

Minutes of January 11, 2022, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Present Via Zoom: Councilmember Suarez
Councilman Christian

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Helsley opened the meeting and Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

JANUARY MONTHLY REPORT

- 1-HAD COLUMBIA TREE SERVICE COME AND CUT SOME TREES DOWN
- 2-GRINDED A LOT OF STUMPS ALONG ROADS AND IN THE PARK
- 3-NEW TRUCK IS BACK ALL WORK DONE WAS COVERED UNDER WARRANTY
- 4-HAD LIGHTS ON WALKIN COOLER AND PAVILLION REPAIRED
- 5-PUT NEW PIPE IN DOWN BY POND BY BALLFIELD
- 6-CUT DEAD TREES DOWN IN PLAYGROUND AREA AND ALONG TRAIL
- 7-LUKE MACKS FIRST DAY WAS JANUARY 9
- 8-PLACED ORDER FOR FIRST 100 TON OF SALT
- 9-HAVE HAD 2 SNOW EVENTS AND 1 ICE EVENT

ANTHONY CIDRAS
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Motion to pay the audited bills for December 2021 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay the audited bills for January 2022 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received a resignation from Desiree Webber effective December 31, 2021. Town Clerk stated the letter was received after the December Town Board meeting and will be on file in clerk's office.

Old Business

- Motion made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed to appoint Brandon Mullins as CEO on the basis that he is progressing toward completion of the CEO official basic training program, and that he will complete said training within calendar year 2022.

- Motion made by Councilman Christian, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed to approve the letter of commitment to be sent to NYSERDA to establish an intent of setting up a Green Revolving Fund to be used for future energy efficiency projects.
- Motion made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon with all in favor and none opposed to approve the creation of a separate bank account with The Bank of Greene County upon receipt of said grant monies.
- Discussion on NY Stretch code. Councilman Sullivan asked if they wanted to pick a date for another session? Councilmember Suarez agreed with Supervisor Helsley to hear from the construction aspect and would like Brandon to get involved. Supervisor Helsley suggested the public hearing at 6:30pm on February 8, 2022 with the Town Board meeting starting directly after the public hearing.

Motion to approve public hearing on February 8, 2022 at 6:30pm followed directly by the Town Board meeting made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Councilman Christian asked if the code will be voted on after that public hearing. Corinne Smith said as long as there were no major changes made to the code. Supervisor Helsley said the deadline for changes is January 29, 2022. Supervisor Helsley will reach out to Supervisor of Philmont who passed it and the Supervisor of New Lebanon who did not pass it and get their feedback. Councilmember Suarez will talk to Athens and Kingston.

New Business

- COVID Test kits have been made available from the Columbia County EMO. It is possible that we will be receiving a weekly delivery from CC EMO. We need to determine the best practices for distribution.

Supervisor Helsley asked the Town Board how they would like to distribute these? He suggested Palatine Manor. Councilman Christian suggested the Fire department getting some. Councilmember Suarez suggested Palatine Manor and the Food Pantry. Tony Albino commented that the Fire department does not have any test kits and would be good if they could get some. Councilmember Suarez will reach out to Arlene Liepshutz for the Food Pantry and the Town Clerk will contact Angela Somma at Palatine Manor.

- Motion made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed to authorize the Supervisor to enter into the retainer agreement with Whitbeck, Benedict and Smith, LLP for 2022 legal services in the amount of \$21,500.00.

Supervisor's Report

- December 18th Winter Glow. Supervisor Helsley said despite the dreary conditions he was happy with the turnout.
- Suggest changing the email link on the Germantown home page. The gtownny@valstar.net account is inundated with spam and most of the official business (invoicing, etc.) has already been redirected to other accounts. Councilmember Suarez suggested creating an email like we have. Councilman Sullivan. Supervisor Helsley valid emails re-directed. Councilman Sullivan direct. Councilman Christian. Supervisor Helsley remove that link re-direct. Town Board all agreed to remove gtownny@valstar.net

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Sullivan suggested FAQ or mail chimp things people may want to know about Germantown. Councilmember Suarez likes that idea.

Supervisor Helsley suggested sending out a survey.

Councilmember Suarez and Councilman Sullivan will work on that.

Councilman Christian hearing from the building department and the County committees.

Town Board was discussing how they would like to hear from the departments and committees. Councilman Christian and Councilmember Suarez will make a list for next meeting.

Comments and questions from the public

Matthew Mercier asked Supervisor Helsley to email the letter of commitment to him. Matthew also said they will be sending a check in the next couple weeks.

Councilman Sullivan reminded everyone we will be continuing the public hearing on February 8th.

Christina Bohnsack thinks community feedback is a good idea and she suggested getting a survey account. Christina also said in t the November meeting talked about 2014 Resolution extending the mixed use commercial zoning to Hover Avenue. Christina is wondering if she should continue her project because she is in that zone.

Corinne Smith said continue to continue the project and the Town Board should work on that soon because we need an official map with accurate. Corinne will provide guidance with this process.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Next meeting is February 8, 2022 at 7:00pm with the Public Hearing at 6:30pm.

Meeting closed at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,