

Minutes of Germantown Town Board Meeting, held December 17, 2007 at the Germantown Town Hall, commencing at 7:30pm

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

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

Supervisor Brown led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve minutes from October 15, November 8, November 19 and November's board meeting made by Councilman Cidras and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta, with all in favor, none opposed.

Motion to approve abstract made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Cidras.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye

Letters to the Board

The Clerk read letters from Ms. Rumke and Mr. Sharpe thanking the Highway Department; a letter from Richard Scott; a letter from Joel Craig resigning from the Planning Board and a letter from Robert Beaury resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Community Reports

Keep Farming - Chuck Abraham reported that renovation is about to start at the old Hetling's store in Clermont; it will be a larger establishment than in the past and there is talk of doing a similar project here in town and he will be asking for specific committees after the first of the year as well as looking for volunteers. He confirmed with Supervisor Brown that Hetling's will be a grocery store and deli, and will feature local produce. He stated that profitability is the only thing that will continue to keep farmers farming. Supervisor Brown said he and the board appreciate everything that the Keep Farming Committee has done in finding resources to keep the initiative going.

Town Revitalization - continues to meet and strategize on how to bring business into Germantown.

Old Business

Municipal Cooperation Agreement between Germantown, Livingston and Clermont which allows the Supervisor to continue to work with the towns in a responsible manner. Motion to allow the Supervisor to execute the agreement made by Supervisor Brown and seconded by Councilman Cidras.

Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye Councilwoman Snyder: Aye

Resolution #44

Resolution by Municipality authorizing the implementation and funding in the first instance 100% of the federal aid eligible costs of a Transportation Federal Aid Project and appropriating funds therefore.

WHEREAS a project for the Germantown Palatine Paths (sidewalks) Main Street and Palatine Park Road in the Town of Germantown, Columbia County, PIN 8758.47 (the project) is eligible for funding under Title 23 US Code as amended that calls for the apportionment of the costs such program to be born at the ratio of 80% federal funds and 20% non-federal funds, and

WHEREAS the Town of Germantown desires to advance the project by making a commitment of 100% of the non-federal share of the costs of preliminary engineering, right-of-way incidental, right-of-way acquisition, construction, construction inspection and construction supervision,

NOW THEREFORE the Germantown Town Board, duly convened, does hereby resolve that the Germantown Town Board hereby approves the above subject project and is hereby further resolved that the Germantown Town Board hereby authorizes the Town of Germantown to pay in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the cost of preliminary engineering, right-of-way incidental, right-of-way acquisition, construction, construction inspection and construction supervision work for the project or portions thereof,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supervisor of the Town of Germantown be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements, certification or reimbursement requests for Federal aid or applicable Marcheselli aid on behalf of the Town of Germantown with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the project and providing for the administration of the project and the municipality's first instance funding of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal aid and state aid eligible project costs and all project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary agreement in connection with the project and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye
Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye	Councilman Cidras:	Aye

Supervisor Brown and Councilwoman Snyder will be meeting with the Department of Transportation to move forward with the next steps and has a tentative agreement with Foit Albert Associates.

There will be a Public Hearing on January 28th at 6:00pm on Local Law #1 of 2008 re. removal of vehicles from town roads during a snow emergency.

Year-end meeting on December 28th at 12:00.

Supervisor's Report

- Commends the Highway Department and Maintenance crew for the great job they did in keeping the town roads open during recent back to back snow storms;
- Re-organizational meeting of Town Board on January 7th at 7:00pm;
- next Town Board meeting will be held on January 28th at 7:00pm;
- the Supervisor had a conversation with Mr. Terranova, who reiterated he is willing to wait on moving forward with any project until the zoning process is completed;

- Swearing-in of Ms. Lamberta, Mr. Craig and Mr. Smith will occur after the meeting tonite so that they will be prepared to take over their responsibilities for the first of the year.

Public Comments

Joel Craig: wanted to thank Councilman Anthony Cidras for his service to the town as well as all those involved in organizing the Holiday Parade.

Corinne Curry: wanted to thank the members of the Revitalization Committee for filling the windows in the village with schoolchildren's art and lights and is sad that after the work of the Comprehensive Plan Committee the town council is not encouraged to accept those wishes of the community.

Harold Farberman: read from articles relating to the recent election and commented on his perception of the 'split' in Germantown. He hopes that Joel Craig is supported and listened to, that issues are talked about openly, we get rid of labels, make a real effort to come together and support our new people.

Bruce Bohnsack: on behalf of the Comprehensive Plan Committee wanted to say that they did present findings and changes prior to the last board meeting and there was no conspiracy, as they were waiting for comments from the Planning and Zoning Committees before making any changes. The 5-10 acre language was removed, and copies are available for the public at Town Hall. The board has finalized their work to this point and it is up to the Town Board to implement.

Tom Bower: wanted to take exception about a recent letter in the Register Star about the town not furnishing the tools needed for boards to further their education. He said he has taken many classes, the town lawyer is always cooperative if a situation arises, and Tectonic engineering firm is available in case any big projects come up.

Martin Overrington: confirmed with the Supervisor that the sidewalk design plan will be started from scratch and there will be public hearings held so the public will be informed.

Supervisor Brown said there is money set aside for the sidewalk project, and they will be looking for grants to supplement the non-federal portion of the grant. He reiterated the bidding and selection process with Mr. Smith.

Councilwoman Snyder thanked Councilman Cidras for sharing his knowledge and dedication to the town during his tenure as town board member.

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

Respectfully submitted,