

Minutes from Regular Town Board meeting of March 14, 2005 for the Town of Germantown, held at the Germantown Town Hall, commencing at 7:30pm

Present: Alan Liepshutz, Supervisor
GraceAnn Lamberta, Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman
Donna Diehl, Councilwoman
Anthony Cidras, Councilman
Andrew Marchisio, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Charlene Diehl, Town Clerk
Reporter: Debora Gilbert – The Independent
Not Present: Ocie Trimble, Highway Superintendent

Supervisor Liepshutz led the Pledge to the Flag at 7:30pm.

Motion made by Councilwoman Diehl, seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta, to accept the March 3, 2005 workshop minutes and the minutes from the February 14, 2005 Town Board meeting. All in favor, none opposed.

Supervisor Liepshutz mentioned Fun Nite at the Germantown Central School on March 18 from 5-8pm; the Town Board will have a table to display Park activities and there will be a Science Fair as well; open to the public.

The Supervisor filed his financial report with the Town Clerk.

Communications to the Board

Hudson River Foundation is offering grants to communities along the Hudson and Supervisor Liepshutz would like to pursue. The grant can be used for scenic vista preservation and park enhancements; the deadline for application is April 11, 2005.

Supervisor Liepshutz filed an extension with the Office of State Comptroller for the AOD and the CPA is working on it.

Columbia County Economic Development Corporation is offering a grant to small start-up businesses.

Legislative Program from the Association of Towns – a list of resolutions passed on what they think the legislature should focus on this year.

The week of March 14 is considered Extension of Living Well week and Supervisor Liepshutz had some literature from the Cooperative Extension on it. Hudson River bird trail is making a brochure for publication of local trails.

Supervisor Liepshutz acknowledged receiving the resignation from Superintendent of Highways, which is effective 30 days from the date submitted, making March 14 his last day. Supervisor Liepshutz thanked Mr. Trimble for his 15 years of service and wished him well. Supervisor Liepshutz said the board hopes to appoint a replacement on April 11. Supervisor Liepshutz made motion to accept Mr. Trimble's resignation; Councilman Marchisio seconded.

Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye
Councilman Cidras: Aye
Councilwoman Diehl: Aye

Community Hospice training classes will be held at a Catskill facility and Supervisor Liepshutz has the information for anyone interested.

Rabies Clinic will be held April 2 at the Highway Garage - cats 2:00-2:45pm and dogs 2:45-3:30pm; offered at a reduced cost.

Supervisor Liepshutz received a letter from Assemblyman Manning regarding fire companies and a new grant geared toward communities with less than 10,000 people and will pass it on to John Ristici.

Supervisor Liepshutz answered questions from last meeting regarding a Clerk of the Works for the Parsonage project - there was one assigned from the date the contract was signed; the contract was \$99,900 but they anticipate less because of the settlement agreement still in progress and any additional legal fees should be picked up by the contractor; and that the attorney fees for the ZBA for Taconic Farms issue were billed to the applicant.

Standing Committees

Sewer: The engineer has the drawings and Supervisor Liepshutz expects a resolution soon.

Parsonage roof: Executive session will be called later since the lawyer called today with an update.

Councilwoman Diehl announced the Senior Citizen's trip on July 18 for a boat ride on Lake George with a luncheon buffet; price to be determined later. Contact Councilwoman Diehl or Betty Ahrens or the town hall for information.

The board is also working on a date for a luncheon at the White Stone Café.

Councilman Marchisio reported on the UV water project. 4 sites have to be done because of the camp and children drinking: Activity Bldg, Beach House, Town Hall and the well at the ballfield. Consensus of opinion is that UV would be more economical but the water must be analyzed against the parameters set – if they're within the limits the town can go with UV after putting out a bid for quotes from licensed plumbers. The County provided a generic schematic to save engineering costs.

Councilwoman Lamberta spoke about the Greenway Assistance progress and said she will put the grant in on March 25. She read a brief synopsis of what was submitted for the grant, which is for community development enhancement geared toward economic development. Mark, the Greenway representative, has been very helpful and got GIS data on cd-roms to help the committee with mapping.

Minutes of Comprehensive Analysis Committee have been received by the board. The meetings are open to the public and the next meeting is March 28 at 6:30pm.

Park Commission raffle rebate is still being tended to – any request will be recognized and about \$240 has gone back so far.

Supervisor Liepshutz made sure all board members had a draft copy of the local law for the cell tower issue and said on April 11th at 7pm there will be a public hearing for the cell-tower agreement. Residents will be informed about the local law to protect the town regarding restriction of heights for potential antenna placements. The lawyer is working on the final copy.

Supervisor Liepshutz brought up the subject of a town-wide speed limit.

John Fiezer, the Code Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector, responded by letter to the board giving a synopsis of progress on complaints brought before the board by a resident about unkempt properties – they all are within compliance of code and he recommends that future complaints be brought to the zoning department and not to the town board.

Supervisor Liepshutz has meetings with some engineering firms about sidewalks in response to the RFP that was published.

Proposal on radar detector as a joint municipal purchase - a justice grant is being pursued through Senator Saland's office to pay for the detector.

New Business

Supervisor Liepshutz announced that through the generosity of Jim Weiner an endowment for the town has been received. He read Resolution #5, an acknowledgment and thanks for the \$50,000 endowment to be used for the Germantown Parks Program, exclusively to support local children's programs. Councilwoman Diehl made a motion to accept the resolution and Councilman Cidras seconded.

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

Supervisor Liepshutz said that vendors are calling about the Independence Day Festivities to reserve their spots early. Mr. Ohi, who runs the Midway, wants to sign a contract and has offered to print posters. The cost of the fireworks increased by \$1,000 this year to \$7,500. A live band has also offered their services for free.

Lake Permit for chemicals was sent out. Richard Johnson will administer them this year as soon as the ice is gone.

Councilwoman Lamberta read a synopsis of Resolution #6 in which the Senate designates the second week of March 2005 as 'Extension Living Well Week'. Supervisor Liepshutz made a motion to accept, and was seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Councilwoman Diehl:	Aye	Councilman Cidras:	Aye
Councilman Marchisio:	Aye		

Supervisor Liepshutz said there will be a public hearing on April 11 at 7:15 to present the Park Commission Rules and Regulations. Motion made by Supervisor Liepshutz to schedule the two public hearings for April 11th and seconded by Councilman Cidras.

Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye	Councilwoman Diehl:	Aye
Councilman Marchisio:	Aye		

Northern Dutchess Ambulance has been approved by the Attorney General's office and will be the town's service providers; they have requested to come to the next meeting to describe their level of care and will bring some of their members.

On April 2 there will be a Driver's Education course at the Activities Building all day and also the evenings of April 27 & 28 from 6-9pm. General public is welcome.

After bringing a discrepancy on Voucher #87 to the board's attention, Councilman Marchisio made a motion to pay the audited bills from the abstract dated March 14; Councilman Cidras seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

Privilege of Floor

Resident Sally Drummond suggested microphones to improve hearing.

Questions from residents about cell tower antenna placement interest; the purpose of the public hearing on cell tower agreement; and how the public can understand what the issue is.

Supervisor Liepshutz's response is the board can limit antenna locations but can't restrict their placement; new applicants wouldn't be able to place antennas everywhere and a draft of the agreement should be available for the public to examine before the public hearing.

Resident Joan Snyder questioned a voucher from the February abstract relating to Justice fees.

Resident Roger Rekow questioned the funding source for the Parsonage project. Supervisor Liepshutz said \$27,500 is coming from Athens Gen and the remainder from Capital Reserve Building Fund, Parsonage Reserve fund and the remainder from 2004 surplus.

Councilwoman Lamberta mentioned comments, suggestions and interesting “neighbor-friendly” articles are welcomed for future editions of the Germantown Quarterly newsletter. Supervisor Liepshutz said it was well received and people were interested in working on it.

Resident John Balasz inquired about the sale status of the town-owned parcel of land, he wants to make sure the stipulations are adhered to and to look at the draft before it's signed. Supervisor Liepshutz said no contract has been signed yet but they will make sure the conditions recommended by the zoning board are written into the sale contract.

Mr. Balasz mentioned grant money for Dales Bridge and asked about the status of the project; response from Supervisor Liepshutz is he got an extension for the grant, there is a sketch from the design architect and it has to be readied to go to bid.

One of the proprietors of Central Market stated his distress about the future of local businesses because he heard Taconic Farms is starting to move their operation out of the town. Supervisor Liepshutz said he knew nothing about a move and will wait until speaking with Taconic Farms before addressing the issue. He and the Deputy Supervisor had met with the president of Taconic Farms and offered any assistance needed, including the creation of a zone tailored to their existing business, but said Taconic Farms was not interested.

Several residents stated they believe the town board should publish an ad supporting Taconic Farms.

Motion to go into Executive session to discuss the Parsonage roof negotiations, union contract negotiations, Highway Superintendent position and Recreational Director position made by Supervisor Liepshutz and seconded by Councilman Marchisio with all in favor.

9:25pm – Executive session called.

9:52pm – Executive session ended on a motion by Councilwoman Diehl and seconded by Councilman Marchisio with all in favor. No action was taken in Executive session.

Supervisor Liepshutz made a motion to hire Jeff Haneman to serve as Park Director for 2005 at a salary of \$9,000; seconded by Councilman Marchisio.

Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye	Councilwoman Diehl:	Aye
Councilman Cidras:	Aye		

Motion to adjourn made by Councilwoman Diehl and seconded by Councilman Marchisio with all in favor; meeting ended at 9:59pm.

Respectfully submitted

Charlene Diehl