

Minutes of January 9, 2018, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Beaury
Councilman Moore
Councilwoman DuFresne
Councilman Kukon
Councilman Sullivan

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve December 2017 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay December 2017 audited bills made by Councilwoman DuFresne, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay January 2018 audited bills made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilwoman DuFresne, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications

No communications.

Maintenance by Councilman Sullivan

- Working with a new electrician for work in the Parsonage.
- Decorations are all taken down in the village.
- Winter cleaning in the Activity Building.
- Helping highway department with plowing.
- Cleaning and painting grills for the summer.

Highway by Councilman Kukon

- Plowing and sanding.
- Hauled 128.83 tons of sand.
- Cleaning the shop and equipment.
- Getting ready to do yearly inventory.
- Rich is looking for an update on the snow ordinance.
- Good luck to all the new town officials and Happy New Year.

Sewer by Councilwoman DuFresne

- Average flow is 22,000 gallons per day.
- Received 5 call before you dig requests.
- Everything is quiet.

Police by Officer-in-Charge DuBois

- No complaints last month
- Attended a sex offender workshop on December 7th. Columbia County has been shipping the sex offenders up to Rensselaer County.
- Attended a Domestic Violence Task Force on December 20th.
- 431.5 hours for 2017.

History

No report this month.

Motion to accept reports as read made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon.

Supervisor Beaury: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilwoman DuFresne: Aye
Councilman Kukon: Aye
Councilman Sullivan: Aye

Old Business

The Town Board is requesting a workshop for the Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Beaury asked the Town Board which date January 18th or January 22nd.

Motion to set a date for the workshop for the Comprehensive Plan made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilwoman DuFresne.

Supervisor Beaury: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilwoman DuFresne: Aye
Councilman Kukon: Aye
Councilman Sullivan: Aye

After discussion the Town Board agreed on the date of January 22nd.

Motion to set date for Town Board workshop for January 22nd at 5pm made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilwoman DuFresne.

Supervisor Beaury: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilwoman DuFresne: Aye
Councilman Kukon: Aye
Councilman Sullivan: Aye

New Business

This year there is going to be an annual training for members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals on February 10, 2018 from 9am-1pm. The Town Attorney and Code Enforcement will head the training.

Motion to require annual training be completed and proof submitted to Chair of each respective board made by Councilwoman DuFresne, seconded by Councilman Sullivan.

Supervisor Beaury: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilwoman DuFresne: Aye
Councilman Kukon: Aye
Councilman Sullivan: Aye

Supervisor Beaury said one of the first trainings will be on the Commercial Event Law.

Motion to approve the \$25.00 stipend for attending the February 10, 2018 training session made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilwoman DuFresne.

Supervisor Beaury: Aye
Councilman Moore: Aye
Councilwoman DuFresne: Aye
Councilman Kukon: Aye
Councilman Sullivan: Aye

Supervisor Beaury said they will set a fee schedule for building permits for 2018.

Supervisor Beaury said there will be a Public Hearing to adopt a Local Law for Cold War Veteran's exemption amending the 10-year limit held on February 13th at 6:45pm.

Motion to set date and time for the Public Hearing to adopt a Local Law for Cold War Veteran's exemption amending the 10-year limit on February 13, 2018 at 6:45pm made by Councilman Moore, seconded by Councilman Kukon.

Supervisor Beaury:	Aye
Councilman Moore:	Aye
Councilwoman DuFresne:	Aye
Councilman Kukon:	Aye
Councilman Sullivan:	Aye

Supervisor Beaury gave the update on the street lights. Supervisor Beaury spoke to National Grid and the work order available in the next couple of weeks. Supervisor Beaury said the street lights should be installed by mid-March weather permitting.

Supervisor Beaury said there will be a sewer presentation by Delaware Engineering. One of the meetings will be on bonding for the sewer upgrade and the other will be on the re-drawing of the lines in the sewer district, which now some of them overlap.

Supervisor Beaury said they would like to re-form the Economic Development Committee and they will be looking for volunteers.

Councilwoman DuFresne asked about putting street lights in the municipal parking lot? Councilwoman DuFresne said it is a need. Supervisor Beaury said he is working with Delaware Engineering to find a source of funding to help us to pay for paving the entire parking lot, put in street lights and landscaping. Supervisor Beaury said it is a slow process and is very expensive and it might take several grants.

Supervisor's Report

- Supervisor Beaury welcomed the new Town Board members and the old Town Board members as well.
- There are new office hours Tuesday through Saturday at the Town Hall. Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays 9-1pm, Wednesday 5-8pm, Saturday 9-12pm. Building department hours Wednesday 5-8pm, Court Clerk hours are Wednesday 5-8pm. All hours will be posted on the website.
- Next Town Board meeting will be held February 13th at 7:00pm.

Public

Steve Savoris 30-year resident and served on the zoning board for 10 years. Mr. Savoris said the zoning law is sacred and the town's governments purpose should be to protect the home owners. Mr. Savoris said the Event Law wants to attempt to profit at the expense of everyone else and the Event law wants to exploit the beautiful rural setting created and maintained by the zoning laws. Mr. Savoris finds the month after month presentation from the Event law every month very disturbing. Mr. Savoris feels this should be stopped.

Genette Picicci Oehlke said she is a proponent for regulation which allows landowners outside a commercial area to utilize their property and host a limited number of for-profit events each year. Ms. Picicci Oehlke put together a table of all the towns in Columbia County and 15 of the 18 towns are in favor of this activity and recommendations in the new Comprehensive Plan would require a regulation such as this. In closing Genette said after the training is completed she would strongly request the Town Board and the Planning and Zoning Boards to prioritize this work at the top of their list and begin drafting regulation which would put a frame work in place to allow for-profit events outside of commercial areas.

Supervisor Beaury said that he would like to make it clear that this is a complicated issue and the Town Board would like the Planning Board to be involved. Supervisor Beaury said the training will be held on February 10th then give the matter over to the Planning Board and then give back to the Town Board.

Melinda Reichlin a 35-year resident wrote a letter to the Town Board last month. Ms. Reichlin read a letter from Joe Sultan. In his letter Mr. Sultan said that he and his wife were attracted to Germantown because of it's peacefulness and seclusion. Mr. Sultan feels the loud music and loud revelers carries for miles. He feels this potential development will erode the quality of life

to the point where our property values will depreciate and our quality of life even more so. Mr. Sultan's letter also asked if the impact study had been done to determine the effect of these changes to the Town's budget and services, and to surrounding property values. Mr. Sultan requested that the residential zoning not be changed or amended in any way that allows any commercial use no matter how restricted. A copy of Joe Sultan's letter is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Emily Michael said she has a petition signed by concerned members of the Germantown community and they would like to express to the Town Board, Planning and Zoning Board their strong opposition to Town of Germantown Local Law #2 of 2017. Ms. Michael asked to make the petition available. This petition is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Norman Mintz said he and the committee are looking forward to the workshop on January 22nd. Mr. Mintz said as a result of the workshop and the issues, the changes and omissions all need to be incorporated into the updated Comprehensive Plan and has to be done correctly and professionally. Norman said Mr. Sorenson is available to attend the training on the 22nd and would like to be compensated for attending the training. Mr. Sorenson would like \$1,250.00. Supervisor Beury said whether we engage him or not we will do the right thing. Councilwoman DuFresne said the changes will be discussed on the 22nd. Supervisor Beury welcomed Mr. Sorenson to attend the workshop but is not committing to him paid for showing up at the workshop. Supervisor Beury said that Norman and the committee did a terrific job and this document needs to carry us for the next several years.

Steven Reynolds would like to know the balance of the escrow account. Supervisor Beury said there are a series of priorities that need to be taken care of first. Supervisor Beury will get the balance to Steve tomorrow.

Genette Picicci Oehlke and her family and friends have also canvassed Germantown and have gotten signatures. Supervisor Beury said Planning Board will make the first step and then we will go from there. Supervisor Beury said at this point the Town Board is not going to discuss this.

Ellen Jouret Epstein is glad the Town Board is going through this process. Ms. Epstein hopes the Town Board holds off on any laws until the Comprehensive Plan is updated.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Meeting closed at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,