

Minutes of December 20, 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 November town board meeting minutes, made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

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

Communication – reported by Town Clerk

- letter received from Art Cady regarding Draft Zoning and Subdivision Law- Number of Clustered Dwelling Units Calculation;
- the state has given responsibility for the dog licensing system to the municipalities, so renewals will be coming from the Town Clerk's Office and fees will remain the same.

Department Updates

Highway Department – reported by Joan Snyder

- cutting of dead trees and brush has been started;
- trying to keep basis free of leaves due to the rains;
- ice and snow season has started so please drive accordingly;
- the Parts room has been cleaned out and painting of the bathroom has started;
- trucks have been gone over for the upcoming winter season;
- please be aware of the local law pertaining to no parking on public streets before, during or after a storm, and keep the right of ways clear;
- the department wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and happy and safe New Year.

Police Department – no report

Sewer – reported by Joan Snyder

- Average daily flow for the month was 28,000 gallons per day;
- 16 'Call Before you Dig' requests were received for the month;
- the annual calibration of the Influent and Effluent flow meters was completed;
- all tanks are covered and everything is put away for the winter.

Parks & Maintenance – reported by Anthony Cidras

- more lights have been installed in the Snack Bar;
- changed all filters in heating systems;
- cleaned UV systems and changed filters in Town Hall and Activity building;
- continuing clean up in Activity building; focus is on the kitchen;
- worked with Highway department to put decorations up for Christmas in the village;

- put gates up at Dales Bridge for the winter;
- spending a lot of time with the solar panels installation – on December 8th we went live with the panels.

Councilwoman Snyder asked about the Anchorage and all the debris that washed up and Anthony said that Rich had gone and picked some of it up.

Economic Development – presented by Corinne Curry

- in 2010 ArtSpace completed 3 art shows, with 90% local artists;
- ArtSpace also hosted the 300th Committee headquarters;
- 12526 logo has turned into 12526.biz as a website. There is also still apparel available with the logo.

Corrine specifically wanted to thank the Einhorn’s for donating the building for ArtSpace, and it has been a positive influence in the town. The Committee had a very successful year and she also thanks Austin and the town board.

Supervisor Brown thanked Corrine for her help as well.

Rezoning Committee – reported by Joel Craig

- a public hearing was held on December 9th on the zoning and subdivision law and good comments were received;
- Columbia County Planning submitted comments on the rezoning and Comprehensive Plan, and were generally favorable. The information is available in the Town Clerk’s office and the comments will be reviewed after the first of the year.

Park Commission – no report

Old Business

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was put out for town attorney and the lowest bidder was the firm Whiteman, Osterman and Hannah, for whom Jason Shaw works. Supervisor Brown recommends going with the lowest bidder.

Motion to approve Whiteman, Osterman and Hannah as the town law representative made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Brittany DuFresne was in attendance to present additional information regarding the dog park she would like the board to approve. It would be completely community funded and maintained by volunteers. She feels it would be a great addition to Germantown. She presented copies of the proposal to the board and asked them to allow her to proceed with fundraising and organizing the committee.

Councilman Craig asked about maintenance of the park, specifically picking up after the dogs. Mrs. DuFresne responded that the owners are responsible and the park will be lost if it’s not maintained as per the regulations that will be set up.

Supervisor Brown asked about any preferred location and Mrs. DuFresne will take what the town offers in that regard.

Councilwoman Snyder expressed her concern about the number of dogs controlled by one person and potential problems in that area. She was assured the committee will be available to solve problems as they occur in the dog park.

Anthony Cidras suggested having the Dog Control Officer visit the park to make sure all the dogs are properly licensed and vaccinated.

Councilwoman Snyder asked Jason Shaw about the liability of the town if anything happens in the dog park. Jason suggests letting the volunteers run the program and the town will just be donating the land and not participating in the operation of the park.

Supervisor Brown asked if the board will support this project and let Mrs. DuFresne proceed with fundraising and putting the committee together and they agreed.

Councilwoman Snyder said she would like a motion to add language to the Town Policy Manual, under #38, regarding health insurance coverage.

Effective January 1, 2011, newly elected or appointed full-time employees are eligible for individual coverage on the Town's medical plan at the present rate of 75% paid by the Town and 25% paid by the employee.

If family coverage is requested, the employee will be responsible for the difference between the individual and family premiums.

Motion to add the aforementioned language to the Town Policy Manual under #38 made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Supervisor Brown.

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

New Business

Supervisor Brown told the board that a request was received to buy a gravesite at the Cheviot cemetery, which the town owns and maintains. He estimated the plot at \$600 and there is space available in the cemetery.

Motion to approve the sale of a cemetery plot in the Cheviot cemetery made by Councilwoman Lamberta with a second by Councilwoman Snyder.

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

Supervisor Brown mentioned the change in dog license renewals and that the state will no longer be sending the renewals and the municipalities will be keeping the funds to cover the costs. There will be no change in dog fees and a public hearing will be held on December 27th at 11:45, before the year-end meeting.

Supervisor's Report

- Christmas tree lighting ceremony took place in town and thanks to George Fox for the electricity;
- National Grid has removed the old telephone poles from Hover Avenue South to East Camp Extension along 9G, after a long battle;
- 12526.biz event had a great turnout. The Bank of Greene County will be helping for the next event and details are forthcoming;
- the town is now on line with National Grid for our solar panels. When power is called for, it's drawn from the solar panels and when it's not in use, the meter spins backwards. The town hopes to see a significant savings in electrical usage at the Kellner Community Youth and Activity building and the Maintenance building.
- Best wished to Councilman Jerry Smith for a speedy recovery.

Open to Public

Corinne Curry thanked Austin for decorating the window in ArtSpace.

Jennifer Klein said a chlorinator was put on her well; they have usable water but can't drink it. She's waiting on results from DEC and wanted to know if any the town had received information.

Supervisor Brown said he is not privy to any knowledge about it. He said Germantown is below the limits and he's not aware of what the regulations were in 1997 when the

wastewater treatment plant was installed. Testing is continuing and it does show spiking on occasion.

Ms. Klein said the pipe is too close to her well and is not within New York State regulations. Supervisor Brown said the town is not looking into regulations in existence in 1997. Nobody has notified the town of any regulations and he met with DEC two weeks ago on this issue.

Jason Shaw suggested the problem is not necessarily related to the wastewater treatment plant. He confirmed she is sharing the well with someone else and the owner should be responsible for helping fix the problem.

Art Cady asked about the status of the generic impact statement and was told the EA form has questions to be answered by the permitting body, i.e. the town board, and is not completed yet, though all preliminary information has been put in.

Councilman Craig advised Mr. Cady that comments regarding the Rezoning proposal are still being accepted until the board sets a date to meet and review such comments, and that will be after the new year.

Mr. Craig also confirmed with Mr. Cady that any changes from previous versions of the proposal are identified on the town website and he is not yet aware of when the next meeting will be scheduled.

The year-end town board meeting is December 27th at 12:00 pm, with a public hearing at 11:45am.

The re-organizational meeting will be January 4th at 3:00pm.

The next town board meeting is January 24th 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 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted,