decorations are down, thanking everyone who helped. He also reported he had received a letter from NYMIR that no claims had been filed in the previous 6 months, but he knows a claim was filed December 19th regarding a car running off into a ditch and has been forwarded.

Supervisor Liepshutz thanked the board for their support and looks forward to another year of service.

Councilman Marchisio made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cidras, to pay the audited bills in the abstract dated 1/10/05. All in favor, none opposed.

Privilege of Floor

Planning Board Chairman Joel Craig thanked the board for letting him serve as chairman and gave a brief overview of Town Law and Ordinances pertaining to the Planning Board and its responsibilities and charges. He also talked about the Taconic Farms issue, and ran through the Site Plan Procedures and Standards process.

(Councilwoman Diehl left the meeting)

Highway employee Richard Jennings questioned the procedure involved for reimbursement pertaining to the IRS issue - Supervisor Liepshutz said documentation that he paid an accountant to amend his taxes would be sufficient.

Councilman Marchisio agreed with Joel Craig's statements regarding the Planning Board and said the town board should not be writing letters about Taconic Farms pro or con. Councilwoman Lamberta recalled that Joe Phelan from Taconic Farms had asked the board to write a letter about the location of the Taconic Farms administrative building being discussed.

Supervisor Liepshutz apologized to Joel Craig for comments that were taken out of context and published in the newspaper.

Standing Committees

The insurance company wants to cut a check for \$75,000 but Supervisor Liepshutz has determined there are various lateral hookups that are deficient and has asked George to come up with any information to relay to the attorney about this inaccuracy, which needs to be corrected before they sign off. The insurance company is ready to settle but Supervisor Liepshutz said he knows several homes are off, and more than a little and is asking for assistance from the board.

The Parsonage roof is in the hands of the lawyer, there is a possible proposal for a settlement and the lawyer has been instructed to write a letter to Mid-State.

Old Business

Workshop Meetings from:

- 12/16 - Inventory of additional properties, to show a history of how properties were acquired.
- 12/23 - No action.
- 12/30 - Hired Joyce Vale at \$11.00/hr for secretarial help.

The truck for Highway Superintendent Trimble has been ordered and is on the way.

Collective bargaining about to begin with the union for the highway employees; the board is looking forward to negotiations.

The Emergency Preparedness manual is almost done; it's with the lawyer now.

The first draft of the Site Plan Review is done and was presented to the board by the Supervisor.

New Business

Supervisor Liepshutz presented the Organizational chart for the minutes and went through the town appointments:

- Time and Date of meetings are Monday nights at 7:30
- Procedures followed: calling to order, accept minutes, communications, special business, old and new business, privilege of floor, adjudication.
- Official newspaper changed to The Independent.
- Bank Depositories – National Union Bank of Kinderhook, Hudson River Bank and Trust, Bank of America.
- Pursuant to Town Law 29 the Supervisor is authorized to conduct affairs of the town and expend within the limits of town budget. Bond coverage purchased for Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor.
- Columbia-Greene Humane Society is official Dog Shelter and Control Officers.
- Ethics Committee Chairman Robert Delaney, Roger Proper and Faythe Smith.
- Town justices hire their stenographer when needed.
- Policeman: Mike Lawson, Officer-in-Charge; Patrolmen Brian DuBois, Mark Harvey, Kyle Filli and Eli Feizer as Officer-in-Charge.
- Marguerite Riter as Town Historian.
- John Fieser Building Inspector and Building and Code Enforcement Officer.
- Attorney Jim Peluso from Dreyer Boyajian
- History Advisory Committee: Helen Henderson, Ruth Decker, Joan Burger, Nancy Balazs, Hank Himelright, Alvin Sheffer and Mary Howell.
- Supervisor Liepshutz as representative and Councilwoman Diehl as alternate representatives to Association of Towns annual meeting.
- Mileage rate \$37.5/mile.
- Authorize Supervisor to sign contracts for State and Local Youth contracts.
- Adopt Town Policy manual for 2005 - still a work in progress, working off 2003 and adopted as such.
- Charlene Diehl as Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Accepted following quote for State and County bids for fuel and salt:

1.	Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel:	Agway Corp.	1.5479/gal	Long	1.3355/gal
2.	Propane:	Agway Corp.	1.212/gal	Kosco	1.1983/gal
3.	#2 Heating Oil:	Agway Corp.	1.337/gal	Long	1.2835/gal
4.	K 1:	Agway Corp.	1.6832/gal	Long	1.476/gal
5.	Gasoline:	Agway Corp.	1.9046/gal	Long	1.5011/gal
6.	Snow/Salt	State Bid price		Appr.	35.00/ton

- Election Inspector fees raised to \$35 for Special Election, \$65 for Primary and Registration Day and \$140 for November Election.
- The Chair for November Elections receives \$10, and Voting Machine Custodian stipend raised to \$60/day.

- Party Representatives get \$35/day.

Town Historian	\$3,500 yearly salary	paid semi-annually
Budget Officer	1,200 yearly	yearly
Assessment Review Board (each)	150 yearly	voucher
Building/Zoning Enforcement Ofcr	7,000 yearly	monthly
Sr. Motor Equip. Operator 1	\$17.27/hr	payroll/bi-weekly
Sr. Motor Equip. Operator 2	16.75/hr	payroll/bi-weekly
Sr. Motor Equip. Operator	16.23/hr	payroll/bi-weekly
Building/Grounds Supervisor	17.00/hr	payroll/bi-weekly
Waste Water System Operator	16.76/hr	payroll/bi-weekly
Laborer	10-16/hr	payroll/bi-weekly
Laborer part-time	6.00-13/hr	as needed
Skilled Laborer part-time	10.50-16/hr	as needed
Bookkeeper's Clerk part-time	12.00/hr	as needed
Secretary part-time	11.00/hr	as needed
Planning/Zoning Secretary	14.00/hr	as needed

Supervisor Liepshutz said he recommends appointing Joel Craig to the Planning Board as well as appointing Tom Bower temporary Chairman of Zoning Board of Appeals.

Approved the following existing Reserve Funds:

- Buildings Capital Reserve
- Highway Equipment Reserve
- Parsonage Project Reserve
- Lasher Memorial Park Project Reserve
- Highway Road Repair Reserve Fund
- Sewer District #1 Capital Repair Reserve
- Sewer Tax Stabilization Reserve

Reserves are around \$130,000 increasing to around \$170,000 when parsonage roof funds come in the next week.

- o Charlene Diehl, Deputy Tax Collector
- o Stephanie Marasco, Deputy Town Clerk
- o Joe Hull, Deputy Highway Superintendent
- o Richard Jennings, Highway Deputy Foreperson
- o Columbia County Environmental Management Council, Art Cady
- o Columbia County Traffic Safety Board, Donald Clark
- o Secretary, Joyce Vale
- o Bookkeeper's Clerk, Arlene Schuman
- o Deputy town clerk fund line budget increased to \$2,000

Resident Joan Snyder asked why Mr. Bower's appointment to the ZBA was temporary; Supervisor Liepshutz said that was per Mr. Bower's request. He informed Mrs. Snyder that he wanted to appoint Jason Clum as chairman of the Park Commission but he never got a response from Mr. Clum and Mrs. Snyder indicated she'll call Mr. Clum about it.

Councilman Marchisio confirmed with Supervisor Liepshutz that there are no upcoming vacancies for Zoning Board of Appeals this year. The Supervisor also indicated that they brought appointments into line beginning in January this year.

Resolution #1 of 2005 to approve appointments. Motion to approve aforesaid appointments made by Councilwoman Lamberta, seconded by Councilman Cidras.
 Supervisor Liepshutz: Aye Councilman Marchisio: Nay

Resolution #2 of 2005 for Firefighter's Exemption – WHEREAS THE Columbia County Board of Supervisors has adopted Law 466d under Property Tax Law Exemption for Volunteer Fireman and Volunteer Ambulance Workers; WHEREAS THE STATE LEGISLATURE has adopted the same; WHEREAS IN FURTHERANCE of the adoption of this exemption by the Town of Germantown, a public hearing was duly scheduled and held on January 10, 2005 at 7:00pm as required by law; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT resolved that after due consideration of the merits of said exemption, the Town of Germantown council hereby affirms its support for the volunteer firemen and volunteer ambulance workers of the Town of Germantown whose selfless contributions have

made Germantown a safer place to live; and be it further resolved that we accept the exemptions authorized under S466-d of the New York State Real Property Tax Law. Supervisor Liepshutz said this means the town will abide by the \$3,000 exemption which must be filed with the Assessor prior to March 1. He said there are applications in the town hall.

Motion to accept the resolution of Local Law 1 of 2005 made by Councilman Cidras, with a second by Councilman Marchisio.

Supervisor Liepshutz: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye

Supervisor Liepshutz introduced Arthur Brod of Planners East who will provide professional planning services to the town. Mr. Brod gave a brief overview of his previous work and what he will be assisting the town with, the Comprehensive Plan, as well as offering his services to the Planning and Zoning boards. He also said he's working with Taconic Farms to "tweak" their administrative building proposal and, when questioned, said it will not be in conflict with his planning assistance to the town.

Supervisor Liepshutz asked what the board wants to do with the information it had received during the public hearing regarding the sale of the municipal lot - motion made by Councilman Cidras and seconded by Councilman Marchisio to table any action on the resolution in order to take public comments under advisement and have a full board present to vote.

Supervisor Liepshutz: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye

Councilwoman Lamberta read an overview of the original Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1973 and Supervisor Liepshutz presented Resolution #3 of 2005.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, THAT THE Town Board of the Town of Germantown does establish a temporary committee under the heading of the Comprehensive Analysis Committee to review and make recommendations to the Germantown Town Board concerning the comprehensive plan. Pursuant to NYS Chapter 418 of the Laws of 1995 amending Town Law S 272-a:

A town comprehensive plan "...consists of the materials, written and/or graphic including but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports and other descriptive material, that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the municipality."

The people chosen to represent Germantown on this committee are:

Bruce Bohnsack	Joseph Metzler
Margaret DellaCioppa	Dorothy Montague
Ralph DelPozzo	Larry Osgood
Ellen Epstein	Arthur Schiff
Sue Lyne	Steven Wheeler
Adeline Malone	Art Cady-expected to serve as well, not confirmed

First meeting scheduled for January 17, 2005 and will be attended by the Senior Planner for Greenway.

Motion to accept made by Councilman Cidras and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Liepshutz: Aye Councilman Marchisio: Aye

Supervisor Liepshutz said he had annual reports from the History Department, Police Department, the Building Inspector and is anticipating the Judicial reports.

Supervisor Liepshutz made a motion to appoint Betty Ahrens to the Park Commission and Councilman Marchisio seconded.

Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye Councilman Cidras: Aye

The Supervisor has been asked about the speed limits on Camp Creek Road and Lasher Avenue as well as Round Top. Deputy Highway Superintendent Joe Hull said

documentation was submitted to reduce the limit but no response has been received yet. Supervisor Liepshutz will inquire about status of request with Traffic & Safety

Resident Jennings asked about the possibility of a snow ordinance for all town roads and streets to clear streets in the winter. Supervisor Liepshutz said there would have to be a local law and they would have to work with the county for county roads.

The Supervisor brought up availability and use of the wash house and complaints he had received that the key has not been available and a vehicle has been parked blocking access. Deputy Highway Superintendent Joe Hull disputed the fact and said the supervisor had been given inaccurate information. Supervisor Liepshutz said he is keeping the policy alive and people should be shown how to use the bay and respect the equipment or have the privilege removed. Mr. Hull recommended that employees of the town and county highway workers who assist the town be the only ones with access to the wash house.

Supervisor Liepshutz said 21 pages on collective bargaining had been turned over to the town lawyer for review on upcoming negotiations.

Mr. Hull had a request for one highway employee who wishes to carry vacation days over into the new year - Denis Crawford. Supervisor Liepshutz confirmed with Mr. Hull that it's part of the policy and no resolution is needed for approval.

Supervisor Liepshutz said union demands will affect the policy manual and it will probably need to be redone.

Supervisor Liepshutz verified sand and salt supplies with Mr. Hull who indicated he has ordered more due to recent storms.

Officer-In-Charge Lawson informed Mr. Jennings and the highway employees of a local law that prohibits parking of vehicles during snow removal and that any police officer or highway employee can have it moved. Mr. Hull thanked Mr. Lawson for helping to get cars moved late at night during the last storm. Supervisor Liepshutz said snow on the sidewalk will be cleared exclusively by Germantown Highway Department now. Mr. Hull said George Sharpe will handle the sidewalks.

Resident Greg Fingar confirmed with Supervisor Liepshutz that the board would be involved in the site plan review. The supervisor also said the State wants the Planning Board to do special permit/special exemption site plan reviews instead of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Resident Joan Snyder asked about the cell tower issue – the lawyer has a 30-page document for review and hopefully it will be one of ten local laws scheduled for this year.

Union negotiations for the highway department have not been scheduled yet and the Board will need time to review the proposal.

Resident Roger Rekow questioned why a Deputy Supervisor was not appointed and Supervisor Liepshutz confirmed it was Councilwoman Lamberta.

Resident Allen Schuenhoff asked about trucks parking on the sidewalk in light of the upcoming reconstruction project and Officer Lawson said the violators have been spoken with and will be ticketed for future violations.

Mr. Schuenhoff also asked about the raffle that was sponsored by the Park Commission and what decision had been made about the money. Resident Snyder said the vote from the Park Commission was to refund it.

Motion made by Councilwoman Lamberta to end the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cidras to end the meeting, all in agreement, meeting ended at 9:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Diehl

Please note the minutes were amended and approved on February 14, 2005 to include the following additions/changes:

Bond coverage (2 separate bonds) for Deputy Town Clerk and the Town Justices.

Eli Fiezer is the Resident Deputy, not the Officer in Charge.

Graceann Lamberta is the Deputy Supervisor.

Mileage rate for 2005 is 40.5/cents per mile.