

Minutes of November 7, 2022, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 6:25pm.

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

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve the October 11, 2022 public hearing and the October 11, 2022 board meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay the audited bills for November 2022 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Supervisor Helsley, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Town Clerk received reports from Highway, History and Building departments.

#### DECEMBER MONTHLY REPORT

- 1-FINISHED FIRST PASS OF CUTTING BRUSH AND TREES ALONG ROADS
- 2-CUT TREES AND LIMBS ALONG MAIN TRAIL IN PARK
- 3-VOLVO HYDRAULIC PROBLEM HAS BEEN REPAIRED
- 4-FIRE EXTINGUISHERS HAVE BEEN INSPECTED
- 5-JOHN DEERE MOWER HAS BEEN PUT AWAY ALONG WITH SCAG MOWERS
- 6-PUT NEW STARTED AND CONDENSER IN 550
- 7-TOOK DOWN CONDEMED OLD CLASSROOM BEHIND ACTIVITY BUILDING
- 8-HAD FIRST SNOW EVENT ALL WENT WELL, GETTING READY FOR NEXT ONE

ANTHONY CIDRAS  
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Just a few quick notes from the History Advisory Committee...

- We did not meet in November. Our last meeting of the year will be on Dec. 17th.
- In late November, the monument marking the First Reformed Cemetery was installed (see attached photo). The cemetery, located at the southern bend of Sharp's Landing Road, has been unmarked for almost a century. It is town property but the owner of a neighboring property has been mowing it for the last four decades.
- Just today, our application to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for a Legends and Lore sign was approved. The basis for the sign was a piece of local folklore documented in writing by Walter V. Miller. The approved text of the sign is below. To the best of my knowledge, this will be only the third Legends and Lore sign in Columbia County. The closest to home currently is for Spook Rock (see attached photo). I would like to install this sign at the First Reformed Cemetery when it is ready in spring 2023.

Title: HAEGER'S VISION

Line 1: ON CHRISTMAS EVE, 1720,  
Line 2: A SPIRIT CALLED "MASTER OF  
Line 3: OF TIME AND SPACE" SHOWED  
Line 4: REV. J. F. HAEGER VISIONS  
Line 5: OF GERMANTOWN'S FUTURE.

Best regards,

Tom

**Old Business**

-2023 Budget. Supervisor Helsley said there were two changes made to the budget. Supervisor Helsley read the following resolution:

TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ADOPTING ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023  
Dated: November 7, 2022

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly held on Preliminary Budget approved by this Board and filed with the Town Clerk for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2023 and having heard all persons desiring to be heard in the matter and the matter of the budget for this Town for such fiscal year having fully discussed and considered, it is

RESOLVED, that the said Preliminary Budget is approved and filed as a foresaid, and hereby amended as follows:

Municipal Court, Justice Clerk- Account No. A1110.11- Increase from \$6250.00 to \$7,000.00  
Appropriated Fund Balance- Account A9000- Increase from \$54,560.00 to \$55,310.00

And as so amended is hereby approved and established as the budget for the Town of Germantown for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan  
Seconded by Councilmember Suarez

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

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.

- Local Law C- Fire Alarm Law. Dawn Tsien spoke on behalf of Tony saying that he asked if the Town Board would be making any changes to the Local Law because none of the fire commissioners could come to the Town Board meeting tonight as they were having a fire commissioner meeting and Tony would prefer if the commissioners could discuss any changes before the Town Board votes on this Local Law. Supervisor Helsley said they will not be voting on this tonight. Corinne said the Fire commissioners wanted to take out section 7D the maintenance section. Supervisor Helsley disagrees

with that. Councilman Christian asked if we could make this applicable to non-single resident systems? Councilman Kukon and Councilmember Suarez agreed with that. Corinne said as long as similar properties were treated the same way there shouldn't be a problem with that. Town Board agreed to changes. Corinne will modify the language and circulate to the town board and the fire commissioners so they can review before the next town board meeting. Dale Hinkein asked who would be enforcing this law? Corinne said it would be the CEO's responsibility. Town board set a public hearing on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm with the town board meeting immediately following the public hearing. Corinne said before the next town board meeting, she will need to know the fee set for the annual permit for the resolution. Fee amounts will be decided in the Re-organization meeting.

- Kellner Activity Building- no progress, plans have been given to a local contractor for evaluation and budgetary estimates. Supervisor Helsley had given the plans to a local contractor and to Phil Tillou as well to look over. Supervisor Helsley said that he would like to have a plan in place by next spring. Councilmember Suarez and Councilman Sullivan would like to see this kept moving along. Corinne said this is subject to bids.
- Lasher Park electric- still awaiting bids.

### **New Business**

- Approval to purchase Scag SCZII61V-31F 31 HP Zero Turn Mower from Salem Farm Supply in the amount of \$12,089.00. Price based on Sourcewell Contract #031121-SCG- Total purchase price \$12,099.00 with "tire tax".
- Funds will be transferred from A7110.4 to A7110.2 to make the purchase during budget line adjustments in December.

Motion to approve purchase of Scag Zero Turn Mower made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Accept the letter of retirement of George R. Sharpe from the Planning Board effective 12/31/2022. Supervisor Helsley thanked George for his many years of service. Councilmember Suarez will post on the website interviews will start in January for a planning board member and an alternate position.
- STR draft law.  
Comments, next actions- STR committee not scheduled to meet in November or December. Ask Town Board members to read the law and make any changes. Councilman Christian said at the next town board meeting we will see where we are. STR will immediately following public hearing for Local Law C on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Supervisor' Report**

- Election Day- Tuesday, 11/8/2022- Get out and Vote!
- Veteran's Day is Friday, 11/11/2022. Dale Hinkein said they will be celebrating the 100-year on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion.
- Brush fire behind the maintenance building early morning of 11/6/2022- CCSO and NY Forest Rangers were contacted. Not considered suspicious at this time.
- Tree lighting ceremony is 12/10/2022- Sunset (4:23pm approx.). Rain date will be December 11<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Suarez said there will be the tree lighting, performance by the cheerleaders, lighted illuminators and Santa.
- Thank you to the DPW for the modifications to the stage area in the town hall. We no longer have to worry about losing a member off of the edge.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilman Sullivan mentioned the Holiday Light Tour, not sure of the date yet it will be published.

Councilman Sullivan said the 5K went well.

### **Comments and Questions from the public**

Dale said he will need to take the letter to the Traffic Safety Board. Supervisor Helsley said he sent a letter to Anthony DiMarco, Columbia County Highway Superintendent and Glenn Bouche, Regional Maintenance, Region 8.

Dale heard there are 4 high band radios that belonged to the Germantown Police department and he was wondering if the town would donate the radios to the Fire Police? Town Board agreed to donate the 4 high band radios to the Fire Police.

Town Clerk mentioned the Records Retention schedule. Corinne said as long as there were no new revisions we are good. Resolution adopted November 10, 2020.

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

Meeting closed at 7:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Vale