

Minutes of Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2011 for Senior Citizen and Limited Income Disability Exemptions, held November 22, 2010 at 6:30 at the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY.

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown
Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta
Councilwoman Joan Snyder
Councilman Joel Craig

Recorded: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

Not Present: Councilman Jeremy Smith

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and the Clerk read the Notice.

Supervisor Brown explained the purpose of the law was so the town could increase the income limits for both the Senior Citizen and Limited Income Disability Exemptions. Germantown will be increasing from \$28,000 with sliding scale to \$36,400 to \$29,000 with sliding scale to \$37,400 for both Senior Citizen and Limited Income Disability.

There was no comment from the public.

Supervisor Brown closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes of Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2011 for Alternative Veterans Exemptions, held November 22, 2010 at 6:45 at the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY.

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown
Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta
Councilwoman Joan Snyder
Councilman Joel Craig

Recorded: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

Not Present: Councilman Jeremy Smith

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and the Clerk read the Notice.

Supervisor Brown explained the purpose of the law was so the town could increase the exemption amount for the Alternative Veterans Exemption. Germantown will be increasing the following exemption amounts:

Wartime: \$36,000 Combat Zone: \$24,000 Disability: \$120,000

There was no comment from the public.

Supervisor Brown closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes of November 22, 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 Jason Shaw

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 October 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, with the exception of a bill discussed previously, made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

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

Communication – nothing to report

Department Updates

Highway Department – nothing to report

Police Department – reported by Roy Brown

353.50 hours of patrol time was worked in for the month of October.

Supervisor Brown said the hours worked reflect the following activities:

- Palatine Park activities;
- History of Genealogy weekend;
- Oktoberfest;
- Bank of Green County opening;
- Halloween

Park Patrols: Cheviot –14 times, Anchorage – 9 times, School –22 times,
Palatine Park – 22 times, Dales Bridge – 8 times

Sewer – reported by Joan Snyder

- Average daily flow for the month was 24,000 gallons per day;
- 14 'Call Before you Dig' requests were received for the month;
- Prepping for winter.

Parks & Maintenance – reported by Graceann Lamberta

- Heating filters have been changed;
- All buildings that need winterizing are done, except maintenance building;
- Leaf blowing has been done;
- A lot of time has been spent on the ball field and thanks to the highway department for their help with the north field;
- Last two basketball hoop sets have been installed;
- Winter clean up has been started in the activity building;
- Solar panels have been installed and inspected; now waiting for National Grid to come and install a new meter and verify timing of restart.

Councilwoman Lamberta thanked Anthony Cidras and Roger Rekow for attending the town board meetings.

Economic Development – presented by Roy Brown

- An after hours social event for 12526 was held the past Friday, with approximately 75 attendees;
- The event was well received and thanks to the Economic Development Committee for putting the event together.

Rezoning Committee – reported by Joel Craig

- The committee met to review input from the public sessions and a public hearing will be held on December 9th at 6:30 pm.

Park Commission – reported by Tim Otty

Mr. Otty apologized for any misunderstandings caused by some locks being changed at the Activity Building, and any complaints should be addressed to himself, Austin and others on the commission. There were some security concerns that made changing the lock necessary. He suggested that a schedule be coordinated to meet the needs of the groups using the Activity building.

Councilman Craig reminded Mr. Otty of the intent to have a coordination meeting with the groups using the Activity building to sit and write the calendar for the year. The town welcomes partnering with outside organizations but it must be a partnership and needs to have money coming in to support the programs. A meeting will be scheduled for December and Mr. Craig suggests putting the calendar on the website. Supervisor Brown said more control needs to occur as he has seen heat left on and doors open; better communication is the key and the meeting in December should help alleviate future confusion.

Mr. Otty said that Anthony needs to know what groups are coming in, especially in the winter so he can prepare the building for them.

New Business

A Request for Proposal (RFP) went out for Town Attorney services. There were two bids received, and Osterman, Whiteman was the lowest bid.

A motion to approve Osterman, Whiteman was made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder. Councilman Craig indicated he did not see the bids, so the motion was tabled until a vote in December.

Supervisor Brown said that the county recommends increasing the numbers from three to five on the Board of Assessment Review. If anyone would like to serve please let Austin Sullivan in the town hall know.

Motion to approve increasing the number of members of the Board of Assessment Review from three to five made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Supervisor Brown said there were two public hearings held earlier, one for Local Law #1 of 2011 on Senior Citizen and Limited Income Disability Exemptions, raising the maximum income level to \$37,399.99 for both.

Local Law #2 of 2011 on Alternative Veterans Exemptions increases the limits to \$36,000 for wartime, \$24,000 for combat zone and \$120,000 for disability.

Motion to approve the exemption increases as per Local Law #1 of 2011 and Local Law #2 of 2011 made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Craig.

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

Supervisor Brown said that the Northern Dutchess Chargeback Agreement had come in for approval. The agreement covers Livingston, Clermont, Gallatin, Taconic and Germantown. The towns had agreed to a gradual increase over a five-year period; last years increase was 10% and this year's increase will be 10% as well. Mr. Brown said that Northern Dutchess is our medical supplier; held the licensure for this part of the county and should they not be available to respond, will reposition other units to respond.

Resolution #33 – Northern Dutchess Chargeback

This agreement made as of the 22nd day of November, 2010 by the Town of Germantown and the Treasurer of the County of Columbia County, whereas by resolution #287-2002 of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors dated the 9th day of October 2002, the Columbia County Treasurer is authorized to establish charge-back accounts for any municipality wishing to have said municipalities expenditure for rescue squad service imposed upon county real property tax bills for the amount attributable for such expenditures, and

Whereas the Town Board of the Town of Germantown has determined that the County Treasurer shall charge-back the amount specified herein to the real property tax payers of said town responsible for such expenditures, and

Now, therefore, the undersigned parties agree as follows:

1. That the town hereby request that the treasurer of the county of Columbia charge the appropriate real property taxpayers within the town the sum of \$82,812.40 on the appropriate basis of real property tax assessments within said town and;
2. The town hereby requests that the treasurer of the county of Columbia upon collection of said amounts paid to the Northern Dutchess Rescue Squad the amount of \$82,812.40;
3. The charge-back account established by the Columbia County treasurer for the Town of Germantown for rescue squad services shall be accounted for.

Motion to approve the resolution made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

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

Councilwoman Snyder gave members of the board a copy of language concerning newly elected or appointed employees she would like added to #38 in the Town Policy manual. Supervisor Brown suggested the members read it for a vote at the next meeting.

Councilman Craig mentioned the upcoming Southern Columbia Ski Club that was starting up and that it's a good community event. Information on the club can be obtained in the Clerk's office at town hall.

Student interns from Germantown Central School (GCS) made presentations regarding assignments they were given by their respective mentors on the town board. The presentations were:

- Survey of how many town residents are involved in the community;
- Study of health care costs and what the town could save by requiring employees to pay more of their own health-care premiums;
- Study of possible grants for the town to apply for;
- Feedback of Anti-Bullying PowerPoint presentation given to grade 3-6 at GCS.

Supervisor's Report

- Route 9G bridge repairs have been completed for 2010 and the bridge is open; however, more work will begin in the spring of 2011 and there will be lane closures as the repairs progress;
- The town board held four budget workshops and a public hearing on the budget. At the request of the board as a collective, there will be no raises or wage increases for 2011 for any town employees. There will be a net decrease in the tax levy for 2011. The town board felt that given the recessionary period we continue to endure, that the board grant the residents of Germantown as much relief as possible. The town board is proud of the

work that town employees do for the residents, but is also concerned for residents who may not have a job, or have run out of unemployment benefits and are trying to survive day-to-day that have rent or mortgages to pay. The board feels that getting the budget to a zero increase in tax levy while retaining a fiscally sound budget for 2011 is the responsible thing to do for the residents.

- Residents should be aware that the Supervisor and town board will be watching the budget, energy consumption, and holding off on major purchases, including those budgeted for 2011, until they see what's going to happen in Albany after the first of the year. It's possible the town may be losing additional revenue and the budget may have to be readjusted as 2011 progresses. As part of that initiative, use of the Activity Building is being limited, as discussed during the 2010 budget discussions. A contractor will be extending the hallway to the bathrooms to the back meeting room, as right now users have to go outside to get to the bathrooms.
- Solar panels have been installed and will be fully online shortly. The NYSERDA Grant the town applied for and received has benefited the town by replacing the heating systems in the Town Activity building, the Town Garage and the Town Hall. It also allowed the town to install the solar panels on the Pavilion roof which, when fully operational, will power all the electrical needs of the Activity building and the maintenance building when called for. When there is no demand on the system, the town will sell back to National Grid the excess energy produced.

Open to Public

Jennifer Klein said she had been trying to get in touch with Supervisor Brown to see if he had received a letter she sent to him and the board regarding the possible contamination of her well, and read to the board the letter she sent. She said that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) had started ground water testing, and is working with George Sharpe Jr. She is asking the town to help rectify the situation, as she is being advised the problem is coming from the wastewater treatment plant.

Councilwoman Lamberta asked for clarification of who is communicating with the DEC. Supervisor Brown said he and Austin are and a conference call has been set up with DEC to discuss the information to prove where the fault is. The town is complying with the requirements the DEC suggested, and the monthly reports come back saying the town is within limits. Mr. Brown said he will contact Ms. Klein after the meeting with DEC.

Ms. Klein said the Health Department has tested her well three times and it shows contamination, and the sewer operator has been at her house three times and there is still no resolution.

Councilwoman Lamberta said the town has to follow procedures and is doing so.

Martin Overington conducted a Scouting for Food pickup for donations to the food pantry, and he thanks the town. He also indicated he'll be glad to attend the meeting for the Activity Building scheduling and supports any attempts for better communication.

Mr. Overington stated his concern about Ms. Klein's well situation as he lives in the area and will test his wells to check the levels as well. He asked if the town was in conformance with DEC permit limits and Supervisor Brown responded yes. Mr. Overington thinks another party should be involved in the testing, as there have been two conflicting reports, and Mr. Brown said that's what the town is doing.

Art Cady questioned if tanks leaking from the wastewater treatment plant could be contributing to the situation.

Mr. Cady also referenced a letter he had sent to the town board regarding the environmental assessment in relation to rezoning. He said a SEQRA for rezoning starts

with an environmental assessment; unequal protection of groundwater allows certain people to have protection and others not, and this is the time to review it. He said folks in the hamlet would only have protection if the review was done properly and his experience shows that it isn't. He also said that the rezoning formula is different and reflects more protection to those in rural vs. hamlet areas.

Councilman Craig said his letter was received and reviewed and enough protections are built in that it's not creating an environmental impact.

Mr. Cady asked about the Environmental Assessment status and town lawyer Jason Shaw said he's waiting for possible draft changes before starting it.

Councilman Craig said all the information should be on the town website by next week, he will mark it as the latest version and highlight the changes.

The next town board meeting is December 20th at 7:00pm.
The year-end meeting is December 27th at 12:00pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,