

Minutes of April 20, 2009 Germantown 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
Councilman Jeremy Smith
Highway Superintendent Rich Jennings
Town Lawyer Jason Shaw

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

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

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

Motion to approve paying the bills from the abstract presented made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Communication - Town Clerk (letters available at the Clerk's Office)

No communications this month.

Olivia Clandorf from Columbia-Greene Reality Check gave an update on the progress they had made in reducing retail tobacco advertising in the Germantown school district. 65% of retailers targeted participated in the initiative and the group's target has expanded to retailers outside of the initial scope of being less than 1,000 feet from a school. She and the group requested that the Board sign a resolution supporting their request, and it was passed to the members for their signatures.

Supervisor Brown indicated that the Certificates of Recognition the board had planned to present would be done at next month's meeting.

Motion to go into Executive Session regarding a legal matter was made by Councilwoman Snyder, seconded by Councilman Smith, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Department Updates

Highway Department - reported by Richard Jennings

- road sweeping has been done except for the village area - they are waiting to work with the county;
- docks in Cheviot have been put in and they will be working on the Anchorage docks;
- the recent roadside cleanup removed 900 pounds of debris from the roads and Rich thanked everyone who helped, including Dave's Plumbing and the Sportsmen's. Supervisor Brown said the state and county have been picking up debris as well and kudos to everyone for their participation;
- pipe replacements done on Hover Avenue and will be working on Underhill Lane;
- Rich and Supervisor Brown met with FEMA and will be writing up the documentation to send in for reimbursement;
- The new truck is at Zwack's and expected back in about two weeks.

Sewer - reported by Joel Craig and George Sharpe Jr.

- average daily flow - 30,000 gallons;
- no complaints – all quiet

George and the electrician looked at the Taconic Farms generator and it won't work so they are back to finding an alternate plan to back up the plant while work is being done on it. Supervisor Brown will check with the county to see if they have any equipment that could be used.

Councilwoman Snyder asked George if the process of going house-to-house looking at gutters that may be running into the sewer has been started yet, and it has not.

Maintenance - reported by Anthony Cidras

- Anthony thanked Dave Helsley and Stuart Phelan for their assistance in getting water back at the ball fields;
- stone has been put on the trails;
- skagg mower has been tuned up;
- day spent with Main Care representative about the boilers;
- raised lights in Pavilion;
- Anthony walked the trail cleaning up debris and accumulated eight 55-gallon trash bags;
- Anchorage has been cleaned up for the season;
- pruning being done on playground and ball field;
- Anthony gave Supervisor Brown the policy on removing trees in the park that he follows and said any removal is not done maliciously and there is a plan in place. Councilman Smith will be reviewing the tree removal policy and Supervisor Brown would like to resolve any issues as there are broken trees that need to be cut and brought down.

Councilwoman Lamberta asked about the progress at Dales Bridge:

- getting estimates on removing trees – Anthony said the beavers are taking the trees down as well;
- Pavilion and parking lot are done;
- Anthony is looking into portable rest rooms that are eco-friendly.

Police Department – reported by Roger Rekow

- in February 206.5 hours of patrol time were logged;
- in March 211 hours of patrol time were logged

Commissioner Rekow indicated the Officer-In-Charge asked for an increase in parking ticket fines. The Safety Committee discussed the request and recommends the board keep the fee structure as it is for 2009 and revisit the issue at a later date.

Economic Development - reported by Corinne Curry

Ms. Curry attended the Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance, which is a partnership of diverse interests for economic development. The focus of the meeting was on building from the center and having a concurrent commitment to launch, plan and implement a plan. Germantown is set up to build from the center and has many assets to move forward. Supervisor Brown thanked Corinne for attending the session.

Ms. Curry indicated the committee sent a letter to local businesses about their initiatives, one of which is setting up flags to indicate when businesses are open and putting a sign at the end of Palatine Park Road stating what businesses are there.

Emergency Preparedness - reported by Joel Craig

Councilman Craig spoke with Tim Otty and progress is being made but there are no specifics to report on.

Re-Zoning Committee - Reported by Joel Craig

- Public Forum is May 11th;
- next Committee meeting is April 27th at 6:00pm

300/400 Anniversary – reported by Jerry Smith

Councilman Smith indicated there is nothing new to report.

Sidewalk Project

Supervisor Brown said he had developed a proposal for Phase 2 for \$1.4 million and was turned down for this round of funding. He will reapply when the information comes out again.

Supervisor Brown spoke with the current Dog Control Officer, Joe Palumbo, and asked him to come in to speak with the board.

Mr. Palumbo went over his responsibilities, which include an annual report with the Department of Agriculture & Markets – they update the laws and go over dog impound procedures. Pine Plans Veterinary is the vet used for services, and in instances where Mr. Palumbo is unable to pick up animals his son is helping. He is in contact with the Clermont Dog Control Officer and will work with her in cases when an incident arises. He said in a recent situation there was a call from someone who had a stray and when he picked it up the animal had died. He took the animal to the county to review for a possible emaciation/rabies situation. The report came back that the dog had intestinal problems which led to emaciation and that no rabies were present.

Mr. Palumbo reported that rabies exposure in Columbia County is high. Councilwoman Lamberta asked if he does a ‘courtesy call’ to neighboring municipalities for rabies possibilities and he’s been in contact with Clermont. He recommends owners putting the tags on their dogs and using cloth collars and indelible marker to put license number and contact phone number on it. He also said he takes animals he picks up to a kennel at his house or the vets to impound and he just handles dogs, not cats or wild animals.

Local Law #4 of 2009: A Local Law amending ‘Local Law #1 of 1992: A Local Law Enacting a Code of Ethics and Establishing a Board of Ethics for the Town of Germantown’.

Motion to pass Local Law to implement the new Ethics Law made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith.

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

Councilwoman Snyder gave an update on the Park fees and that the Committee met to discuss and reviewed their plan with businesses, which includes fee deposits and vendor fees. A public hearing will be scheduled after Jason Shaw looks over the proposed revision to the law.

Mrs. Snyder said the proposed fees for the summer program for Germantown and Clermont residents are \$25.00 for the first child and \$15.00 for each additional child. Fees for swimming will be \$10.00 per child.

Non-resident fees for the summer program are \$50.00 per child and the fees for non-resident swimming lessons will be \$10.00 per child.

- a state of emergency was declared by the supervisor as it relates to the wastewater treatment facility – this is an administrative tool to speed up the process to apply for stimulus funding for the project;
- installation of the new light in the parking lot will be coordinated with Gtel as a pole needs to be installed;
- Youth Programs Block Grant funding was cut again, for a total of 30% taken from the Governor's Budget. This means the town will lose money as well;
- for those inquiring into parking laws, the Town of Germantown abides by Article 32, Stopping, Standing and Parking as written by the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law of New York;
- parking regulations for Germantown will be in the Town Clerk's office for residents to review;
- the mortgage tax for the first quarter of 2009 came in and it is \$40,000 less from that of March 2007;
- budget requests for the 2010 budget will be handed out to department heads in May;
- met with SEMO and FEMA and money expended by the town during the ice storm will be reimbursed. This includes sand, salt, part of wages/benefits and fuel).

Open to Public

Art Schiff offered himself to the County Board of Ethics. He said that Germantown has a good Code of Ethics and urges Supervisor Brown to look at the county's code relative to Germantown's. He stated his displeasure about the Ockawammick School purchase and feels that the Department of Social Services should be retained in Hudson.

He applauds Nan Elliot's effort on increasing communication and said there should be ways to communicate to the board the concerns of the citizen's.

Martin Overrington said that River Sweep will be held on May 9th from 9:00-12:00 from Lasher Park to Cheviot Park. The Highway crew follows the volunteers and picks up the debris – CSX has been weed whacking so more debris will probably be picked up.

The next town board meeting is May 18th at 7:00pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,