

Minutes of April 12, 2022, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York and via Zoom, commencing at 7:22pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley  
Councilman Sullivan  
Councilman Kukon  
Councilmember Suarez  
Councilman Christian  
  
Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Helsley opened the meeting and Led with the Pledge to the Flag followed by a moment of silence in observance of the passing of Peter Fingar.

Motion to approve the March 1, 2022 board workshop minutes, the March 8, 2022 public hearing minutes and the March 8, 2022 town board meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

#### APRIL MONTHLY REPORT

1-CUT DEAD TREES AND BRUSH

2-INSTALLED ROUTERS AND CAT LINES IN TOWNHALL

3-TOOK PLOWS OFF TRUCK

4-DID REPAIRS ON ALL SPLIT RAIL FENCING

5-CLEANED ANCHORAGE BOAT LAUNCH AND PARKING LOT

6-DID MORE COLD PATCHING

7-CLEANED UP CHEVIOT BOAT LAUNCH

8-CHEVIOT DOCKS ARE IN

9-TOKE THE BED OFF OFF 2012 TRUCK DUE TO EXCESIVE RUSTING AND REPLACED REAR SHOCKS

10-MOVED FURNITURE IN TOWNHALL

11-HAVE STARTED BROOMING ROADS

12-YOU HAVE 3 ESTIMATES TO REPLACE THE BED OF THE 2012 TRUCK

13-YOU ALSO HAVE THE ESTIMATE TO REPAIR THE SEWER LATERAL ISSUE AT 15 CHURH AVE

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

None.

#### **Old Business**

- Motion to approve the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies as submitted by Highway Superintendent.  
\$120,000 budgeted in 2022 for road repairs, the quote to pave South Road is \$180,000. CHIPS and PAVE NY funds received in March exceed the 2022 budgeted amount and will be more than adequate to make up the difference.

Motion to approve the Agreement for Expenditure of Highway monies made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- NY Stretch Code  
Proposal of an alternative to adopting NY Stretch. Supervisor Helsley said the biggest point about the Stretch Code is people being told what to do. He proposed to the board rather than adopting Local Law No. 1, he would like to encourage energy efficient building but does not enforce it. Councilman Sullivan would like to iron out the details. Councilmember Suarez feels like the discount will go to those who need it the least and the incentive should go to those who are more apt to do it. Councilman Christian also feels the rebates will go to the higher end builders. Councilman Christian suggested exempt renovations from Stretch. Corinne will ask the code council but she thinks it will be rejected. Christina Bohnsack said there is \$15,000 in funds earmarked. The Town Board will look into this. Councilman Sullivan would like to see Chris and Brandon look into this further. Victoria Fuchs will get the information from the contractor to the town board so they can see the comparison. The town board agreed to table this. Councilman Kukon thanked everyone for voicing their opinions.
- Local Law No.2 of 2022- Revision of Zoning map to extend the HMU zoning district. Status? Are we on track for May 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting? Corinne answered yes to this question. Corinne also said that in 2014 the Town Board adopted a Local Law extending HMU district in a refined area and at that time had not adopted a revised map. Corinne recommended that the town adopt a Local Law setting forth all of those properties included in the HMU extension.
- ARPA funding for Kellner Activity Building- Proposal from Delaware Engineering has been received. Make the building acceptable for emergencies. \$11,500 come out of ARPA funds. Corinne Smith read the following resolution:

TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF SLFRF

Dated: April 12, 2022

WHEREAS, in March 2021, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“SLFRF”) to provide state, local and Tribal governments with resources to respond to the pandemic and its economic effects; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Treasury adopted the final rule describing the eligible uses of funds on January 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, one of the eligible uses of SLFRF as outlined in the final rule is to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Capital expenditures of improvements to or construction of emergency operations centers is an enumerated eligible use of the subcategory of COVID-19 mitigation and prevention. Pre-project development costs that are tied to and reasonably expected to lead to an eligible capital expenditure are also eligible uses of funds; and

WHEREAS, any use of funds for capital expenditures must comply with the capital expenditure requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown received SLFRF; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2022, the Town Board held a workshop to receive public input and discuss possible uses of its SLFRF, including use of the funds to make improvements to the Town-owned Kellner Community and Youth Activities Building to permit it to operate as an Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. has proposed to provide conceptual engineering to the Town in accordance with the scope of services attached hereto for \$11,500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows:

1. The Town Board authorizes the use of SLFRF in the amount of \$11,500.00 for pre-project development costs associated with the following SLFRF eligible use category:  
 Responding to the Public Health Emergency  
     Public health response to those impacted by COVID 19  
         COVID-19 mitigation and prevention  
             Enumerated eligible use: Improvements to or construction of  
                     emergency operations centers

This use of funds meets the capital expenditure eligibility standard.

1. The Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Professional Services Agreement with Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. as attached hereto.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilman Kukon

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Roll call by the Town Clerk:

Supervisor Helsley	Aye
Deputy Supervisor Sullivan	Aye
Councilmember Christian	Aye
Councilmember Kukon	Aye
Councilmember Suarez	Aye

This Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted.

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Greenway Grant update- Convert to Grid Tie power at Roe Jan Park. Councilman Christian said Gtel added WiFi at the park and he said a grant would pay for installation and some of the equipment. Councilman Christian said the grant was written for solar system and he would like to change it over to getting grid drop from National Grid. Councilman Christian will approach Greenway directly. The Town Board agreed for Councilman Christian to modify the grant. Anthony Cidras is concerned because they have had issues with the neighbors and people trespassing on their property and going to the bathroom. Anthony thinks this should be a short-term place. Christina Bohnsack agreed with Anthony. Town Board agreed that Councilman Christian will talk with Greenway.

#### **New Business**

- Appoint Thomas Shannon to the WAC (term?)  
 Motion to appoint Thomas Shannon to the WAC made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.
- Climate- adaptive Design (CAD) Studio Application. Councilman Christian said they award a grant to one Hudson Riverfront town each year. Councilman Christian will apply again this year.
- UCS- Complete Streets Workshop. Town Board all agreed on this.
- eCode360. Digitalizing all codes and laws. Corinne said take all Local Laws podify them into one code book, making them more accessible to the residents. Councilman Christian is waiting for more information and he suggested to table this. Supervisor Helsley will put on next month agenda.

- Gtel proposal for website hosting and hosted telephone system. Councilman Sullivan said we have our hosting through Gtel and we have to upgrade for additional storage. The Town Board discussed phone lines. Justice John Rustici suggested getting rid of the court dial up fax machine for a savings of \$46.00 per month.

Motion to accept proposed Gtel hosting after Councilman Sullivan finds out the information made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Solarize Germantown- sign up all 12 Town National Grid accounts? Matthew will work on the National Grid bills.

Motion to solarize Germantown made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Resolution Supporting NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act: H.R. 4677.

**TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK  
April 12, 2022**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act: H.R. 4677**

WHEREAS, New York Congressman Tonko has proposed the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act, a unique federal investment program to authorize \$50 million of federal funds to protect and restore all watersheds, including the Hudson River Watershed, that flow into New York-New Jersey Harbor and

WHEREAS, The Act has unanimous support among the Hudson Valley’s Congressional delegation; and,

WHEREAS, the Act would provide benefits to diverse stakeholders such as the protection of fisheries and wildlife, conservation of natural resources and public and private lands, critical urban greenspaces, ocean and coastal resources, and various opportunities to improve the quality of life for community members throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown, NY is part of the most densely populated and economically important regions in the country, the proposed NY-NJ Watershed Act will provide enormous economic and environmental benefits locally, regionally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, watersheds provide drinking water, tourism and outdoor recreation, economic opportunities, as well as sustain fisheries, critical wildlife and provide vital infrastructure from flooding and rising sea levels; and

WHEREAS, the Act would provide matching funds to achieve the goals of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Hudson River Estuary Program, a state program that has greatly benefitted Hudson Valley communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Act would fund shoreline management and restoration within the watersheds,

WHEREAS, as an elected body tasked with protection and safeguarding irreplaceable water-connected resources and nature-based flood hazard mitigation measures that are essential to protect human life and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, this Act would direct the Secretary of the Interior to enhance collaboration and coordinate restoration activities at all levels of government to protect fish and wildlife habitats, endangered species, improve water quality, increase public access to the estuary, mitigate flood risks, and develop public outreach and educational activities; and

WHEREAS, many residents of the region of the NY-NJ Watershed live in communities lacking environmental justice, where access to and enjoyment of fish, wildlife, clean water, and other natural resources have been impaired or compromised, federal funding is necessary to mitigate these long overdue environmental and social issues; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown, NY would benefit from the Act as it would establish beneficial programs and award grants to help fund valuable restoration projects in our local community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown, NY is a cornerstone in which its residents depend on and the region relies on for its resources to provide prosperity throughout the state, therefore, the Town of Germantown, NY must uphold its duty to protect the community's access to drinking water and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown, NY has an opportunity to be a social and environmental leader of the state, by supporting the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act, we may lead by example and facilitate much needed change; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown, NY, supports the passing of the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act.

Introduced by: Councilmember Suarez

Seconded by: Councilman Kukon

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- High quality picnic tables for Lasher and Cheviot Parks. Redistribution of picnic tables will share cost with the Parks Commission.
- LWRP paddling station to be held on Lake George South- approval from our insurance underwriter has been received. Approval has been received, Corinne will revise the waiver.

#### **Supervisor's Report**

- Congratulations to the Town of Germantown and the Climate Smart Committee for becoming a DEC Certified Climate Smart Community.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual River Sweep is Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-12PM- Information and a link to register is on the Town website.
- Congratulations to Brandon Mullins on obtaining his certification as a NYS Code Enforcement Official.
- Thank you to the Germantown Sportsmens for their hard work in cleaning up the 9G corridor as part of the adopt a highway program.
- Earth Day (and Supervisor Helsley's birthday) is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. More on events.... Councilmember Suarez asked what does the Town Board want to do on Earth Day? Anthony Cidras and Christina Bohnsack will work on the road clean up details.
- Town Wide Yard Sale is Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Additional information will be on the website.

#### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilman Christian said Corinne Smith and Jen Crawford collaborated created a new zoning law which included the solar law we passed last year and the current zoning law. Councilman Christian suggested to amend the title page.

Councilman Sullivan said they had received a request for sewer repair on 15 Church Avenue. Supervisor Helsley has received the proposal for \$1,800 from Visage.

Motion to repair the sewer on Church Avenue made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Anthony Cidras put in a request for a new truck bed for 2012 truck. Supervisor Helsley said they received 3 quotes and the lowest price was \$2,995.00 from Trailers Inc in Cairo. Motion to authorize the request for a new truck bed for \$2,995.00 from Trailers Inc. made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Councilman Sullivan suggested making files on each piece of equipment. Supervisor Helsley will work with Anthony in making an Excel spreadsheet.

Councilman Kukon thanked the public for coming out for the public hearing. Councilman Kukon also said he needs to get the Little League schedule.

Councilman Sullivan mentioned the Easter Egg Hunt at the ballfields on Saturday hosted by the library.

**Comments and questions from the public**

Dale Hinkein reported from the Columbia County Traffic Committee re-opened a bridge in Taghkanic and there are several county projects on County Route 8 Gallatin/Livingston, County Route 9 Ghent, County Route 15 Gallatin/Taghkanic, County Route 6 Clermont/Germantown. The American Legion will be having a rededication of the monument down at the Anchorage on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Martin Overington mentioned the 25<sup>th</sup> year of River Sweep and he thanked the town and Anthony for all help and support for these 25 years.

Amy Davison asked if Brandon worked solely for the town of Germantown? Supervisor Helsley said he is employed by the Town of Germantown and can work wherever else he wants.

Motion to go into executive session at 8:48pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of executive session at 9:30pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Vale