

Minutes of December 19, 2017 Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, commencing at 7:03pm.

Present: Supervisor Craig
Councilwoman Foley
Councilwoman DuFresne
Councilman Kukon

Absent: Councilman Moore

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Craig opened the meeting and led with the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve November Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilwoman DuFresne, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay December Town Board audited bills made by Councilwoman DuFresne, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications

No written communications.

Maintenance by Anthony Cidras

- Buildings have been winterized.
- Last full treatment on the lake has been done. Swans are out. Will still be putting Eco boost in.
- All Christmas decorations have been put up in the village.
- Emergency repair on roof of the salt building.
- Generators are all in and have been registered with the manufacturers and have been set on timers to go off every Wednesday at 11:00am.
- All grills and picnic tables are in.
- Thank you to Donna Phelan for donating her time and materials for the Christmas walk.

Supervisor Craig said with winter weather coming it's good that the generators are installed and ready to go.

Highway by Councilman Kukon

- Had our first taste of winter.
- Rich is wondering what happened with the "no parking law"?
- Have been cutting trees and brush on Eastern Parkway, Ford Road and Old Sawmill Road.
- Thank you to Joel Craig for all his years of public service and Rich wishes him the best in the years to come.

- Rich wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sewer by Councilman Kukon

- Average flow is 17,000 gallons a day.
- Received 5 call before you dig requests.
- Everything is okay.

Police by Supervisor Craig

- 1 Funeral detail.

Historian by Sue Raab

- Dendrochronology project is coming to an end. There were 12 drawings and the findings not officially covered are the earliest beam found was from 1721 and the oldest was from 1764. They are still calling it 1767. When Sue gets the report, she will share it.

Old Business

Councilwoman DuFresne said they talked about the Comprehensive Plan at the last Town Board meeting. There are some things that Councilwoman DuFresne still has some questions on. Councilwoman DuFresne thinks it would be a good idea that the Town Board sit down with a couple of the members and go over the questions and some of the verbiage and what it means. Councilwoman DuFresne said that Councilman Moore has questions too and he is not here tonight. Councilwoman Foley likes that idea. Norman Mintz asked if they could have the questions before hand. Norman is hoping to adopt the plan as soon as possible. Councilwoman DuFresne will send Norman so the committee can do the research. Councilwoman DuFresne the part of repeated stated designated scenic byway by NYS and this is a big piece of what we can or cannot do on 9G. Councilwoman DuFresne thinks the overall document is good.

Councilwoman DuFresene said there was a great turn out for the Christmas event in town regardless of the weather. Everybody pulled in together including the Germantown Police, Sheriff's department, Germantown Fire department and the local businesses.

New Business

No new business.

Supervisor's Report

- Blood drive, December 23rd 8:30-12:30 in the Kellner Activity Building.
- Year End meeting, December 28th at 6pm.
- 2018 Re-Organizational meeting, January 9th at 6pm. Town Board meeting will follow at 7pm.

Public

Arthur Schiff said he doesn't know the outcome of the proposed tax bill. Mrs. Schiff spoke up and said that Arthur had been collecting information on this matter. Mr. Schiff said you will be able to pre-pay your property tax bills and deducting them from your 2017 tax return. Mr. Schiff said the County will be posting the tax bills around December 28th and you should be able to look up your tax bills for 2018.

Ellen Jouret Epstein said this won't be possible according to the NY Times. Supervisor Craig said there have been inquiries and he will find out.

Amy Davison asked Supervisor Craig to post it when he finds the information out.

A resident asked if the Bank of Greene County will be taking Janice Mullins place. Supervisor Craig said they are the collection point because Janice resigned as of December 31st. Robert Beauiry said the tax bills should be here on December 28th. Residents can pick up their bill at the Town Hall.

Emily Michael from Church Avenue is opposed and deeply concerned to the Commercial Venue Law. Ms. Michael feels it will alter the quality of life in Germantown. She is all for preserving rural towns. Ms. Michael feels these events would disrupt the weekend with loud music, traffic, alcoholic beverages along with waste and trash and this would change the character of Germantown and make it unpleasant for current residents and second home buyers. Ms. Michael said our Comprehensive Plan and our current laws are designed to protect the character of our town. She is asking the Planning Board, Zoning Board and the Town Board to reject this proposal. A letter from Emily Michael will be on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Melinda Reichlin from Church Avenue said she is opposed to the proposed local law to allow commercial activity in residential only districts. Ms. Reichlin feels this would impact the quality of life. She has many concerns including traffic, additional police, code enforcement, volunteer firemen, noise pollution, drivers on unfamiliar winding country roads. Ms. Reichlin is looking to the Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board to reject this proposal and enforce the zoning codes that already exist. A letter from Melinda Reichlin will be on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Genette Piccici Oehlke said she is a proponent for some form of regulation which allows landowners to utilize their property to host a limited number of for-profit events a year. In January of 2017 Genette and her family spoke with Jay Trapp about having events at their farm's barn. In March of 2017 they spoke with Supervisor Craig about having events at the barn. In April there was a public hearing about a proposed Commercial Event Venue. The Oehlke's consulted with Jay Trapp and are launching an Event Design and Planning business as a minor home occupation, planning events at other locations in Columbia County and the Hudson Valley. Genette handed out business cards and marketing brochure to the Town Board members. The Oehlke's will miss the outgoing Town Board members and welcome the new members. A letter from Genette Piccici Oehlke will be on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Ellen Jouret Epstein said her Grandfather owned a saloon. Ms. Epstein said they have lived here a long time and have invested a huge amount of their property. Ms. Epstein said their neighbors should not be threatened by something like this.

Genette Picicci Oehlke said that the property across from the Epstein's has been having events and asked Ellen Epstein what is going on with the property across from her? Ms. Epstein said she has spoken with them and is not going to discuss this. Genette feels this is discriminating and that her family is doing the right thing.

Councilwoman DuFresne said she can't believe it's been all most a year. Councilwoman DuFresne also said that everything is not set in stone and there is still more that needs to be enforced if this becomes a part of our law. Supervisor Craig said that nobody's has gotten away with anything and there had been steps taken.

Fred Mastroianni introduced himself as the town's engineer. Mr. Mastroianni said he was involved with the sidewalk project and is nice to see the project done. Supervisor Craig thanked Fred as well.

Steve Reynolds chairman of the Planning board said they had been discussing the escrow account with Primemax. Supervisor Craig said that they will get that information to the Planning Board. Steve suggested that Margaret DellaCioppa could work with Janet.

Supervisor Craig wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Councilwoman Foley, seconded by Councilwoman DuFresne, with all in favor and none opposed.

This was Supervisor Craig and Councilwoman Foley's last Town Board meeting. Janet Crawford presented Councilwoman Foley with flowers and presented a gift to Supervisor Craig.

Meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,