

Minutes of Germantown Revaluation Public Hearing, held February 22, 2011 at the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 6:00pm

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown  
Councilwoman Joan Snyder  
Councilman Joel Craig  
Councilman Jeremy Smith  
Robert Jacobs, NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services  
Suzette Buoy, Columbia County Office of Real Property

Not Present: Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and then turned it over to Bob Jacobs, from the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS). Mr. Jacobs has been involved in the revaluation process from the beginning, and indicated that Ralph DelPozzo, the Assessor who is doing the reval, is at the stage of sending out the assessment disclosure notices with a cover letter. Mr. Jacobs then handed out a copy of an actual notice with personal information redacted.

Mr. Jacobs indicated that for Germantown to be eligible to get state aid and for purposes of clarity, Germantown is trying to assess at full market value. The whole point of reassessment is to make sure everyone is assessed fairly. Assessed value does not necessarily mean that taxes will go up. The Assessment Disclosure notices are estimates – at this point it is not sure what the tax levy will be.

Mr. Jacobs advised that during the revaluation process you have an additional chance to meet with Ralph and make your case that the assessment is too high. You must bring documentation to prove your case that the value is incorrect.

A number will be provided in the cover letter for you to call and schedule a meeting with Ralph; you need to make an appointment.

Suzette Buoy from the County Office of Real Property reported that the county website has sales reports for the last five years, and that the assessment rolls will be on the website March 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.ColumbiaCountyNY.com](http://www.ColumbiaCountyNY.com) Look for Departments - Real Property Tax - Sales on the website to access the information. She indicated the county can run a custom report with specific specs, for a nominal fee.

The New York State ORPTS website is: [www.orps.state.ny.us](http://www.orps.state.ny.us)

When contesting an assessment, always use photos to state your case.

Mr. Jacobs and Mr. DelPozzo said that approximately 60% of homeowner's taxes will go down from the revaluation.

Supervisor Brown thanked the representatives and attendees and closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes of Germantown Town Board meeting, held February 22, 2011 at the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 7:00pm

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown  
Councilwoman Joan Snyder  
Councilman Joel Craig  
Councilman Jeremy Smith

Not Present: Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and led the Pledge to the Flag. He said he hoped the Revaluation meeting held prior was helpful and that May 24<sup>th</sup> is Grievance Day for assessments.

Motion to approve the January meeting minutes made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

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

**Communication** – reported by Town Clerk

Nothing to report

### **Department Updates**

**Highway Department** – reported by Joan Snyder

- moving snow and pushing it back at intersections;
- Hauling sand between storms and mixing it with salt;
- During warmer days please remember the snow melts and the run off freezes at nite;
- When the weather breaks, signs and posts will be replaced where needed;
- The roads are going to get soft and potholes will start. If you notice any on town roads that the crew misses, please contact the Highway Garage at 537-6686.

**Police Department** – reported by Roger Rekow

- 142 hours of patrol time were logged for January.

Park Patrols: Cheviot –31 times, Anchorage – 31 times, School –32 times,  
Palatine Park – 32 times, Dales Bridge – 22 times

Commissioner Rekow indicated that two town officers would be attending funeral services for the officer recently killed in Poughkeepsie.

Councilman Craig confirmed with Commissioner Rekow that the police were checking local businesses after hours.

**Sewer** – reported by Joan Snyder

- Average daily flow for the month was 28,000 gallons per day;
- 3 'Call Before you Dig' requests were received for the month;
- everything running good.

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

- replaced seal and installed new thermostat in the Town Hall;

- painted the bathrooms in the Activity Building;
- getting caught up with the cleaning cycle at the Parsonage
- thanks to Sun Dog for donating 55 gallon cans.

Anthony indicated that DEC is implementing a program in Columbia County for the tree emerald ash boor and we will be part of the study starting the first week in March.

Mr. Cidras informed the board he needs to reapply for stocking the lake; there is no fee and the lake will be stocked with minnows, bass, grass carp and catfish.

Supervisor Brown asked about ice-skating on the pond and Anthony said the lake hasn't been safe enough; he will keep checking it for the possibility.

Councilwoman Snyder asked about the snow that had built up on the solar panels from the storms and Anthony said you can't really brush it off; if anything breaks it wouldn't be covered by the warrantee.

### **Economic Development –**

Nothing to report

### **Rezoning Committee –** reported by Joel Craig

- public hearing/meeting held on February 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a good discussion and centered around the hamlet and lower Main Street. The focus of the discussion was water.
- Latest draft and explanatory document is on the town website for review. Any comments will be accepted through the first part of March.

Supervisor Brown indicated that before the town board could vote on adopting the plan a SEQR Review needs to be completed.

### **Park Commission –**

Nothing to report.

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

- A meeting was held and a profit has been realized, but the amount of the total monies is unsure at this point.
- The committee will set up a group of 3-4 people to discuss how to use the realized profit for historical parts of the town. The hope is to do some internal repairs to the Parsonage, as the bathroom and kitchen need to be addressed.
- A ten-year plan is the goal of the committee.

Councilman Smith said the Historical property money and the Hover trust gift can be used to repair the windowsills in the Parsonage; he is trying to balance the monies available with what needs to be addressed.

### **Old Business**

Supervisor Brown reported on the progress of the sidewalk grant, and that changes have come about which necessitates the town getting applicable property owners to sign off on a right-of-way. This agreement would give the town permission to come in and replace the sidewalk adjacent to their property with the understanding it will be made whole once the sidewalk is installed.

The Supervisor needs permission from the board to move forward on acquiring the right-of-way signoffs. He said the town is close to the end of the design phase and then the project can go out for bid. This right-of-way incidental was not initially included in the cost and there will be an additional service cost of \$51,227.

Councilman Smith asked where the money would come from, and Supervisor Brown said it comes from the grant.

Art Cady asked if property owners can donate land for the sidewalk without receiving compensation and Supervisor Brown said it is possible.

Motion to approved the Supplemental Scope of Services for \$51,227 made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith.

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

### **New Business**

Supervisor Brown reported to the board that the cutting edge on the loader has some cracks and wear, and fell apart when they unbolted it. They originally received a quote from Volvo for \$1500 for a replacement, but then the people from Volvo called back and said they had one for \$800. There are highway funds available for this purchase.

Motion made by Councilwoman Snyder to approve the purchase of a new edge for the loader for \$800, with a second by Councilman Smith.

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

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Recent dinner at Blue Stores Restaurant to support Pulver Glass was successful, and preliminary reports indicate \$4500-5000 was raised, and an account has been set up for donations;
- The County is looking to hire a County Manager/Administrator. There is a Board of Supervisors meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> and all are welcome to attend.
- Southern Columbia County Little League is currently holding sign-up registrations. The Register Star has the times/places for registration.
- The County starts union negotiations this week with one of four unions whose contracts are up for negotiation. The County has already stated there will be no raises for county employees in 2011.
- The summer program for Germantown Parks is currently being put together, with the expectation the information will be out in early April.
- The Lions Club met with the Attorney General's Office on identity theft. There are booklets available to discuss ways to prevent it; Supervisor Brown will have more information for those interested.

### **Open to Public**

Larry Osgood, as Treasurer of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, thanked the Germantown board for letting the committee process the monies through accounts at the municipality level. Supervisor Brown and Councilman Craig thanked Mr. Osgood for his support of the committee.

Dave Gifford asked about funding cuts and how the town is preparing. Supervisor Brown responded that at the county level there are various contingencies that include layoffs. The town has been conservative in its budgets and will continue to do so, but until there is a state budget nothing can be said yet.

Councilman Smith said the town took 50% from its reserve to keep taxes flat but believes things aren't going to get much better and that taxes may have to come up.

Kay Abraham asked about the final report on the Oktoberfest and Supervisor Brown answered he hasn't gotten it yet but will let everyone know the status when he does.

Martin Overington thanked the 300<sup>th</sup> committee crew for participating; said he supports the sidewalk project and hopes neighbors will be supportive in the initiative.

The board thanked Martin and his family for their help with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities.

Mr. Overington asked about the report regarding the Waste Water Treatment plant. Supervisor Brown said the board has copies and he hopes to be able to make a determination about how to proceed. The report deals with the tanks and the rust issue; the town is in full compliance with all maintenance issues.

Supervisor Brown reminded residents that assessment letters will be going out and that Grievance Day is May 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted,