

Minutes of June 21, 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 May town board meeting minutes, subject to the correction requested by Councilwoman Snyder, made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

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

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

- Nothing to report

Department Updates – it was noted that all the department heads were at a meeting

Highway Department – reported by Joan Snyder

- Mt. View Road is all paved; shoulders are done and seeded;
- Repairs are being done on both mowing tractors and should be fixed this week;
- On Old Sawmill Road they are shaving down the banks and re-ditching;
- Blacktop patching of areas where culvert pipes were replaced is being done;
- Work is being done to remove beavers on Best Lane;
- Dales Bridge Road is starting to show signs of wear from the traffic – the new signs are doing a good job so far and after school is out for the year some shoulder patching will occur.

Police Department – reported by Roger Rekow

234.75 hours of patrol time was logged in for the month of May. Commissioner Rekow noted the increase in hours was due to the holiday and that cadets are doing more ride-along duty due to the requirements they need to keep their license.

Park Patrols: Cheviot –35 times, Anchorage – 33 times, School –31 times,
Palatine Park – 29 times, Dales Bridge – 20 times

Supervisor Brown asked about the speed reduction signs and that they haven't been put out as regularly as they were. Commissioner Rekow said that Anthony and George put them out and he will check with them about doing so.

Sewer – reported by Joan Snyder

- Average daily flow for the month was 20,000 gallons per day;
- 5 'Call Before you Dig' requests were received for the month;
- Servicing equipment and mowing were done.

Supervisor Brown reported himself, Austin and Dave Robinson, the town's consultant, had reviewed the Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Their recommendation is that Barton and Loguidice be awarded the contract, as they were the second lowest bidder at \$7,000.

Councilwoman Lamberta questioned if the recommendations from this new company will be different than what was previously recommended by our engineering firm, and that those concerns hadn't been addressed. Supervisor Brown said those concerns were some of the ones addressed in the RFP and that our engineering firm had submitted a bid of \$15,000 to do the same work. There were 3 firms of the 8 that applied who really hit the target of what the town was looking for.

Councilwoman Snyder questioned the funding and Supervisor Brown said the money was set-aside for some of this work in the budget under Professional Services.

Motion to extend an offer to Barton and Loguidice for services as a consultant to determine the professional needs of the town's Waste Water Treatment Plant made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Parks & Maintenance -

- Nothing to report.

300th Celebration – reported by Joel Craig

- Links have been posted on the web site to Celebration Activities that will be occurring;
- Committee meeting June 22nd at 6:30.

Supervisor Brown said there are cards advertising anniversary celebration events outside of the Town Clerk's office so be sure to pick one up on your way out to see what's going on. The committee did a nice job.

Economic Development – presented by Roy Brown

- The latest show, 12526, closed on May 30th and 5 works of art were sold;
- Don Westmore won the raffle for the bridge plates and thanks to those who donated, judged and assisted;
- The show netted a little over \$1,000;
- A new show will be opening on July 17th and run through August 15th. Opening reception on July 17th at 5:00pm at ArtSpace with hours Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 10-3. It will be a photography mixed media and acrylic show.
- After August 15th the ArtSpace location will be the 300th Anniversary headquarters.

Supervisor Brown said the Einhorn's have been extremely generous in letting their space be used for these events.

Rezoning Committee – reported by Joel Craig

- No meeting this month as the committee is waiting for the consult to finish the subdivision regulations which is the last piece;
- The committee will meet on July 5th to go over those regulations and any last minute changes to the final draft before presenting it to the Zoning, Planning and Town Board members which is anticipated to occur in July/August.

Park Commission – reported by Roy Brown

- Little League All Stars will be using the fields all this week in the park getting ready for their all-star games;
- Registration for the Summer Camp are out and available on the town website or town hall and are due to Austin by July 9th.

Motion for the board to recess for attorney-client meeting to discuss statutory interpretation made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of recess for attorney-client meeting for statutory interpretation made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Supervisor Brown, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come back to regular meeting session made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder, with all in favor and none opposed.

Old Business

Sewer Reductions: Councilwoman Snyder reported on Sewer Rent Reduction requests the board had received:

Sewer Bill #87 and Sewer Bill #89 – After a review it was determined the property is being assessed correctly and no reduction will occur as they are being charged correctly.

Motion to keep the sewer bill as charged for Sewer Bill #87 and Sewer Bill #89 made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Supervisor Brown.

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

Sewer Bill #131 and Sewer Bill #132 – There was a question on the rates being charged and the number of units. After review it was determined that they should both be lowered to 2 units and a letter has been drafted pending board action.

Motion to lower Sewer Bill #131 and Sewer Bill #132 to two units made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilman Craig.

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

Sewer Bill #47 – The business is closing and the request is to reduce the units from three to one. After review Councilwoman Snyder recommends reducing the units from three to two on the debt service and three to one on the operation after it is verified the business is closed.

Motion to approve reducing Sewer Bill #47 from three to two units on the debt service and three to one units on the operation, with verification that the business is closed made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Supervisor Brown.

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

New Business

Bruce Bohnsack, representing Gtel Communications, told the board that the previous franchise agreement was about to expire and that he had presented the new franchise agreement for them to review. It is for a 15-year term and is very similar to the previous agreement including a 2.72% franchise fee that goes to the town. There are some language changes to bring it up to standards but it pretty much stays the same as the one about to expire. He passed out literature he had brought describing the new services and bundling features available, and said that by bundling and breaking up services costs will be more affordable. Mr. Bohnsack is pretty proud of what they have done to date; the fiber optics have been installed on several roads in the town and he is sure this will add to the quality of Gtel's services.

Supervisor Brown said that a public hearing would be scheduled for the half-hour before the next town board meeting to adopt at the meeting and that the franchise agreement will be in Austin's office for those interested in reviewing it.

Ellen Epstein from the Keep Conservation Foundation spoke on behalf of Columbia Land Conservancy Group. They have a very active environmental education program and want to be more active in this part of the county in and to inform the public about an approximate 145-acre property that exists on County Rte 8 across from Orr Road. It

was owned by a previous Germantown resident and donated it to this group who are mostly folks on habitat, bird habitat in particular, and is one of three properties they own. There is no Germantown presence and Ellen contacted them about working on educational programs to bring awareness to the sight. The group is interested in working with the Boy Scouts, the school, the Park program and specifically the seniors in encouraging the use of the trails.

The property already has extensive existing trails, which are great for walking and winter cross-country skiing. Motorized use of any kind is prohibited and the foundation is looking to develop a trail map as well. Ms. Epstein is reaching out to bring this knowledge to townsfolk, specifically the seniors in the area. There is parking in the area as well as maintenance of the trails.

Supervisor Brown said this is a wonderful opportunity for our youth and our seniors to have other trails in which to walk and it's good that word is getting out to more folks about the property. Ms. Epstein mentioned signage to the trails and Supervisor Brown suggested that signage, parking and trail clearing may be a project the Scouts could get involved in.

Roger Rekow asked about entrance to the property and the only entry is off of Orr Road by the Rockefeller property. There is parking available though it is hard to see from the road.

Councilman Craig said he has been back in the park and there are picnic benches, meadows and forest areas and questioned if the organization was going to publicize it more as folks aren't sure they can enter the property. Ms. Epstein said she will be working within their budget and that the organization is eager to make those improvements.

Councilman Craig also expressed concern that as more people became aware of the secluded area there could be potential problems. Ms. Epstein said they used volunteer monitors and it would be possible to engage them in that kind of effort and clearer boundary markings will be needed as well. Police Commissioner Rekow suggested the police may monitor the area if the need is there and to let him know.

Supervisor Brown announced that the Bank of Greene County is purchasing the previous Bank of America property on Rte 9G and will be making renovations to the property. He said he has spoken with representatives from the bank and realized the amount of money that could be earned from interest-bearing accounts and he and Austin will be sitting down with the accountant to look into moving some of the town's accounts to the Bank of Greene County for that reason.

Supervisor Brown expressed to the board his interest in ordering new signs for the Cheviot Cemetery, especially in light of the upcoming 300th Anniversary celebration. He wants to use funds from the cemetery trust fund to replace the signs in the same theme as the Municipal parking lot and the Fire House, for a cost of approximately \$1,500 a sign.

Councilwoman Snyder asked about the funding and Supervisor Brown said there is a CD that matures in July and they would use the interest, which is approximately \$4,000-\$5,000.

Motion for verbal approval for Supervisor Brown to use funds from the cemetery trust fund to replace signs at the Cheviot Cemetery made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

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

Councilwoman Snyder reminded residents that the Germantown Park Commission park passes need to be renewed on a yearly basis.

Supervisor's Report

- Supervisor Brown said he gets calls weekly from folks upset about the way the Department of Transportation (DOT) was handling the Rte 9G bridge closure. He has met with DOT three times and put some signs up, and is working with Assemblyman Lopez and Senator Saland to get DOT to put up some signage. Supervisor Brown suggests that upset residents write letters to the editors of the Daily Freeman or Register Star.
- Supervisor Brown has been in regular contact with Councilman Jerry Smith and though there is a long road to recovery, he is in much better spirits and thanks everyone who has expressed their well wishes for him. Mr. Smith also expressed his congratulations to Sue Brown who was awarded Germantown Teacher of the Year by FASNY and she more than deserves the award.
- Budget letters will be going out next week to Department Heads. The first budget workshop will be in October and he will be asking for cuts.
- Security cameras have been installed in the Town Hall as required by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) through their grant program.
- Summer Camp registration forms are available on the web site and due to the Town Hall by July 9th.
- The town has recently seen some burglaries in the area. It appears the burglars are taking copper, and vacant homes for sale, along with the Parsonage, have been hit. The Sheriff's Department will be keeping an eye on homes for sale and local realtors have been told to be vigilant as well. If you see anything suspicious, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 828-3344 or contact the State Police or 911.

Open to Public

The next town board meeting is July 19th at 7:00pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,