

Minutes from Public Hearing – Volunteer Firefighter/Ambulance Personnel Tax Exemption held January 10, 2005 at the Germantown Town Hall at 7:00pm

Public Hearing to consider the Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Personnel Tax Exemption, commencing at 7pm January 10, 2005 at the Germantown Town Hall.

Please take notice that there will be a public hearing by the Town of Germantown at the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York on January 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. to consider a tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance personnel pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-d.

All interested persons may attend, listen and speak on the matter at the above state time, date and place.

Town Clerk read public notice above regarding Volunteer Firefighter's Exemption.

Supervisor Liepshutz gave a short history of how the Exemption came to be – In January 2003 the Columbia County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution allowing individual towns to come aboard and give firefighters and ambulance volunteers a maximum \$3,000 exemption on assessed valuation.

John Ristici, Chief of Fire Company said the members are in favor of it, shouldn't be too much of a burden on the taxpayers. He said there are qualifications to be eligible for the exemption and there were approximately 36 active members eligible but the final number would probably be much less.

Supervisor Liepshutz reminded him it applied to county as well as town taxes and suggested they lobby the school since that's included in the law as well.

Resident Schuenhoff spoke in favor of the exemption.

Supervisor Liepshutz said he was closing the public hearing and would take action at the town board meeting which follows at 7:30. Meeting closed at 7:10pm.

Minutes from Public Hearing – Sale of a portion of Town-owned land, held January 10, 2005 at the Germantown Town Hall at 7:10pm

Public Hearing to consider the sale of a town-owned portion of land, commencing at 7:10 pm January 10, 2005 at the Germantown Town Hall.

Please take notice there will be a public hearing by the Town of Germantown at the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York on January 10, 2005 at 7:10 pm to consider the proposed sale of a portion of parcel tax map #158.4-3-48, approximately 135 feet by 136 feet, presently owned in its entirety by the Town of Germantown to be sold to Michael Vinciguerra presently residing at 189 Main Street, Germantown, New York, 12526.

All interested persons may attend, listen and speak on the matter at the above stated time, date and place.

Town Clerk read public notice above regarding sale of land to Michael Vinciguerra.

Supervisor Liepshutz said the Town Board, under Town Law 64, has the right and authority to make real property sales, subject to permissive referendum. The board has researched the titles and deeds and is confident there are no deed restrictions. The land was originally conveyed from Peter Yadack in 1962 to the town, and no caveats to the deed other than a 70 foot right-of-way to George Fox.

Portion of land identified by survey is a 135 x 136 foot portion, 22 feet south of Mr. Vinciguerra's building going west and back. The intent is to hear public comments, pros and cons, and then make a determination.

Joan Snyder asked the value of the land in question. Supervisor Liepshutz said there were two appraisals, one for \$3,000 and another for \$1,600.

Resident Schuenhoff asked about the survey map and Supervisor Liepshutz provided a copy. Mr. Schuenhoff asked if it was declared surplus by the town, and the Supervisor said it will be.

Resident Rekow asked if any other options for the property had been considered.

Resident Laura Foster asked if the board had considering using the property as an ice skating rink.

Resident Lee Rekow suggested a parking lot. Mr Vinciguerra responded that he is experiencing a hardship and that's why he wants to purchase the piece of property.

Resident Richard Jennings mentioned the town getting an estimate on blacktop for the parking lot, and asked if Mr. Vinciguerra will still be using parking lot for his heavy equipment. Supervisor Liepshutz said that is the reason for the hearing, Mr. Vinciguerra cannot get to the rear of his property and the town board is listening to his request. Supervisor Liepshutz instructed Mr. Vinciguerra to go to the Zoning Board of Appeal so he can properly use the property and they recommended buffering and fencing, among other things.

Resident John Balazs asked about a grandfather clause and Supervisor Liepshutz said it did not apply; the use variance goes with the owner only and clarified that with Mr. Bower of the Planning Board who was in attendance.

Supervisor Liepshutz reminded everyone it's a small portion of land not currently being used by the town.

Mr. Balazs said it's an asset to the town and he doesn't think the town is gaining anything by selling. Mr. Jennings suggested leasing the property but Mr. Vinciguerra said that would be too costly. Resident Janine Johnson mentioned that the neighbors who had property touching theirs all signed letters saying they had no objections to the sale.

Supervisor Liepshutz said the sale was a conveyance for hardship relief, not large enough to be considered a usable lot. He said it's a difficult topic and the board will take everyone's comments into consideration and not take any action until they can gather more facts and get the advice of the town attorney to do what's in the best interest of the town.

Meeting ended at 7:30pm.