

August 16, 2010 Minutes of Public Information Session on Revaluation in Germantown

Presenting: Ralph DelPozzo, Germantown Assessor  
Robert Jacobs, NYS Office of Real Property  
Judy Bender, Columbia County Real Property

The above-named presenters relayed the following information, on the Revaluation being done in Germantown:

- Letters will be mailed shortly to all property owners with data mailers (what the town has on file for each property) pertaining to such property; make any appropriate corrections and mail it back to Ralph.
- After the data mailers come back to Ralph the process of assessing properties begins – in order to do a 100% reval some assessments may be raised but don't panic.
- The data collector has visited each property to make sure the data is current on the exterior of the property – the assessment is not based on the interior.
- The data will be used to value the property; Ralph's main concerns are any differences in square footage, as small changes, i.e. porch size, may not impact the final assessment.
- Property sales will be looked at and compared to Syracuse house figures and adjusted until the cost figures approximate the sale price. Then comparable properties will be compared against each property to determine the real values of property in Germantown. Up to 60% of the basic comp values are changed.
- Trends will be applied to properties, and opportunities to dispute the assessment figures into the process of revaluation.
- Disclosure notices will be going out on March 1<sup>st</sup> that show what the assessment is and what the taxes would be if school and county taxes stay the same.
- Property owners can review the notice and if they feel it's wrong present proof to Ralph to show it; the grievance process is also available if the property owner is still not satisfied.
- Property owners must participate in this process.
- Ralph will be looking at every property to verify the assessment.
- Data mailers will be going out on August 17, 2010.

Minutes of August 16, 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  
Councilman Jeremy Smith  
Town Lawyer Jason Shaw

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

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

Supervisor Brown welcomed back Jerry Smith, who had been ill for several months.

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

Motion to approve paying audited bills made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilman Smith. Supervisor Brown encouraged Councilwoman Snyder and Councilman Smith to ask him any questions they may have upon further review.

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

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

- NYS Hunting licenses went on sale August 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Department Updates**

**Highway Department** – reported by Joan Snyder

- Sand and Salt building re-stained and looks good – painting and freshening up around the Highway garage;
- Split rail fence installed by the garage to prevent people from driving through the lawn to access the transfer station;
- Completing drainage on Maple Avenue – one more basin and about 200' of pipe to install;
- Please remember to keep ditches free of leaves and grass clippings as we head into fall;
- Two catch basins that had collapsed in the park were rebuilt and patching around them will occur soon;
- Last mowing pass will be started in September.

**Police Department** – reported by Roger Rekow

130.50 hours of patrol time was worked during the month of July.

Park Patrols: Cheviot –33 times, Anchorage – 30 times, School –25 times,  
Palatine Park – 30 times, Dales Bridge – 25 times

Supervisor Brown asked Commissioner Rekow for an update on the cadets' remaining time for doing 'ride alongs', and Mr. Rekow replied they were still a few hours away from meeting the requirements to drive alone in the patrol vehicles.

Councilwoman Snyder said she had received complaints about shots being fired for target practice on private property and asked Commissioner Rekow what the law was regarding such a situation. The law says no shooting after dark; the shooting can't take place less than 500 feet from the residence. Commissioner Rekow advised folks to call

the police if you have a complaint; call 911 and if Germantown is on patrol they will respond.

**Sewer** – reported by Joan Snyder

- Average daily flow for the month was 24,000 gallons per day;
- 5 'Call Before you Dig' requests were received for the month;
- Helped stain the Sand and Salt buildings;
- Primed and painted the Pavilion roof and preparing for Oktoberfest.

Supervisor Brown told the board that the roofs on the town facilities were in the process of being painted green to be more environmentally friendly. Right now the Activities Building and the two little buildings next to it have been done. The Town Hall and Highway garage roofs will be painted next year.

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

- Nothing to report

**300<sup>th</sup> Celebration** – reported by Jerry Smith

Councilman Smith reported there was a meeting held the previous week. A rock with the names of the Palatines put on it is to be placed outside the Parsonage and will need a foundation. Mr. Smith asked if the Highway department could use their backhoe and cement a foundation.

Supervisor Brown responded that the town has concrete and the highway crew can help set it up. Councilman Smith will check on the delivery date of the rock and coordinate the logistics.

Councilman Smith said that the people attending the seminars on the Palatines seem to be from outside the town and that residents should try to attend the seminars as well. Please check the website for information on the events for the first and second weeks of October. The fireworks will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October and the Reformed Church will be providing services for the lunch at the seminar.

**Economic Development** – presented by Corinne Curry

- Sunday (8/15) was the last day of the latest ArtSpace show;
- The reception was well attended;
- Three photographs at the show were sold, which covered expenses for the month;
- Thanks to Roy, Austin, Anthony and everyone who volunteered to sit at the gallery during the show;
- Ken Flood, from the county, is working with the committee on a grant from Community Renewal Services called a community block grant;
- ArtSpace will soon be available as the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration headquarters;
- The Economic Development Committee will be presenting paintings from Hudson Valley artists and school children from Germantown Central School;
- Local business cards, rack cards and description of businesses, etc. will be displayed;
- 12526 t-shirts are on the way and Ken Cook will help put the display together.

Supervisor Brown thanked Corinne for her tremendous work with ArtSpace. He also said they were working on a Business After Hours event for October, and are looking to have the hotel part of Central House open by mid-September. After that the owners of the property will slowly work on the restaurant part. Mr. Brown said the owners are working with him on bringing business in, especially in light of the upcoming celebration where people from out of town will be looking for overnight accommodations.

Councilman Smith said he would like information on the hotel put on the 300<sup>th</sup> celebration website. Also, Adrienne Westmore is making costumes of the early 18<sup>th</sup>

century Palatines and if you have spare material please bring it to the town hall, as she could use it for the costumes.

**Rezoning Committee** – reported by Joel Craig

- Committee hosting a workshop on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to get the various boards' input on the draft before they move it to the public phase, which will be after September.

**Park Commission** – reported by Roy Brown

- Nothing to report

**Old Business**

Supervisor Brown said that more revaluation sessions will occur for the public to attend.

**New Business**

Supervisor Brown reported that the History Advisory Committee wants to add another member, Sue Raab. Councilman Craig reported that Ms. Raab had been interested in the dig at the Parsonage and brought students in to look at the findings, and he thinks she'll do well with the committee.

Motion to appoint Sue Raab to the History Advisory Committee made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Craig.

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

Supervisor Brown said his sister had visited the dig at the Parsonage and had a great time. The library has a display of the artifacts that were found at the dig.

Mr. Brown indicated he had received a request for a re-appointment of Frances Szaszs to Environmental Management. Councilman Smith requested that her notes be made available to the board so they could know what's going on. The request will be made but in addition the minutes are on the Committee's website.

Motion to re-appoint Frances Szaszs to the Columbia County Environmental Management Committee made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

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

**Supervisor's Report**

- Supervisor Brown has been in contact with Bill Gordon, the interim director at DOT, regarding the 9G bridge repair, as rumors were that work had stopped. He was advised the work was being done under the bridge and they are still on schedule for completion in October. He advised the public that once the concrete is poured it will have to cure approximately 30 days before being opened.
- Word is starting to get out about the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Supervisor Brown is working with Mr. Gordon at DOT about getting VMT, electronic notification, regarding the upcoming celebration;
- During the Celebration a detour setup on Palatine Park Road will start on that Friday night, so please be aware of this;
- All events on the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration are on the town website with a link to the 300<sup>th</sup> website – everyone is encouraged to visit the website;
- No-charge weekend for parking or admission for the Celebration events, and no charge for attending the fireworks which will be the second Saturday of October around 7:30pm. There will be a teen dance going on as well that

- night, and Supervisor Brown is talking to the radio station and newspaper about advertising the events.
- Summer Camp wraps up this week and was a success by all accounts. Numbers were up and evaluations will be done to know what to improve next year. Thanks to Lori Marchisio and Austin for their work with the Park Program;
  - The Request for Proposal (RFP) was done earlier in the month and Dave Robinson has been working with them. The firm, Barton & Loguidice, has been here to do research and will then present recommendations, hopefully in the next couple of months as DEC is anxious to see them. Supervisor Brown hopes to receive them in time for the budget workshops.

Councilwoman Snyder asked if the firm would be assisting the town in obtaining grant money and Supervisor Brown responded they would.

### **Open to Public**

Ellen Epstein said that the Keep Conservation Foundation will be sending the town board members an invitation to a reception from 5:00-8:00pm on having September 18 & 19, in order to introduce the town to the bird sanctuary on County Rte 8. A bird walk is being done on Sunday and the reception is open to everyone. This invitation has been relayed to the school as well and the foundation plans on having displays and programs at the library.

Martin Overington passed to the board photos taken of the current conditions at the Wastewater Treatment Facility; he has been waiting for the conditions to be fixed and construction was started but not finished, and he is asking the town board to fix the situation.

Mr. Overington also asked about the status of the sidewalk project, and Supervisor Brown said that he and Councilwoman Snyder had met with DOT who approved them to go to final design. There are some small issues to deal with, but the money's already been committed and he is hoping to break ground next year.

Mr. Overington asked about the road shift project on Main Street and Supervisor Brown said the striping machine had broken so the county had to have it repaired. The solid lines on Main Street will shift slightly from the Post Office to the phone company and there will be no parking on one side of the street from the Post Office to Otto's Market. If there are problems that arise from this shift the county will move it back to the way it was.

Councilman Smith said he hoped that the Police Department doesn't issue tickets if vehicles are parked outside the lines of the designated spots that were marked recently. Supervisor Brown said he spoke with the police and there will be a period of adjustment.

Supervisor Brown said he will be attending a conference September 15-17 to present on Keep Farming initiatives on regional farming and agribusiness issues and then will be going to Europe so he will not be present at the next board meeting.

The next town board meeting is September 20<sup>th</sup> 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,