

Minutes of February 8, 2022 Germantown Town Board meeting held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York and via Zoom, commencing at 7:01pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley  
Councilman Sullivan  
Councilman Kukon

Present via Zoom: Councilmember Suarez  
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Helsley welcomed everyone and Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

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

Motion to approve the January 4, 2022 re-organizational meeting minutes, the January 11, 2022 Public Hearing minutes and the January 11, 2022 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

1-DID DEEP CLEANING IN ACTIVITY BUILDING

2-HAVE HAD SEVERAL SNOW STORMS AND ONE BAD ICE STORM

3-WENT THROUGH TOWN AND CHIPPED DOWN LIMBS

4-LUKE AQUIRED HIS CDL PERMIT AND HAS SCHEDULED HIS ROAD TEST

5-RECIEVED 100 TON OF SALT AND PLACED AN ORDER FOR ANOTHER 100 TON

6-REPLACED CUTTING EDGE ON WINGS AND PLOWS THAT NEEDED REPLACING

7-STARTED PAINTING GRILLS AND GARBAGE CANS

8-HAD A CAR TOWED OUT OF MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT

ANTHONY CIDRAS  
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

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

#### **Written Communications to the Town Clerk**

None.

#### **Old Business**

- NY Stretch Code- further discussion on how to proceed. Supervisor Helsley said he is concerned on the upfront costs. Supervisor Helsley would like someone who can prove there will only be a 1-2% cost, but contractors think it's closer to 10%. Supervisor Helsley said it is hard for young people just starting out to have to pay more. Councilman Sullivan would like to talk to people in Athens which is similar to Germantown and there are a lot of long term residents there. Councilman Sullivan also added the average young buyer buying a house in Germantown will not be doing these renovations or building a new home. Supervisor Helsley said both part-time CEO's in Chatham are not in favor of it. Supervisor Helsley said at this point they are not going to adopt the Stretch Code. Supervisor Helsley said the deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> and we still have time to modify the Local Law. Christina Bohnsack said there is a baseline energy code and that is

where the estimates for higher costs is coming from. Councilman Christian said when he built his house he didn't spend 10% on energy related items. Councilmember Suarez suggested tabling this until the next meeting. Victoria Fuchs works with a contractor suggested a poll to find out how the residents feel about this.

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

- COVID Test Kits- additional kits are being provided fairly routinely by the CCEMO. Discuss how to distribute future supplies. Supervisor Helsley suggested putting information on the website. Councilman Sullivan thinks the food pantry was a good idea. Councilmember Suarez suggested a distribution day.
- Department and committee reports. Agree upon frequency and content of reporting based on the draft list submitted by Councilmember Christian. Councilman Sullivan would like the input from the committees. Councilman Kukon said if the department is busy then they could submit a report. Matthew Mercier will give a monthly report. Dale Hinkein will give a quarterly report.

Town Reports for Board Minutes

County Committees:

		Report Frequency
Highway	Dale Hinkein	Quarterly
Climate Smart Communities	Matthew Mercier	Quarterly
Office of the Aging	Wendy Fieser	Quarterly
Environmental Management Council	Barbara Hughey	Quarterly

Local Departments

Building Department	Brandon Mullins	Monthly
DPW Department	Anthony Cidras	Monthly
Sewer Department		Monthly

Committees

Waterfront Advisory Committee		Semiannual
Short Term Rental Committee		Semiannual
Economic Development		Semiannual
LWRP		Semiannual
History Department		Semiannual
Climate Smart Community		Semiannual

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

**New Business**

- Motion to authorize Columbia County Controller to audit the Justice Court (2021). NYS Office of Court Administration requires all financial records each year.

Motion to authorize Columbia County Controller to audit the Justice Court for 2021 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Review and approve the fireworks proposal for 2022. Councilmember Suarez heard back from Young Explosives and they don't have the date we want but they could do Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> but would not have a rain date available. Councilmember Suarez will forward the proposal to Fingar Insurance.

Motion to enter into agreement with Legion Fireworks pending appropriate insurance coverage for July 2<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of July 3<sup>rd</sup> made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Discussion of use of the Kellner Activity Building by GCS for an after school program. Councilman Sullivan said would see if the school can handle this.
- Re-appoint Barbara Hughey to the CC Environmental Management council.

Supervisor Helsley read the following resolution:

**TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK  
February 8, 2022**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby re-appoints Barbara Hughey to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council for a two-year term.

Introduced by: Councilmember Suarez

Seconded by: Councilman Sullivan

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Germantown Town Board.

Dated: February 8, 2022

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Joyce Vale, Town Clerk  
Germantown Town Board

Motion to approve re-appoint of Barbara Hughey to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council for a two-year term made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Discussion on use of ARPA funds. Supervisor Helsley said they received \$93,000 in separate ARPA account. Corinne said towns can use the funding for specific areas. Corinne also said the funds have to cover allowable costs after March 3, 2021 and the deadline to spend funds is December 31, 2026. Councilmember Suarez suggested holding a workshop to talk about the funds. Supervisor Helsley set the workshop date for Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm.

Motion to set date for workshop on use of ARPA funds made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Councilman Christian would like to discuss sewer at the workshop. Supervisor Helsley they could discuss what they would like to accomplish with the ARPA money. Corinne will look into if the money can be used for the sewer district. Councilman Christian mentioned Cornell Cooperative Extension looked into a culvert management plan and Cornell got the funds for this and will be starting this year at no cost to the town.

- Discussion on Implementation of a sponsored/memorial trees program in Germantown parks. Councilman Sullivan thinks this is a great idea. The type of trees were discussed. This will be put on the March agenda.

**Supervisor's Report**

- NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program \$5k grant has been received. Separate Account is set up at TBOGC. Councilman Sullivan and Supervisor Helsley just need to complete the signature forms.
- Reminder of the Columbia County K.I.S.S (Keeping Identities of Seniors Safe) program. This program has shredded and recycled over 95,000 pounds of sensitive information countywide since its inception in 2015.

**Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilmember Suarez would like Matthew to speak in regards to the solarized campaign.

Matthew Mercier said the CSC County Task Force is starting a solar campaign and is hoping to encourage residents to sign up for solar power. Matthew is hoping Germantown can piggyback on the campaign. Supervisor Helsley will put on the March agenda.

Councilman Christian said the solarized campaign has to do with community solar and signing up to be a part of a solar farm.

Martin Overington said thank you for the clarification.

**Comments and Questions from the public**

Dale Hinkein said the American Legion is looking to start a hometown heroes program. Dale will drop off the banner at the Town Hall. Dale also said they plan on a re-dedication of the memorial down at the Anchorage on Vietnam Day which is Tuesday, March 29, 2022. They plan on asking Daphne Jordan and Antonio Delgado to come and speak. Dale also said the POW flag down at the park is frayed and it will be taken care of.

Martin Overington thanked the Highway Department on keeping the roads clear. Martin is concerned over too much salt the trucks put on the hill which the salt runs down to the river.

Supervisor Helsley said in response to Martin's concern that it may have been a heavier application due to the type of storm and he will look into it.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:22pm to discuss personnel and contract matters made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of executive session at made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted

Joyce Vale