

Draft minutes of Germantown Town Board Meeting, held September 17, 2007 at the Germantown Town Hall, commencing at 7:30pm

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown
Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta
Councilwoman Joan Snyder
Councilman Anthony Cidras
Highway Superintendent Richard Jennings
Town Lawyer Jason Shaw

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

Supervisor Brown called the meeting to order and led the Pledge to the Flag.

While a motion to approve minutes of last month's meeting was made, Councilwoman Lamberta stated she wanted the exchange of Councilman Cidras and Mr. Davies and Mr. Smith to be included in the minutes, so no motion was carried.

Councilwoman Lamberta also stated to Mr. Schiff that the minutes he displays on his website are not the minutes taken by the recording secretary and passed by the board as official minutes of the meeting.

Motion to approved budget transfer made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Cidras: Aye

Motion to approve abstract and pay audited bills made by Councilman Cidras and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Snyder: Aye

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta, with all in favor, none opposed.

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

Highway

- finished stoning 3.4 miles of road
- finishing up mowing for the year

The Highway Superintendent said the town is working with Clermont and Livingston to buy a paver for the towns to share; each town contributes \$10,000, making it more cost effective. Supervisor Brown indicated he wants to see the paperwork on the paver and wants all the town's cooperation before moving forward. Mr. Brown also stated he wants to review inter-municipality agreements to update them.

The Highway Superintendent also stated he'd like to surplus the old loader the town has before ordering the new one.

Maintenance

- finishing mowing around the parks
- most of the buoys are out of the water to prepare for winter
- furnaces being cleaned to prepare for winter

Sewer

The sewer is running well, though supplies are needed for preventative maintenance.

Police

137.5 patrol hours logged in by the police during the previous month.

Committees

Keep Farming - Harvest Social on Saturday, November 3rd at 6:30 in the Activities Building. There will be a presentation of the committee's work and a lite supper.

Town Revitalization - Todd Erling, President of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, met with the committee to discuss various events to spruce up Main Street.

9/11 Memorial - no updates.

Sidewalk - Supervisor Brown said he met with the county; they are reviewing 3 Requests for Proposals (RFP) and will interview the candidates from the RFPs.

Dales Bridge - Councilwoman Lamberta went to Dales Bridge last week and made contact with the Sportsmens about the project. There is a drawing depicting what the site will look like; a pavilion will be across the road from the Sportsmens. It was noted that the Eagles Scouts will help with the clearing where the short-term parking will be located. The site had work done a few years ago and now funding has been secured to move forward with the project.

Safety - working on updating police policy procedures. The Sheriff's Department has the draft and Roger Rekow will be meeting with them next week to fine-tune and they hope to have a policy the town can support. The public will be informed of any changes that occur.

Planning Board Recommendations on Comprehensive Plan - Joel Craig thanked the Planning Board members for reviewing the plan and said they met 4 times. Some of their comments:

- doesn't have good tool to look at archaeological data to determine if survey needed;
- wetlands - no specific regs in subdivision regulations
- GIS capability - town doesn't have resources to get proper tools - work with county and state to get the tools needed to make decisions;

- Housing - wants to be more flexible re. housing and accessory structures - needs to look at zoning regs to expand affordable housing - look at zoning to bring in small businesses to the town;
- Replacing floating zone - there has never been an application for it - suggest light industrial zone which would leave original zoning in place but allow for acceptable expansion;
- Future land use - what constitutes a buildable lot? Wants lots Board of Health approved before subdividing; wants to pull map and references to specific parcel sizes to be more generic and look at alternatives; recommends reviewing plan in 5 years to see if everything is working or needs to be reworked;
- In favor of cluster zoning
- Wants more information on groundwater availability and further study to determine what's out there and under the ground;
- Urges Town Board to set checkpoint and completion dates to check progress;
- Needs authority to work with developers re. site plan review and would also like to strengthen the position of the board;
- Would like to see cell tower regulations adopted as well as a ban on adult entertainment establishments;
- Would like to see driveway and road frontage guidelines;
- Subdivision regulations are silent on lot-line adjustments and feels they need to be firmed up;
- Would like a definition of what constitutes a mobile home.

Supervisor Brown thanked Mr. Craig and the board for their review and appreciates the work and effort that went into the review and their comments.

Resolution #37

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of *Germantown* of the Town of *Germantown*, in the County of Columbia, as follows:

A resolution authorizing and ratifying the establishment of a Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and authorizing the expenditure of not to exceed \$55,000 for the acquisition of a Volvo Model L70F Wheel Loader for use by the Town Highway Department subject to Permissive Referendum.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Joan Snyder:	Aye
Councilman Anthony Cidras:	Aye	Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta:	Aye

Resolution #38

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of *Germantown* of the Town of *Germantown*, in the County of Columbia, as follows:

A resolution authorizing the acquisition of one highway maintenance truck and issuance of serial bonds of the Town of *Germantown*, Columbia County, New York in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$108,000 pursuant to the local

finance law to finance the cost thereof, and delegating certain powers in connection therewith to the Town Supervisor

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Joan Snyder:	Aye
Councilman Anthony Cidras:	Aye	Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta:	Aye

Resolution #39

WHEREAS, the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Germantown, County of Columbia, has filed his report in writing with the Town Board of the Town of Germantown, containing his findings and recommendations regarding a building situated at 462 South Road, Germantown, New York (Tax Identification #169-1-62), in which report said Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer states his opinion that said building is unsafe and dangerous to the public and recommends its immediate repairing, securing or removal, and

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Germantown, after reviewing said report and after hearing said Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer in regard thereto and after having duly deliberated upon the same, having determined that said report warrants the removal of the structure,

A Resolution ordering the securing or removal of a building situated at 462 South Road, Germantown, New York. A public hearing has been scheduled on October 15th, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Town of Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York 12526, in relation to such dangerous or unsafe building.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Joan Snyder:	Aye
Councilman Anthony Cidras:	Aye	Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta:	Aye

Resolution #40

WHEREAS the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Germantown, County of Columbia, has filed his report in writing with the Town Board of the Town of Germantown, containing his findings and recommendations regarding a building situated at 4374 Route 9G, Germantown, New York (Tax Identification #158.4-1-1), in which report said Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer states his opinion that said building is unsafe and dangerous to the public and recommends its immediate repairing, securing or removal, and

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Germantown, after reviewing said report and after hearing said Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer in regard thereto and after having duly deliberated upon the same, having determined that said report warrants the removal of the structure,

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Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Joan Snyder:	Aye
Councilman Anthony Cidras:	Aye	Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta:	Aye

Vehicles parked unattended during a snowfall when no parking put into effect - board will need a resolution amending Local Law #3 adding Section D, unsafe practice per Councilman Cidras, needs authority. Councilwoman Snyder said the amendment is much needed for Highway employees to remain safe.

New Business

Mrs. Brown, Elementary Principal for Germantown Central School, announced a grant from the Dyson Foundation of \$28,000 for the planning process leading to the development of a new after-school program. The goal is to develop an after-school program with an exceptional curriculum to serve the families that reside in the Germantown Central School District. A self-sufficient program will be designed through a collaborative process which engages parents, school personnel, local college personnel, governmental officials, local business representatives and other residents of the school district. The planning will be completed by June 30, 2008, with an implementation date of September 1, 2008 for the Germantown After-School Program (GAP). The Board of Education approved the process to move forward and accepted the grant money. Mrs. Brown stated the desire to have a liaison appointed from the town to work with the school. She will be sending a letter of invitation regarding this to the Town Board and also thanked the town for partnering with the school to escort kids from the school to camp during the summer and stated that enrollment in the program increased because of this.

Invitation to Public to Approach the Board

Peter Davies: informed attendees of the anniversary of the Constitution and Freedom of Speech and wants local government to reflect upon it. He hasn't received an answer to his questions, specifically regarding the Board of Ethics - specifically says Board of Ethics is in charge of revisions or provisions on town employees and wants to know why the Board of Ethics is not involved in the revision of the Police portion of the Town Policy and Guidelines. Town Lawyer Jason Shaw said he felt it's not appropriate to discuss the matter due to a letter he received regarding potential litigation. Mr. Davies said he would be reluctant to proceed but may be driven to it by the fact the issue has not been solved or clarified; residents have the right to freedom of speech, the problem was behavior and why is Roger Rekow involved in the revision of police policy. He would like to request and see the Board of Ethics involved in the revision of the police procedures. Mr. Shaw noted his concerns.

Larry Osgood: read letter from Bruce Bohnsack on the Comprehensive Plan - 87% of respondents to the survey are full-time residents; 91% own their own home; 62% have lived in Germantown 10 years or more and 50% have children in

Germantown Central School. As presented, the vast majority of findings appear to be acceptable to the community - recognizes land use is a hot-button issue and will work with the board to reach a consensus.

Arthur Schiff: speaking about the March 28th meeting and would like to suggest that the board issue a public apology to Mr. Davies and town residents for the police behavior; not have police patrol board meetings; Commissioner Rekow should be sanctioned. He also referenced the Town Assessor re-appointment motion vs. the information given on the loader motion and stated he was not happy that the residents cannot participate or give comments regarding a significant job like the Town Assessor.

Dale Hinkein: inquired if the board had spoken with the property owner at the top of the hill regarding the Dales Bridge project and was told they had. He also stated his disappointment that no flags were lowered to half-mast to commemorate the anniversary of September 11th and feels that in light of this the town should donate the steel to the firehouse.

Town Historian Marguerite Rider announced the upcoming 300th anniversary of the Palatines landing in Germantown and review the history of the settlers in Palatine in 1710. She inquired where a sign should be put announcing this and also that the Christ Lutheran Church is celebrating 300 years as well. She said the New York Chapter of Palatines to New York has 300 members and that Dutchess, Ulster, Greene and Columbia counties have ancestors from the Palatines and she hopes the town and residents will get involved in the celebration.

Mary Howell: Hudson River Heritage is having a house tour this year, the Parsonage will be the headquarters and will be open to the public for tours. She stated the need of a good cleaning from top to bottom and would like the board to think about cleaning up the Parsonage and is looking for volunteers to assist. The dates are October 13th and 14th and anyone interested should call Marguerite or herself and this is a great event for showcasing the town.

Supervisor Brown said the board has been discussing the issue for the past 2 weeks and will have them ironed out this week.

Supervisor Brown talked about the Powder Mills Spring Project, a proposal to celebrate the Tri-centennial which would involve: removing willow and cedar trees and replacing with deciduous trees such as maple, oak, linden or hickory; repairing the open well and hooking up feeder to watering trough by the highway; building a path with paving stones around the west and south sides of the pond; installing several park benches; moving the large boulder on the north side of County Rt 8 to the site and placing a dedication plaque on it; cleaning out the cattails, etc. from the pond.

Peter Fingar: restoring one of the oldest structures - would like more info, cost and what's needed. Supervisor Brown said he should have the pricing in a month.

Supervisor Brown said the board is considering implementing an increase in dog licensing fees - there is currently no local fee, just a state fee. Councilman Cidras said this could help offset the Dog Control Officer's fees.

Supervisor Brown said the library fundraising campaign has been kicked off and the town received a request to purchase a brick on behalf of the town. Board members prefer the 8x8 brick and the verbage to be engraved on the brick will be determined. Mr. Brown will present a resolution on this next month.

The Park Commission met on September 10th and wants to go with local vendors vs. outside vendors at the Independence Day celebration. The next meeting will be December 3rd at 6:00pm.

Town Board Workshop meeting September 26th at 6:30 in the Activities Building to discuss the Town Budget, Comprehensive Plan and the Sewer District.

Supervisor Brown said he will provide board notes and Planning board notes to the Comprehensive Plan committee to review the changes; they will review and turn over to the new Zoning Committee which will be determined at the October meeting.

The board wants to dredge the edges of the lake due to the water chestnut infestation.

Northern Dutchess Rescue will speak to the board and community about their services and why they're requesting an increase in revenue at the next board meeting.

Supervisor Brown directed Police Commissioner Rekow to work with Officer Lawson about repairing the portable speed signs; he wants the parts secured to get the device back on the roads.

In response to a question about the request for a crossing guard at Main Street, Supervisor Brown said he will keep the community apprised of the request.

Mr. Brown said that Columbia County Department of Health had issued a document entitled Emergency Go-Bags, which is a collection of items you may need in the event of an evacuation along with a process on how to evacuate. Copies are available at the Town Hall.

Next Town Board meeting will be held on October 22nd due to the bills not being received until mid-month.

Public Hearing on October 15th at 7:00 to discuss 2 properties slated for demolition.

The clerk read 2 letters of resignation, one from Kyle Filli and one from Kevin VanWagner, both from the Police Department. Supervisor Brown asked for verification from the Police Commissioner about whether the cadets were obligated to serve one year and Mr. Rekow said it's discussed verbally but the department won't hold them to it.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Councilwoman Snyder, seconded by Councilman Cidras, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,