

Minutes of February 22, 2009 Germantown Town Board meeting, held at the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 7:00pm

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

Not Present: Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

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

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

Motion to approve paying audited bills made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Craig.

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

A Presentation on the 300th Palatine Celebration website was made by Devon and Kathy Overington, which went through the history of the Palatines and the events going on throughout the town to commemorate the anniversary. Devon's presentation has been requested by other towns to show and the website address is germantownnyhistory.org.

Supervisor Brown will confirm a link on the town website to the celebration website.

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

- Letter of thanks from the Town of Clermont for the Germantown Highway's assistance with the new sand and salt shed project in Clermont.
- Rabies Clinic will be held in Germantown on April 17th at the Kellner Youth and Activity Building.

Supervisor Brown said he and the board had decided that any letters of a political nature will not be read by the Town Clerk; she will do a quick summary and the letter(s) would be available in the Clerk's office for those interested in reading them.

Department Updates

Highway Department – reported by Joan Snyder

- 144 ton of sand was hauled in and 75 ton of salt was ordered for winter, and we are in good shape for this time of year;
- assisted the Sewer department with some digging;
- patrolling roads for potholes, as soft spots are appearing;
- preparing to start service on broom tractor for road sweeping;
- brush and dead trees were cut on East Camp and Mountain View Roads and will continue, weather permitting;
- working with the Cub Scouts on dates for the road-site cleanup in April.

Sewer - reported by Joan Snyder

- average daily flow is approximately 20,000 gallons;
- 3 calls received pertaining to Dig Safely New York;
- received 4 home inspections that need to be completed;
- there are 2 situations with laterals in the district: one has been fixed already and the other should be completed this week pending the weather;
- everything running the way it should be

Parks & Maintenance - reported by Anthony Cidras

- improvements were done at the Town Hall;
- picked up the 5 toilets that were ordered and installed 2;
- lake was open for a bit for ice skating, but is now closed for the season;
- working on the solar energy projects and will be incorporating the Highway department;
- working with Main Care on a furnace replacement at the Town Hall. The Highway department's furnace will be replaced after that.
- Getting estimates for the solar panels to be installed on town grounds;
- Ordering supplies for the summer.

Councilman Smith told the board that Anthony's goal is to have 80% of the town's power come from the solar panels. It was agreed that the sand and salt shed was probably the best location for the solar panels due to the height and location.

Police Department – reported by Roger Rekow

121.25 hours of patrol time was logged in for the month of January.

Park Commission – reported by Tim Otty

May 25th will be the town-wide yard sale and plant sale. Tim would like to make it a 'spend the day in Germantown' theme.

Tim let the board and audience know that he plans to be available to get your ideas for the Park Commission and that volunteering is wanted. He has an email address, GermantownParks@gmail.com for folks to send their ideas, and is also available on Thursdays from 12:00-3:00 at the Town Hall for those who want to meet with him. His phone number is 537-OTTY and he stressed the importance of needing volunteers to help with the ideas that are being generated. He would like to create a parks and recs facility that is affordable and enjoyable. Tim also thanked Austin, Mike George and Anthony for their help to him so far.

Councilman Craig let Mr. Otty know the Little League has ideas for the field, and they discussed approaches to recruiting organizations to come to the table and see what issues and ideas they had for working with the town in using the facilities.

Councilman Smith thought that with a new chairperson, the Parks Commission should start fresh and contact folks for a meeting and set out a plan for the board with plans and funding.

Mr. Otty said he would like the board to come up with a framework of how the town lands are going to be used. He also requested an email if he should contact somebody about an event and he is willing to make it convenient for them to meet.

Councilman Craig asked Mr. Otty if he had seen the Talk of the Town article on the State Comprehensive Outdoor Plan, and will work with Tim on getting applications in.

Rezoning Committee – reported by Joel Craig

- meeting was held February 15th to discuss code enforcement, non-conforming use and sign usage procedures;
- meeting to be held March 13th at the Town Hall to complete the draft; the committee hopes to have it to the public by late spring.

Old Business

Supervisor Brown brought up the Independence Day celebration that the town puts on every year, and the concern that with all the activities and events going on this year in relation to the 300th celebration of the Palatines, if those events should take precedence over the Independence Day event. Businesses that generally support the Independence Day event are already donating for the 300th anniversary, and most of

the volunteers that usually work the Independence Day event are involved in the 300th as well. As the profits from the Independence Day event barely covered expenses the past few years, does the town want to sponsor two large events, and a decision will need to be made soon.

Councilwoman Snyder indicated she has mixed feelings and would prefer that the residents of the town make that decision.

Councilman Smith said that a decision has to be made before the date that the fireworks have to be ordered for the Independence Day event. Arrangements for the Oktoberfest are taking up a lot of the volunteers in the town and he is concerned about their availability for the Independence Day event. He suggests that the town look to sponsor an event in the fall, perhaps a Fall Festival that can be tied in with apples which are harvested locally at that time.

Supervisor Brown said that even though the town has held this event for many years, in the last 5-7 years other communities have started their own Independence Day celebrations, which draws attendance away from Germantown, and agrees with Councilman Smith about the Fall Festival idea.

Councilman Craig asked if the funds used for the fireworks for the Independence Day celebration could be used to expand the fireworks display scheduled for the Oktoberfest.

The board agreed they did not want to make any final decisions at this meeting.

Supervisor Brown said he wanted the board to discuss the '97 Crown Victoria police car and possible uses for it. There was previous talk of having the Code Enforcement Officer use the car for his inspections, and Supervisor Brown is in favor of this and would like to see some use from the vehicle, as it has recently been repaired at a cost of nearly \$1,000.

Councilman Craig said the cost to insure and maintain the vehicle outweighs the benefits and he doesn't feel the Code Enforcement Officer should use the vehicle, and it should be put up for sale.

Councilwoman Snyder thinks the Code Enforcement Officer should use the vehicle since the town will not recoup much money from selling it and would like to see it used while it's still viable.

Councilman Smith said the amount of time the Code Enforcement Officer would use it wouldn't be worth the cost of keeping and suggested the town purchasing magnetic decals for Mr. Fieser to use on his visits.

Verbal motion made by Councilman Smith to put the 1997 Crown Victoria up for auction, with a second by Councilman Craig.

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

Supervisor Brown said he will contact the county to get more information if the board decides to put it up for sale, as the county has a website for surplus equipment/vehicles.

Resolution #29 - Justice Court Records Audit

A resolution to accept the Annual Justice Court Record Audit as presented was made by Councilman Craig with a second by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Councilwoman Snyder brought up Resolution #15 from the January Re-Organizational meeting in which an engineering firm was to be appointed by the town board. At the time of the meeting, the process of receiving RFPs for the appointment was transpiring

so the board could not make the recommendation at that time. The RFPs have been reviewed by a committee that was formed to review them and a recommendation brought to the board. The firms were DH Wheeler, Tectonic Engineering & Survey and Morris and Associates.

Councilwoman Snyder said the committee made a thorough justification and recommendation that Tectonic Engineering be appointed as the town engineer.

Councilman Smith reviewed the committee members with Councilwoman Snyder, and Councilman Craig said the committee did conscientious work and he was comfortable with the result.

A motion to appoint Tectonic Engineering as the Town of Germantown's engineer was made by Councilwoman Snyder, with a second by Supervisor Brown.

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

Councilwoman Snyder said she will thank all the member of the committee on behalf of the board.

Councilman Smith wanted clarification for the minutes that when the items were encumbered from 2009 to 2010 that the monies were not going into the General Fund, but into the account it came from, i.e. historical properties & celebrations.

Supervisor Brown confirmed that the resolution made sure that was stated, as Councilman Smith was very specific those monies be held over.

Councilman Smith confirmed that Supervisor Brown will give him a list of all the accounts once the remaining 2009 bills are paid.

Supervisor Brown asked the board to raise the deductible on the town's insurance coverage to \$1,000 on comprehensive and collision covered vehicles.

Motion to raise the deductible on the town's insurance coverage to \$1,000 on comprehensive and collision covered vehicles made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Supervisor Brown also recommended the town raise its umbrella policy from \$3 million to \$5 million, which includes police department coverage. Councilman Smith had recommended the board look into coverage after reading an article about a town that had to pay out a significant amount of money due to an accidental shooting by one of their police.

Motion to raise the town's umbrella policy coverage from \$3 million to \$5 million was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Craig.

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

Supervisor Brown requested from the board their approval for him to sign an agreement with an independent contractor, Cheryl Kaszuga, for data collection and property evaluation appraisal reviews for Germantown to do an assessment revaluation. This project was discussed during budget meetings and \$25,000 was put in the budget for this project.

Town lawyer Jason Shaw reminded the board that homeowners usually get a notice of what was found during the appraisal and then has an opportunity to correct it.

Councilman Craig said he would like to see a breakdown of deliverables as well as a financial breakdown of the process.

Supervisor Brown said the county Director of Real Property is aware of the independent contractor being used and appreciates their work.

Motion to allow Supervisor Brown to sign an agreement with independent contract Cheryl Kaszluga for data collection and property evaluation appraisal reviews of taxable parcels located within the town of Germantown made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Supervisor Brown: Aye

Councilwoman Snyder: Aye

Councilman Craig: Aye

Councilman Smith: Aye

Councilman Craig reminded the audience of the law that went into effect that day requiring Carbon Monoxide detectors in all residences.

Supervisor's Report

- State DOT folks have inquired with the county about the possible closure of the Route 9G Linlithgo bridge during their repair project for a short period of time. Several county and town roads would be used during this detour and Supervisor Brown will keep the board updated as he is informed.
- furnace malfunction at the Town Hall on January 30th - there was no fire but Supervisor Brown wanted to thank Chris and Janice Mullins for calling it in and the fire department for responding so quickly. He also thanked Anthony Cidras, who remains on-site until the Main Care representative had stabilized the situation.
- Anthony is working through the recommendations listed in the energy audit, and thanks to Austin for following up on the funds for the recommendations.
- the town was contacted recently about using our facilities as rest stops for a bicycle event by Bicycle Shows US that will be going through the town on July 18th, and it is a potential project for scouts to assist in handing out water and snacks. Supervisor Brown will work with the organization to finalize the plans. Councilman Craig said this is the type of event that will bring recognition to the town and he thinks it's a great idea.
- Austin has been asked by the supervisor to look into the cost of replacing the playground equipment, and as soon as any funding sources become available this year he will apply to get the playground equipment repaired.

Councilman Smith suggested working with the Parks commission on the playground equipment as well.

The town lawyer told the board that the outstanding Article 7 issue with Hirschbihl has been resolved. He also confirmed with Councilman Craig that an assessment revaluation keeps everyone on equal footing and it doesn't automatically increase taxes as folks think.

Open to Public

Mike George said that the roadside cleanup is April 8th, and the Cub Scouts will be assisting as they do every year. The Scouts will also be doing planting at the memorial park bench in town; there is a pancake breakfast on April 11th and a chicken & biscuit dinner on May 8th. He also informed the audience that Southern Memorial VFW is the new sponsor of the Cub Scouts, and they are looking for volunteers. He requested Supervisor Brown let him know what assistance is needed at the bike event.

Mr. George also told the board that paperwork will be going out for the town-wide yard sale and information will be located at local businesses regarding selling space and the vendors for the event.

He said the Independence Day event has been going on for years and he thinks it should continue, as he comes to support his town.

Roger Rekow said he understands the current economic difficulties but thinks the Independence Day event would be good advertising for the Oktoberfest, and that if the event is cancelled this year the town will have a hard time getting it back.

Betty Ahrens asked about the sewer repairs and Supervisor Brown said he is still waiting for the proposal to come in and then the board can decide how they want to proceed. He said the company had mentioned securing potential funding sources, which may be a reason the report hasn't come in yet.

There will be a town workshop meeting on March 8th at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

The next town board meeting is March 15th at 7:00pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,