

Minutes of April 19, 2010 Germantown Town Board meeting, held at the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 7:00pm

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown
Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta
Councilwoman Joan Snyder
Councilman Joel Craig
Town Lawyer Sonja Smalefsky

Not Present: Councilman Jeremy Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

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

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

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

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

Supervisor Brown informed those attending that Councilman Smith was unable to return from England due to the volcanic ash that had shut down international flights.

Don Westmore, representing the 300th celebration committee had brought items to show commemorating the event, which would be sold to raise money. Nadine Rumke has been putting together items to sell which include a cap, a tote bag, a tee shirt and a polo shirt, all emblazoned with the 300th celebration logo.

Mr. Westmore also unveiled the 300th celebration flags that were in the process of being installed throughout the town, courtesy of Gtel.

There is a monthly publication, *The Palatine Packet*, put together by Dick Montague, with information on the celebratory events going on this year in a calendar. There is information about the town along with some photos.

The Germantown Library has a feature called e-news, which features events and activities going on in the town, and if the board has any information let Mr. Westmore know and they'll publish the information. Supervisor Brown encouraged him to visit the town website for any events that may not be reflected on the library's e-news.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss some legal issues and negotiations made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Supervisor Brown, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of Executive Session regarding some legal issues and negotiations made by Councilwoman Lamberta with a second by Councilwoman Snyder, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

- Nothing to report

Department Updates

Highway Department – reported by Joan Snyder

- thanks to everyone who helped with the road-side clean up;
- River Sweep on Saturday 4/24 – anyone wishing to help should contact Martin Overington @537-5585;
- Anchorage docks will be installed during the week with help from DEC;
- Wood and debris has been cleaned off the parking area;

- 65' of pipe was installed on Mt. View road to replace a pipe that's been in since 1970 and it will be ready to pave;
- the blacktop plant just opened so the highway crew can start patching soft spots and winter damage done to the roads;
- The Highway department is videotaping Dales Bridge, Sunset Circle, and Block Factory roads so they can monitor any damage from the bridge detour, and NYS DOT said they will stand behind it.
- Road sweeping is being done now and ditching and patching on the roads will start soon.

Sewer -

- Nothing to report

Parks & Maintenance - reported by Anthony Cidras

- Ball fields are being readied for the new season and a lot of time was spent on the south field; the 39 tons of clay was received Thursday morning;
- Aluminum picnic tables are done;
- Water is turned on everywhere but the beach house;
- A lot of stuff has been removed from the lake; it will take some time to get where we want to be;
- Mowing has started;
- Thanks to Rich and the Highway Department for doing the bridge at the end of the lake; it came out very nice and Anthony plans to put a split rail fence up once it's settled;
- Still talking with the solar panel company and working out the details;

Supervisor Brown asked about the status of Dales Bridge and Anthony said when he's done with the ball fields he plans on putting in stairs. The Supervisor asked Anthony to secure the wood that will be used for the stairs, especially in light of the increased traffic due to the detour.

Councilman Craig expressed his concern about the electricity usage at the Anchorage and had the National Grid usage statement which showed more electricity being used there than the town hall. The town is responsible for 2 of the 3 lights and Supervisor Brown said he and Anthony will look into it.

Councilwoman Lamberta asked if the 39 tons of clay ordered was to be used for 2 fields. Supervisor Brown said the use would probably be determined by how much clay was needed for each field. Councilman Craig said that the board should work with the organizations to determine what their needs for the clay will be.

Police Department – reported by Roger Rekow

136.50 hours of patrol time was logged in for the month of March.

Park Patrols: Cheviot –32 times, Anchorage – 34 times, School –30 times, Palatine Park – 27 times, Dales Bridge – 15 times

Commissioner Rekow informed the audience there is no outside burning until May 15th.

Mr. Rekow informed the board that patrolling officers will be paying more attention on the detour roads being used for the bridge repair currently underway on Rte 9G.

Park Commission – reported by Tim Otty

- Thanks to Anthony for letting the town use his roto-tiller, as the town doesn't own one. They've been working on the fields and Mr. Otty has received numerous compliments and folks wanting to get involved in the Parks Commission;
- The south field is the field that Southern Columbia Little League wants to play all its softball games on;
- Projections for the use of the clay are to use 30 ton on the south field and the remaining 10-ton on the north field.

- Tim proposes to use the south field for softball and use the north field for majors and minors;
- Tim is in negotiations to bring men's softball to the fields;
- Thanks to Austin for addressing the wasp problems that were reported;
- Weeds in the pond are being addressed.

Tim indicated he would like to see removable home run fences acquired this year, and a scoreboard next year. He would like to have cement poured in the dugouts this year.

Mr. Otty will be presenting 3 options for home run fences for the board to consider, along with a recommendation on which is the most value for the money. He will be consulting with Anthony as well since they will be responsible for putting the fences up and taking them down. Mr. Otty also expressed the need for one of the fields to be skinned for softball.

Verbal motion to skin a field in the park for softball was made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Councilwoman Snyder acknowledged the amount of time Anthony has spent on the fields and wanted to know if the parents are helping with the field maintenance and the answer is yes.

Germantown Garden Plant Sale and Town-wide Yard Sale will be held on May 15th and Tim would like approval to use approximately \$250 for advertising for the event to bring in more people from outside of the county.

Motion to allow Tim Otty to use up to \$250 for advertising for the Garden Plant and Town-wide Yard sale made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Economic Development – presented by Corinne Curry

- congrats to the 300th Committee on the merchandise they'll be selling;
- ArtSpace will have a new show – Art 12526 – opening May 1st at 7:00pm, featuring artists from Germantown, Clermont and Livingston. This is the 6th show and these events have brought people into the town.
- Thanks to Mr. Einhorn for donating the facility for ArtSpace.
- Met with Ken Floor from Economic Development in Columbia County, to talk about the next steps to bring development to Germantown, and Norman Mince, an urban planner, will be assisting as well.
- A meeting with local businesses to seek input and funding will be held on May 24th at Art Space.
- The technical assistance grant disbursement is still postponed.

300th Celebration – items presented by Don Westmore

Rezoning Committee – reported by Joel Craig

- committee met last Monday which was the first opportunity to review the draft document as a whole;
- May 10th will be the next meeting – looking to wrap up the committee's input and move the draft to the Zoning and Planning Boards for their review.

Old Business

Supervisor Brown brought up the Building and Zoning Permit Fees. He spoke with folks from the county and shared with the board a sample from the town of Canaan, and three other towns are looking to use the same approach. He had shared his numbers

with John Fieser, the Building Inspector, who suggested a more conservative approach. Supervisor Brown suggested to the board they use a midway number of \$.50 per sq. ft. calculation. Mr. Brown said Mr. Fieser suggested the new numbers be in place by June 1st since that is the start of the 'busy' season.

Councilwoman Lamberta and Supervisor Brown discussed what Mr. Fieser's main concern had been with the proposed numbers and that this wouldn't impact everybody, only those in new development or adding on to existing structures. Councilwoman Lamberta said the board has been working on this for a while so it's time to take action. Councilman Craig expressed his concern that we stay in line with other towns and not gouge people seeking these permits. He is comfortable with the numbers proposed.

Motion to approve the sample price sheets as presented to the board, \$.50 per sq. ft. as listed on the sample, to be effective June 1, 2010 made by Supervisor Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

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

At the last board workshop there was talk about a sidewalk consultant, but Supervisor Brown would like to hold off any discussion until he has a chance to return a phone call to Foyt Albert.

New Business

The board has received three sewer rent reduction requests. January and July are the only times the board is able to adjust any rates so the requests will be looked at during the June board meeting. Those requesting the reduction will be contacted and told that.

Another topic discussed at the workshop was LP tanks. There are 4 different vendors providing propane to the town and Supervisor Brown believes we should own our tanks so better prices can be negotiated. He got 4 requests from Suburban, Main Care, Merry Gas and Costco to bury a 500 gallon propane tank and remove a 1,000 oil tank currently buried. The best price was \$2000 from Costco.

Motion to approve spending \$2,000 for Costco to supply a tank with regulators as per their estimate so the town can manage their own delivery of propane made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Supervisor Brown. Councilwoman Snyder had to recuse herself as her daughter just began employment there. Councilman Craig confirmed the funds were available in the budget.

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

Supervisor Brown brought up the snack bar meeting room in the Activity Building – turning the snack bar into a meeting room, and using a closet in the back for the scouting organization to use. He has discussed this project with Anthony and Austin to make sure it won't interfere with any of their use. He feels it would cut down on energy usage in the wintertime and access to the restrooms would be available.

Councilwoman Lamberta asked about the remaining equipment and Supervisor Brown said some will remain; some will be moved into the kitchen area and used for different events.

Motion to allow reconfiguration of space in the Activity Building made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Councilwoman Snyder reminded Supervisor Brown of her previous request to make sure the American Legion and VFW receive their yearly checks before May for Memorial Day.

Supervisor's Report

- The Route 9G bridge closure for repair by NYS DOT was poorly handled. Supervisor Brown attended one meeting and was then informed via phone that the bridge would be closed on April 19th until some time in September. He immediately sent out e-mails to all those he had addresses for alerting them to this news. There were no press releases and few signs indicating the detour. As today was the first day of the detour there was quite a pile-up as drivers realized the detour and attempted to turn around. He will certainly work with DOT to make this easier but there is not much he can do, as this is a state project. Councilwoman Lamberta said she's glad that Police Commissioner Rekow indicated the police would keep an eye on Dales Bridge Road.
- Thanks to the Highway and Maintenance departments along with Austin for help with the Town Road Side cleanup. Kudos to the Cub Scouts and 4H folks and thanks to Dave's Plumbing and the Sportsmens for their assistance as well.
- Spaghetti Dinner with proceeds to benefit the 300th anniversary will be on April 30th. Call the Town Hall for tickets.
- Town wide yard sale on May 15th
- River Sweep will be April 24th and thanks to Martin Overington for organizing the event.

Open to Public

Tim Otty let folks know Germantown Sportsmens is having a fishing derby on May 8th. It's at Dales Bridge this year and is free. They will provide equipment if any is needed.

Martin Overington reminded folks of the River Sweep and asked about the town putting lines on the detour roads to help with traffic. Supervisor Brown said there are width requirements to put a line on the road and the town roads don't meet it. He asked about the Building and Zoning permit fees and Supervisor Brown said they will be posted on the web site. Mr. Overington asked about accessing the smaller meeting room in the Activity Building for the scouts.

Town Board workshop is May 10th at 6:00pm.

The next town board meeting is May 17th at 7:00pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,