

Minutes of Public Meeting held by Germantown Town Board on October 17, 2011 at 6:00pm to discuss the engineering report prepared by Barton & Loguidice on the evaluation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant metal tanks.

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

Not Present: Councilman Jeremy Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Charlene Diehl

Supervisor Brown reported that Barton & Loguidice gave the board a summary report a few months ago on the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The board felt there wasn't enough information pertaining to recommendations and pricing and asked them to resubmit the report to include that information.

Copies of the engineering report are available in the Town Clerk's office.

Barton & Loguidice gave opinions on three (3) repair options. In their summary they recommend that the tanks be drained, cleaned and recoated every 15-20 years, and Supervisor Brown has determined through his analysis that when the tanks were delivered to the town they were in the primer paint stage and were never painted before they were first installed and this has sped up the deterioration of the tanks.

The options they present are:

1. Draining current tanks, Sandblast, recoat and epoxy \$460,000
2. Drain existing tanks, Line the existing tanks with a concrete liner \$485,000
3. Build two new concrete tanks \$545,000

Some other work needs to be done in addition to these estimates.

Councilman Craig – doesn't think everything was taken into account with these recommendations. The tanks will be off-line for a considerable period of time for options 1&2 and nothing in the budget to handle the temporary rerouting and processing of the waste, and that could be a considerable cost. This concerns him as he doesn't know what else is not in the report he doesn't know about, and while the report spells out what the construction costs may be, that these costs may not be all costs to the town.

Even for option 2 the tanks have to dry and then the forms have to be poured and dried, which depending on the weather could take an indeterminate amount of time.

Supervisor Brown said that with Options 1 & 2 the town would most likely have to make arrangements for portable units.

Councilwoman Snyder said option 3 would eliminate that, and Councilman Craig said the old tanks would still have to be transitioned to the new ones. He mentioned the report talks about taking the existing pumps and installing them in the new tanks and is not sure of the logic of putting old pumps in new tanks.

Supervisor Brown mentioned that when Columbia Greene College did similar work last summer and had concerns with the humidity, that a portable tent was brought in to deal with the humidity issue, and that whatever option is chosen will dictate what the town needs to do.

Councilwoman Lamberta asked why the county painted their tanks and the town did not. How was this information not relayed to the town while it was to the county?

Supervisor Brown has spoken with the town attorney and the time frame has passed; there is no recourse at this point in going back to the company.

Councilman Craig asked about the county having to do work on their system and Supervisor Brown said it wasn't for the tanks; it was fixing the clarifier where there are problems and doing upgrades. The town needs to be proactive to prevent problems down the road.

Supervisor Brown said no decisions will be made tonight but he wanted to get the information on the table. He doesn't have the piece about whether rates would need to be raised to cover repairs. There is some money set aside, but no determination yet about funding these repairs, which he hopes to have by the next public meeting.

Martin Overington asked if this was a user problem or a town problem, due to the tanks not being painted when they were installed. Why are the users paying for it if the town did not pain the tanks as recommended?

Supervisor Brown said that monies for sewer district repair has to come from those in the sewer district.

David Finger asked if the report only offered the three options, and if it is necessary to do now.

Supervisor Brown said that the Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) advised the town they should do something about the tanks or they will mandate that the town do something. The current bond expires in 2019 and he doubts that DEC will wait until then for the town to do something about the tanks, as they mentioned to Supervisor Brown there should be something in the 2012 budget to address the issue.

Mr. Fingar said that times are tough with taxes and other raising prices, and is it possible to pay the interest until the existing bond is paid and then keep payments the same.

Supervisor Brown said they are looking at the fund balance now; trying to stay one step ahead and do the right thing and he is considering all options and talking to finance folks to see what is available.

Councilwoman Snyder asked about the pumps and option three; would we be putting old pumps in new tanks. Supervisor Brown said we have used reconditioned pumps and sometimes they work better than the new ones.

Councilman Craig said that there are folks in town who do metal work and perhaps we can use them to address the work laid out in the report addressing the headworks. Councilwoman Lamberta asked that if local folks other than Barton & Loguidice did the metal works that means they will not be held responsible for that work in the future.

David Fingar asked the board to consider the financing and Supervisor Brown said he has been in contract with Environmental Facilities Corporation and \$1.2 million was talked about but he will follow up.

Supervisor Brown said the plant is not in a crucial stage but the town will need to do something and be careful of financing.

Martin Overington asked how the pump stations are and Supervisor Brown said they're in great shape; they were throttled back due to the flow and are working great. It's just the holding tanks that need to be addressed.

Councilman Craig said this will affect the 2012 budget and the town must stay within the 2% tax levy cap. Supervisor Brown said none of this money is figured into the current budget and he will check the financing and have that information by the next public meeting.

Supervisor Brown closed the public meeting.

Minutes of Germantown Town Board's Public Hearing on a proposed local law to establish No Parking zones within the town, held on October 17, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY.

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

Not Present: Councilman Jeremy Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Charlene Diehl

The Clerk read the meeting notice.

Supervisor Brown said the town has some no parking areas within the town but there are no laws on the books, per se, that allow for the signs and tickets to be issued. In order for the town to enforce the no parking zones, Supervisor Brown and town lawyer Jason Shaw are working on establishing tickets and fines that need to be incorporated into the law.

Supervisor Brown said this request came from the Fire Department, as they are having problems in getting the trucks back into the station after a call.

A No Parking during Snow Emergencies law is on the books, but this law will be rolled into the No Parking one as well to make it more comprehensive. The new local law will spell out the no parking designations so it can be properly enforced.

Minutes of October 17, 2011 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. Mr. Brown then gave a brief summary of the two public meetings held prior to the board meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting was made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilman Craig, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve paying audited bills made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Supervisor Brown.

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

Supervisor Brown said there were some comments on the FEMA reimbursable expenses vouchers and that FEMA will be in town next week to discuss repairs.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal client privilege information and contract negotiations was made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

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

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

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

Communication – reported by Town Clerk

- letter of resignation from the Police Department by Joseph Kilmer, who has accepted a position with another police department;
- letter from the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Taconic Farms, Inc., East Pond Restoration.

Department Updates

Highway Department – reported by Joan Snyder

- the highway crew has been blowing leaves off of and out of basins and ditches to keep all the rainwater moving, and asks that residents help by not filling ditches with debris;
- the docks are out in Cheviot Park for the winter;
- the highway crew is painting and getting trucks ready for inspection and winter;
- patching and fixing damage from storm Irene is completed. Rich Jennings has a kick-off meeting Thursday afternoon with SEMO to start the paperwork for FEMA.

Police Department – reported by Roger Rekow

- 210.5 hours of patrol time were logged in for September.

Park Patrols: Cheviot –13 times, Anchorage – 14 times, School –14 times,
Palatine Park – 12 times, Dales Bridge – 9 times

Supervisor Brown asked if Commissioner Rekow could send a letter of thanks to Mr. Kilmer for his service to the town.

Mr. Rekow said he had received the budget information from other police departments, and noted that Saugerties police budget is over \$2 million, and that Germantown has the lowest budget police department in Columbia County.

Supervisor Brown confirmed with Mr. Rekow that the town is not sponsoring any cadets to the Police Academy this year, as no one is hiring for when they graduate.

Sewer – reported by Joan Snyder

- Average daily flow for the month was 34,000 gallons per day;
- 4 'Call Before you Dig' requests were received for the month;
- Replaced a home grinder pump and getting ready for the cold weather.

Supervisor Brown noted in the workshop earlier the report from Barton & Loguidice suggested using existing pumps, and asked Mr. Sharpe if we have a back-up and does he see a problem using them in the new tanks.

Mr. Sharpe responded that there are two spare pumps and he doesn't see a problem in using the existing pumps in the new tanks. One day would be needed to replace a pump if something goes down, and there are two spare grinder pumps as well.

Parks & Maintenance – reported by Anthony Cidras

- Anchorage clean-up should be done by end of week;
- Brought everything in from Dales Bridge;
- Working on trails that were washed out;
- Bringing picnic tables in for winter;
- Replaced belt on skag mower;
- Reported that 11,300 kW hours were generated from the solar panels and that just under 19,000 pounds of CO2 were prevented from going into the atmosphere, year to date.

Supervisor Brown asked about Dales Bridge gate and Anthony reported he will be closing the gate, after he fixes the damage done to it after someone ran into it.

Supervisor Brown asked Mr. Cidras about the Dog Control Officer calls he has completed, and Mr. Cidras said that he will start reporting that to the board at the next meeting.

Economic Development – presented by Corinne Curry

- Cross River Fine Art, a watercolor show just opened and will run through November 5th;
- Local, 1989-2010, a show by Ken Shung, was quite successful and well received;
- A show from a NYC artist will be on November 12th;
- The Mercantile's newest issue is dedicated to Germantown;
- Central House – Martin Lueck reports that he is full on the weekends and Corinne emphasized it is a nice addition to the town.

Councilwoman Lamberta wanted to mention the new florist in town, and Corinne said that GEDC wants to do a movable feast in April as well.

Sue Robb, from the History Department, wanted to thank George, Rich and Eli for their help in the recent Palatine History Day event, and they helped move about 350 kids to the Parsonage and back and thanked the town for their help in this successful event.

Supervisor Brown said he heard nothing but good things and thanks the History Department for the good program.

Councilman Craig mentioned the article in the Mercantile about the archaeological dig at the Parsonage and what was recovered. Ms. Robb said that Bard College is looking to do a dig on a regular basis.

Parks Commission – presented by Brittany DuFresne

Chili cook-off went really well, and Eileen Walding and Blue Stores were among the winners. Over 56 people voted, there were 11 participants, and raised over \$500.

Pumpkin Fest is being held on October 30th from 4:00-7:00. A costume parade will be starting at Palatine Manor, with contests for kids and a carved pumpkin contest (no carving at the event). There are plans for a bonfire and a fire truck on display, with a lighted pumpkin walk through the trails at 6:00pm with all the carved pumpkins on display.

The Dog Park is officially open with a grand opening planned on October 30th. Signs are posted and there are no restrictions on the dog park. A dog waste disposal station has been ordered as well.

Supervisor Brown asked if dog owners can use grocery store bags and Mrs. DuFresne responded that yes, they can be used.

Mr. Brown also asked about mowing and doesn't want there to be any problems if Anthony has to mow and the park is being used. Mrs. DuFresne said that she anticipates people would take their dog out of the park when Anthony has to mow it and if there's a problem they will address it.

Mrs. DuFresne said that Andrea Dunn had mentioned getting a resolution from the town board acknowledging the commission so they can move forward with their plans, and Supervisor Brown and Councilman Craig said the responsibility and structure of the commission needs to be determined before they can move forward.

Mr. Craig expressed concern about tying in with other professional organizations and how that would impact the commission, and it is great to hear ideas being suggested.

Supervisor Brown said that Brittany and Andrea should get together with Jason, Joel and Jerry to hammer out the details of the commission.

Old Business

No Parking Zone Local Law – Supervisor Brown and Jason Shaw have been working on a law establishing No Parking zones that covers all areas in town designated as no parking and prefers to do the law all at once.

Waste Water Treatment Plant – meeting held earlier but more information is needed before the town can move forward and Supervisor Brown hopes to have that information in the next 30 days.

Councilwoman Snyder said the 911 Memorial fund is still looking for donations, which can be mailed to the town hall.

Councilman Craig mentioned how proud he is of what the Fire department and other volunteer agencies did in serving dinner to victims of Hurricane Irene.

Supervisors Report

Supervisor Brown requested a budget workshop for Monday, October 24th at 1:00 so department heads can attend as well.

Mr. Brown is still waiting for information from the county about the budget and told the board the town has to send information to Albany to make sure it's within the 2% cap.

Supervisor Brown is waiting for DEC to get back to him – when Hurricane Irene came through a lot of damage was done to our water parks and trees were lost. Mr. Brown will be taking FEMA down for a tour and will try to recoup some of the money spent for the storm damage.

Sidewalk project – the town reached out to the State of New York regarding the project, and hopes to start the project in the spring. The town needs to determine where to start the project, taking the school and local businesses into consideration.

The Fire Department, in conjunction with churches, the Lion's Club, Sportsmen's, and Park Commission, went to the town in Schoharie County, Breakabeen, where they had previously assisted with Hurricane Irene clean up, with the goal of serving dinner for 1,000 residents. About 850 people were served between 2 locations there. Kudos to all who helped out, and it says a lot about our residents.

Councilwoman Snyder said she went to the Middleburg Fire Department web site and there was a thank you to Germantown for their donations and volunteerism.

Open to Public

Ellen Epstein – Columbia Land Conservancy has been GPSing the trails in Germantown to do a trail map and posting signs along the trails. The Conservancy hopes to have smaller trails mapped by spring and to have another reception to bring people to the trails.

Supervisor Brown said that the Economic Development Committee has been discussing the trails and asked about cross-country skiing. Councilman Craig said he had brought Martin from Central House over to the trails and ran into Linda from the Conservancy and there are plans to work together to bring people in during the winter months.

Supervisor Brown said he will keep Ms. Epstein in the loop with any plans they have moving forward.

The next town board meeting is Monday, November 21 at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Craig and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder, with all in favor and none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,