

Minutes of November 17, 2008 Town Board Meeting, held at the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 7:00pm

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown
Councilwoman Joan Snyder
Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta
Councilman Joel Craig
Town Lawyer, Jason Shaw

Not Present: Councilman Jeremy Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Charlene Diehl

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and led the Pledge to the Flag. The clerk read the notice to meet.

Motion to approve the minutes from the October town board meeting made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Craig, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve a budget transfer of \$16,000 from the General Fund to the Highway made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Craig: Aye

Motion to pay audited bills made by Councilwoman Lamberta, and seconded by Councilman Craig.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Snyder: Aye

Communication - Town Clerk - none

Department Updates

Highway Department - reported by Richard Jennings

- Highway Superintendent requests the board surplus the 1984 International dump truck with plow and wing;
- Leaves cleared from the culverts on Young America, Cheviot and Anchorage roads;
- The new gas system has been ordered;
- The siren at the Firehouse will start again on Wednesdays and Saturdays;

Verbal motion to surplus the 1984 International truck made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Craig.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye

Sewer Department - reported by Joel Craig

- Preventative maintenance of Pump Station, blowers and UV lights;
- Chain-link fence repaired;
- Painted metal tanks;
- New hook-up design was received;
- Working with engineer on repair/replacing valves at Pump Station #2;
- Average Daily Gallons - 26,000

Parks Maintenance – no report

Police Department – reported by Police Commissioner Roger Rekow

- 213 hours of patrol time was logged, and all officers and recruits were out on Halloween.

Mr. Rekow has submitted paperwork to receive the Expedition and is requesting that the board surplus the 1995 Crown Victorian, car #4C42 with over 100,000 miles, as is.

Motion to surplus the 1995 Crown Victorian, as is, made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Craig: Aye

Parks Commission - reported by Mike George

The next Parks meeting is December 1st at 7:00 in the Activities Building.

December 7th is the tree lighting. There will be pictures with Santa, carolers, hot chocolate will be served at Central Market as well as the tree dedication. There will be parking at the school and bus shuttles will be available for those who can't walk. There will be a bonfire in the municipal parking lot.

Economic Development Committee – reported by Corinne Curry

Art Space opened on November 11th and exceeded expectations. 27 artists were featured, all from Germantown, with 4-5 art pieces sold, and there were 200 visitors at the reception. Ms. Curry thanked Mr. Hal Einhorn, the owner of the property, and thinks there will be a profit from the event. The committee is expanding the concept to Discover Germantown. The space will be opened through December and on December 5th there will be a holiday show, with new art and classy crafts. The hours are Friday 4:00-7:00pm, Saturday & Sunday 11:00-5:00pm.

December 3rd is Otto's opening in the old Central Market location.

Supervisor Brown thanked Corinne and the committee for a great job.

Re-Zoning Committee – Joel Craig reported he went to a grant workshop regarding the trails program. There is a Greenway grant due at the beginning of December to help fund the re-zoning process.

Sidewalk Committee - Supervisor Brown reported there was a meeting a few weeks ago. There are plans to meet with the residents who live or have property adjacent to the sidewalks to discuss what will happen. There will also be a public meeting with Foit-Albert to go over the plans with residents of the town. Releases from property owners will need to be signed and Mr. Brown hopes to break ground in late spring/early summer.

Old Business

Supervisor Brown reported that Councilwoman Snyder and Councilman Craig went through the applications for a Planning/Zoning Department secretary and that Mr. Brown will be doing follow-up calls. Councilman Craig said both applicants are well qualified and he would like to hire for the position as soon as possible.

Verbal resolution to hire a secretary for the Planning/Zoning Department based on acceptance made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Craig.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye

Motion to approve the Dog Ordinance Law, as per the public hearing, made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Craig: Aye

Supervisor Brown brought up the Ambulance Charge-back agreement, where the agreement is to add 15% to last year's fee. The total is \$68,440.00. Mr. Brown said it will be a few years until the full amount is reached that Northern Dutchess is asking for.

Motion to move forward with the Charge-back agreement made by Supervisor Brown and seconded by Councilman Craig.

Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye Councilwoman Snyder: Aye

Resolution #40 – Greenway Grant

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown is applying to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program to assist in the drafting of updated zoning regulations for the Town of Germantown,

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the applicant municipality to obtain an "approved municipal resolution requesting the proposed grant funding";

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the governing board of the Town of Germantown hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program for the purpose of drafting updated zoning regulations for the Town of Germantown.

Motion to approve the resolution to apply for the grant made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye

Supervisor Brown said he had received a letter from the chair of the Planning Board requesting the board pass a local law that will address re-subdivisions and Board of Health approval for minor subdivisions, as the Planning Board believes there is not enough oversight provided currently and the town's zoning update process won't be complete for some time.

Councilman Craig said he thought these issues should be addressed in the zoning update process and done altogether – he doesn't want to put anything out there that will need to be redone – and he will meet with the chair before going over her concerns with the Re-Zoning Committee.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Brown said the Martha Lorenz-Van Allen Memory Tree and Bench were dedicated on November 1st. There were approximately 65 people in attendance that witnessed a very nice memorial and dedication. Councilman Craig thanked Supervisor Brown, Austin Sullivan and the highway department for doing a great job.

The grand opening of Art Space also occurred on November 1st in conjunction with all the businesses in town that wanted to participate. The town was bustling with residents and visitors right up until closing time. Supervisor Brown and the board thanked Otto's Market, Central House, the flower shop, Lawlor's Package store, G-tel for the great cider donuts and coffee, the second-hand store, and all of the businesses on Palatine Park Road that were open as well.

There is a public hearing on the proposed 2009 Town budget on November 18th. Supervisor Brown said that five budget workshops were held – state revenues were cut and a lot of cuts have occurred as a result of that. Projected revenues have been conservative and Supervisor Brown congratulates the board for their dedication to the process.

Open to the Public

Dorothy Montague asked if the ambulance company is continuing to provide a closer presence to the town, and if the town has thought any more about having a First Responder for the town. She said certification is needed for First Responders and the town should consider moving it forward and seeing if any residents are interested in becoming a first responder.

Supervisor Brown said that Northern Dutchess would be happy to come to a board meeting and continues to look for ways to improve service. He will look into the First Responder matter.

Art Schiff requested numbers from the ambulance service and said that the number of uncovered people is a chronic problem for the ambulance folks and this causes billing/payment issues.

Kay Abraham asked about the publicity for the Holiday Stroll, and Mike George responded that the information would be posted pending his receipt of the final names of businesses that will be involved. Ms. Abraham also requested that the budget summary be put on the website and thought that Supervisor Brown and the board members worked well throughout the budget process.

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

Respectfully submitted,