

Minutes of January 20, 2009 Germantown Town Board meeting, held at the Germantown Town Hall at 7:00pm.

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

Recorded by: Charlene Diehl, Town Clerk

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve the December meeting minutes, the December end of year meeting minutes and the January reorganizational meeting minutes made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay audited bills per the abstract made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye  
Councilman Smith: Aye

**Communication - Town Clerk - none**

### **Department Updates**

**Highway Department** - reported by Supervisor Brown in R Jennings' absence

Once the new truck comes in, no equipment for the Highway Department will be needed for awhile. Supervisor Brown commended Rich and the Highway employees for keeping the roads clear during the storms we've had.

**Sewer Department** - reported by George Sharpe Jr.

- Grinder pump on 9G was replaced due to the bearings
- working with Town Engineer on Station #2
- Average Daily Gallons - 30,000

Supervisor Brown mentioned that he will be speaking about the Sewer district later, but stated the need to repair some grinder pumps and a blower as well as purchasing a new electric motor, per George.

Motion to approve repair of 3 grinder pumps and a blower and to purchase a new electric motor made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Craig.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye  
Councilman Smith: Aye

**Parks & Maintenance** - reported by Anthony Cidras

- Main Care was called 3 times for boiler problems in the Highway garage;

- Scraping and salting of sidewalks after snow/ice storms;
- helped George with the grinder pump problem;
- replaced toilet in ladies room in the Activity Bldg.;
- made contact with P Rolands of Pesticide teaching, who is offering a class for Certification in Lake treating from March 23 - April 10. The cost is \$505, which includes manuals and the exam which is issued by DEC.
- spoke with Litco Supply for UV lights for the water filtration system. The cost will be \$410.47 to replace four bulbs which were last done about 4 years ago;
- thanked Scoob Excavating for his generosity in helping grade the pavilion at Dales Bridge.

Motion to approve Anthony Cidras to take the Certification in Lake Treating class for \$505 made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown:                   Aye                                   Councilman Craig:    Aye  
 Councilman Smith:                Aye

**Police Department** - reported by Roger Rekow

- 175 hours of patrol time logged for the month;
- 2,155.5 hours of patrol time logged for the year 2008
- new vehicle is on the road and plans are for a photo op with Senator Saland and the Sheriff's Department for assisting in obtaining the vehicles;
- resignation submitted by Angel Otty, a recruit.

There has been a request by Mike Lawson to revise the parking ticket fines. Germantown is behind, charging \$10, and Mr. Lawson would like to see the fees increased to \$75 for all violations, with \$150 fines for handicapped parking violators. The board agreed with the Department heads and Police Commissioners will meet to discuss the parking fine increase.

**Economic Development** - reported by Corrine Curry

- "Local Color" ran at Art Space from November 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of December;
- Helen Sacco & Mike Buffi gave a report at the last committee meeting and reported indications of a profit;
- thanks to Austin Sullivan and Patty Hinkein for their assistance;
- "Point of View" photography & textile show opening January 31<sup>st</sup>
- Germantown Jazz Duo concert on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00
- 

**ReZoning Committee** - reported by Joel Craig

- kick-off meeting with Troy River Street Planning & Design planned;
- a grant for \$9,000 was received from Greenway and will go toward the rezoning effort

Supervisor Brown reported that on the Highway truck bid, one bid came in for the chassis and went to International, and one bid came in for the plow and went to Zwack. The anticipated delivery date for the new truck is March/April.

Mrs. Susan Brown from Germantown Central School gave an update on the Dyson Foundation grant which the school used to develop GAP - Germantown After school Program. She thanked

the board and Councilwoman Snyder, and said that if the program expands the school may need to collaborate with the town about using the facilities.

Supervisor Brown said that in light of the fiscal climate the town was following a county model of Committee Oversight of Town Departments. Department heads meet on a monthly basis with council members who have been assigned their department to discuss issues and concerns as well as getting prior approval for large purchases and meeting quarterly to make sure all departments are within their budget.

Mr. Brown also indicated he had sent a memo to all Department heads putting a freeze on spending and requesting committee chair approval for all expenditures.

A fee increase in the Waste Water Treatment Plant district has been imposed and there will be a public hearing on February 2, 2009 at 7:00pm to discuss and also to review findings from the town engineer regarding the facility.

Motion to reappoint Fred Lang to the County Board of Assessment Review was made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye
Councilman Smith:	Aye		

Motion to reappoint Rick Jason for a 7-year term to the Planning Board was made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye
Councilman Craig:	Aye		

Motion to reappoint Tom Bower for a 5-year term to the Zoning Board of Appeals was made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilman Craig.

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye
Councilman Smith:	Aye		

Supervisor Brown said the recent ice storm which impacted the town led the board to take another look at the Town Emergency Response Plan. The Zoning, Legal, Police and Emergency Preparedness Committee is updating the plan. Councilman Craig indicated the recent storm was an exercise in emergency management and they are looking to formalize an emergency system so the town can be prepared for the next incident. The plan is to have volunteers staffing the Town Hall to answer questions and volunteers staffing the emergency shelter for folks who won't be able to remain in their homes. There is shelter training planned for January 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in the Activity Building for those interested in volunteering.

300/400 Anniversary Committee will start funding raising soon, and Councilman Smith asked the board to consider adding a line in the town budget for contributions.

Motion to add a line in the town budget for the 300/400 anniversary celebration, with any leftover monies to be transferred to the Parsonage in 2010, made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye
Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye		

Councilwoman Snyder said that board members had been working with student interns from Germantown Central School, and her interns had the students at school complete a survey regarding student's plans once they graduated. She indicated the majority plan on attending a

two or four-year college and more than half will do so outside of Columbia county. She thanked Emily Robinson and Emily Buhler for their assistance with the survey.

Supervisor Brown said it was a pleasure to have the student interns and the board would be more than happy to continue the program. Councilman Smith indicated that a discussion with Mr. Beury, who instituted the internships, should be held in the future to make sure students get out of the program what they signed up for.

### **Supervisor Report**

- The State Youth Block program was cut 24.5%. Of the 24.4% is a cut of \$30,000 of the \$33,000 that Columbia County receives for our municipal youth programs, including monies used for our Germantown park program. Please write letters to your assembly, senate and congressional representatives to help restore this funding
- The Chairman of the Board issued a hiring freeze of all non-emergency personnel in the county for the next 90 days, due to the economy
- FEMA aide for the December ice storm will be coming now and 75% of monies expended during the storm will be reimbursed. You can view a report by the County Public Works Commissioner at [www.columbiacountyny.com](http://www.columbiacountyny.com)
- All County Board committee meetings and minutes are on the county website
- A Public Officials meeting will be held January 22 to discuss the ice storm and Supervisor Brown will update the board and community at the next town board meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Larry Osgood noted that at the Clermont board meeting they were all appreciative of Germantown's assistance during the ice storm. He brought up to the board a complaint they had received a few months ago about the town's Dog Control Officer. He had a recent conversation with Desiree Weber, who is Clermont's Dog Control Officer, and indicated her interest in working with Germantown. Mr. Osgood asked the board to consider Ms. Weber for the position and will relay contact information so that Supervisor Brown can pursue. Supervisor Brown indicated he will follow up with Ray Staats and board members.

Councilwoman Snyder asked about ice skating on the town's pond. Supervisor Brown said he will look into making the pond available and accessible and will work with Anthony on it. Mrs. Snyder said she had seen one person walking their dog on the pond and reminded the community they should stay off the pond until it's been determined safe to walk on.

Supervisor Brown reminded the community that you cannot take snow from your property and put it on town, county or state highways, and to please not put snow onto the sidewalk once it's been cleared. If you snow blow material onto the road you can be ticketed and held liable if any accident occurs because of it.

The next Town Board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00pm

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

Respectfully submitted,