

Minutes of Germantown Town Board Meeting, held June 18, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Germantown Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor, Roy Brown  
Councilman, Anthony Cidras  
Councilwoman, Graceann Lamberta  
Councilwoman, Joan Snyder

Not Present: Councilman, Patsy Zanchelli

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Charlene Diehl

The Supervisor led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Cidras to approve the previous month's minutes - all in agreement, none opposed.

Motion made by Councilwoman Lamberta to approve, after corrections to check #239 and #244, the abstracts for the audited bills; seconded by Councilman Cidras, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Brown mentioned Monica Vargas, a Public Policy Intern from the State University at Albany, who was attending the meeting as part of her curriculum.

Motion made by Councilman Cidras and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder, to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. All in favor, none opposed.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Councilman Cidras and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta; with all in favor, none opposed.

The clerk read a letter from the Columbia County Sheriff's Department offering personnel to assist with a review of the Germantown Police Department's policy and procedures.

A letter from Larry Osgood offering his resignation from the 9/11 Memorial Project Committee due to the adversity of the proposed project.

A letter from Palatine Manor residents expressing their support of the memorial project was read.

A letter from Greg Fingar regarding residents contacting their elected officials about bringing back the air monitoring device was also read.

#### Highway Dept

60 feet of pipe is being replaced on East Camp Road.

#### Sewer Dept

1 new hookup has been requested on lower Main St. New buoy lines are being readied for the opening of the park for the summer and the fireworks on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Police Commissioner gave a rundown of calls that the police responded to in the past month.

Chuck Abraham, representing the Keep Farming Initiative, gave an update on the committee and said they have enough information to collate an economic assessment. He also stated that the Aesthetic and Natural Resources committees are still looking for volunteers and for interested persons to contact him.

Supervisor Brown also read a list of the Town Revitalization Committee members:  
Co-chair: Bruce Bohnsack, local business owner

Co-chair: Gregory Fingar, local business owner  
Corrine Curry, resident  
Roy Brown, Town Supervisor  
Cheri Oughton, resident  
David Fingar, local business owner  
GraceAnn Lamberta, Town Council representative and resident

Motion made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Cidras, to approve the Committee.

Supervisor Brown:                   Aye   Councilwoman Lamberta:                   Aye

Supervisor Brown mentioned the committee will meet after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and to watch the town website for updates.

#### 9/11 Memorial update

Supervisor Brown said there was no update on the memorial, but in response to a request for the issue to be put on the agenda for discussion, the Supervisor responded that lawyer Jason Shaw is currently reviewing the file of when the property was discussed between Germantown and Clermont and anticipates a discussion of the matter at the next meeting, after Mr. Shaw has spoken with officials from both towns.

#### Sidewalk Committee

Supervisor Brown reported that engineering interest letters are being sent to Region 1 Highway Superintendents, as part of the process.

#### Old Business

Jake Buhler reported on his Riverside Park Revitalization for Boy Scouts project that he needed to complete before becoming an Eagle Scout. He reported that 140 hours were spent at the boat launch picking up trash, removing driftwood and installing security devices. More picnic tables were secured in the area, and he thanked the Sportsmen's Club and Stewart's for their donations. Plaques recognizing those who donated will be displayed at the boat launch and he also thanked the town for donating money and employees who assisted him in the revitalization. Photos with the sponsors will also be taken.

Supervisor Brown thanked Mr. Buhler and said that the completed project will be sent to the County and that this makes Mr. Buhler an Eagle Scout.

Supervisor Brown mentioned that the Police Department portion of the Town Policy Manual is under review and the sheriff's office has offered their assistance, as well as community members, to come up with a rough draft for the board to review.

#### Comprehensive Plan Committee

Supervisor Brown said that the town board members are still reviewing the Plan and they would like the thoughts and recommendations of the current zoning and planning board members as well. He is allocating 30-60 days to review it, and will then take all findings and turn it over to the new zoning committee, to be named at the July town board meeting.

Mr. Brown also mentioned that Germantown Central School students saved a water jug full of pennies, \$250 in total, and the money was used to purchase 25 new games for the camp program. He thanked the students for their time and contributions.

#### New Business

Supervisor Brown reported that Assemblyman Lopez was sending a letter of intent indicating \$4,000 to be used toward ambulance service. Mr. Brown will do a formal motion once the official notice has been received. He mentioned that response times,

as well as the level of care, is being evaluated by committee.

The library is digging the foundation, the building should be here in late July.

Hudson Valley Tricentennial Committee has some interested persons but they are still looking for more. Please contact Austin at the Town Hall to sign up.

### Open to Public

Larry Osgood - Had the following concerns about the 9/11 memorial:

- didn't see mention of meetings in the minutes;
- town board never voted on project to discuss or research;
- gazebo mentioned;
- wants the town to oversee projects of this magnitude;
- zoning ordinance – anything not mentioned is a prohibited use;
- wetlands site – preserving wetlands was mentioned in documents pertaining to when negotiations were underway to get the land;
- Town of Clermont will have equal representation and hasn't been consulted in the process;
- Town residents have the right to question leadership.

Peter Davies –

- had copies of the police manual to distribute to interested parties;
- proposed public hearing for police department manual;
- Safety Committee looked at the police department policies but never moved forward;
- Had questions related to the public hearing on the 9/11 memorial.

Dianne O'Neal – Clermont resident – read letter to the town board regarding the memorial –

- 1992 purchase funded by Clermont from monies received through a Land Preservation and Enhancement Program grant from the Iroquois Gas Transmission System;
- purchase was approved contingent on Clermont having a seat on the Park Commission.

Nan Elliott – Communication is a problem due to the high emotion and upset displayed by people on this issue.

Arthur Schiff:

- wanted to mention the County of Monroe vs. Rochester case where the city declared they weren't ruled by zoning laws;
- read portion of the Town Law regarding erecting a memorial;
- interested in disciplinary actions with respect to police behavior at the 9/11 memorial meeting.

Kay Abraham:

- wanted to know if any disciplinary action was taken regarding police behavior at the 9/11 memorial meeting. Supervisor Brown responded that it was a personnel issue and he was unable to discuss it at the meeting;
- town board should be more proactive about the abandoned crossroad in the village.

Roger Rekow:

- disputes accusation by Mr. Davies that he was attacked;
- said police officer in question apologized for remark he had made.

Charles Abraham:

- wants to know cost to town to support the police force and what constitutes such a large force; Supervisor Brown indicated he will get the information to him.

Councilwoman Lamberta said that the town board hasn't made any plans regarding the 9/11 memorial, as evidenced in the minutes.

Jerry Smith:

- said shale and topsoil is at the proposed memorial site.

Peter Davies relayed an incident of several years back where he called the town police and got an answering machine referring him to call the State Police.

Sherry Outman suggested reopening the recently closed grocery store and combining it with a contract with area farmers to sell their produce.

Supervisor Brown mentioned that some issues brought to the Safety Committee regarding property maintenance and junk ordinances were too restrictive to the public and he suggests going back to address the issues to resolve the situation.

Austin Sullivan mentioned that certified lifeguards for the park are needed and to please volunteer for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.

Cynthia Smith mentioned that as a teacher she had taken classes to the park as part of science field trips to the area being suggested as the memorial site. She noticed the nice additions to the boat launch but said there are no bathrooms and requested the park commission see about putting facilities on-site for public use.

Mandy Fuchs requested a copy of the Water Protection Report and Supervisor Brown indicated he would get that to him.

Betty Ahrens inquired about the dead fish she had heard about and Supervisor Brown apprised her of the unfortunate incident and indicated he has been working with the Sportsmen's to schedule another fishing derby.

Councilwoman Snyder reminded everyone that no dogs are allowed in the park or the pond.

Bruce Bohnsack mentioned that Part 2 of the Comprehensive Plan will be out shortly and can also be accessed through the town website.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Cidras, seconded by Councilwoman Snyder, will all in agreement, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,