

Minutes of August 7, 2018 Germantown Town Board Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No.2 of 2018 abolishing the Germantown Police Department, held in the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 5:35pm.

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

Town Attorney: Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Beaury opened the Public Hearing and Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to open the Public Hearing made by Councilman Moore, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Town Clerk read the following:

Notice of Public Hearing of the Town Board, Town of Germantown, County of Columbia, State of New York

Notice is hereby given that on August 7, 2018 at 5:30pm the Germantown Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2018 abolishing the Germantown Police Department. The Public Hearing will be immediately followed by a Special Town Board meeting. The meetings will occur in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York.

Supervisor Beaury read the opening statement: On July 18, 2018 the Germantown Town Board held a Public Hearing regarding the assessment of the Germantown Police Department conducted by Harry Corbitt, Superintendent of the New York State Police (Retired). Following the Public Hearing, the Board, at its special meeting, voted to move forward with abolishing the Germantown Police Department.

Before we begin taking public comments, I want to go over the protocol for tonight's hearing:

- 1.) The Town Board wants to make it very clear that we expect courteous and professional behavior from everyone.
- 2.) When it is your turn to speak, please come up to the podium, state your name and address your comments to the Town Board.
- 3.) All comments shall be restricted to the specific subject of the Public Hearing as advertised and only the specific subject.
- 4.) Please do not refer to anyone by name- if you do, you will be asked to stop.
- 5.) While someone is speaking, please do not be disrespectful or rude- if you are, you will be asked to stop.
- 6.) Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.

Supervisor Beaury opened the floor to public comments.

Vern Oehlke lives in Germantown and is a New York City Police Officer for 15 years. Vern said as time progressed they have assigned officers to a certain housing areas or street to talk and engage with the residents and in regards to that crime has been reduced. Vern feels by getting rid of the local police department it is a decrement to people who live here even if the police department is only part time. Vern strongly believes we need to maintain the police department even if is in limitation he believes response time will suffer.

Karen Targot feels the presence of local police department is key for the safety of the community. Ms. Targot appreciates and respects the report which she felt was excellent. Karen asked instead of abolishing the police department why could they not re-structure or re-hire. She feels with Dollar General coming will bring more traffic and people into our town leaving us more vulnerable. In ending Ms. Targot suggested why not re-hire or re-structure the police department on a trial basis for a year.

Genette Piccici Oehlke did some research on the current stats. Germantown is a small community and has low crime statistics. Genette said we need community policing and bringing in the Troopers and Sheriffs won't help with the response time. Genette said in Mr. Corbitt's report the items he focused on should not be what a police officer focuses on. Genette asked if on the election campaign any of the Town Board members remember on abolishing the police department was on their platform but now it will be on their platform come election. In conclusion Genette added that the Town of Germantown wants an efficient, compliant and trustworthy local police force and for the Town boards to do their job addressing any inefficiencies in this report.

Isaac Shed from the Columbia Paper asked if any of the Town Board members see a need to recuse themselves? Supervisor Beaury said we are here for public comments.

Brian DuBois said the evaluation is incomplete and that Mr. Corbitt never even talked to him.

LuRae Tate found out calling the number for the police and got no response. LuRae asked if the police department was abolished maybe a volunteer unit could take over at the events. Ms. Tate is concerned about the AR or AK 15 weapons and the liability. Ms. Tate is in favor of not having this police department but having something created.

Motion to close the Public Hearing made by Councilman Moore, seconded by Councilwoman DuFresne, with all in favor and none opposed.

Public Hearing closed at 5:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,