

Minutes of February 11, 2025, 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
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.
Supervisor Helsley amended the agenda to move the executive session to the end of the meeting.

Motion to approve the January 14, 2025 Town Board meeting minutes and workshop minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley just received the reports today.

Motion to pay the audited bills for February 2025 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk mentioned a correction to the minutes from Councilman Christian.
Town Clerk received monthly Highway department report.

MONTHLY REPORT

- 1-PUT NEW CUTTING EDGE ON PLOW ON THE 2020 FORD AND SERVICED TRUCK
- 2-FINISHED HIGHWAY INVENTORY AND BROUGHT IT TO TOWNHALL
- 3-CUT TREES AND BRUSH AT DALES BRIDGE
- 4-DISPOSED OF PLATFORMS FROM DALE BRIDE
- 5-FINISHED REPAIRS ON FRONT OF HIFHWAY GARAGE WILL PAINT IN SPRING
- 6-HANDED IN ESTIMATE FOR NEW TRACTOR FOR APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE
- 7-HAD SEVERAL SNOW EVENTS
- 8-ORDERED 100 TON OF SALT
- 9-HAVE BEEN ADDRESSING BEAVER ISSUES ON DALEBRIDGE
- 10-HAVE BEEN FINISHING UP IN ACTIVITY BUILDING

ANTHONY CIDRAS
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Town Clerk also received 2 emails in support for the Big Towel saunas at Palatine Park. Letters will be on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Old Business

- Kellner Activity Building. The contractor has completed all work and the invoice is in the current abstract for review and payment. Supervisor Helsley is finishing up some electrical work and anticipates the final electrical inspection to be scheduled for the week of 2/17/25.
- SPEDES permit- Climate Risk form was submitted by Delaware Engineering. Review by DEC is still in process.
- Bard Parcel- The environmental assessment agreement with Crawford and Associates was signed. They never received the initial payment. The accountant will prepare a new check and stop payment on the original. Councilman Christian said at Corinne's suggestion going into contract phase. Councilman Christian also said there will be a public hearing tomorrow night at the Kellner Building.
- The Columbia County Hazard Mitigation policy. Draft plan and Germantown Annexes have been received. Comments are due by 2/17/25.
- Letter in support of Stockbridge-Munsee Community NAGPRA Repatriation Grant. Motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the letter in support of Stockbridge-Munsee Community NAGPRA Grant made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.
- Local Law E- Filming. Resolution to adopt. The public hearing regard Local Law E- Filming was adjourned making minor changes. Councilmember Suarez suggested the public hearing for Local Law E on March 11, 2025 at 6:45pm, followed by town board meeting.
- EV charging station. Review of proposal to replace the existing charger. Is this State Contract or will we need multiple bids? Councilman Christian said that we won't have to go out to bid. Councilman Christian said there are three options. 1) National Grid does not have to make the money ready. 2) How competitive DEC grant is. 3) DEC grant will on pay for 2 years, the town would be responsible after that. Councilman Christian said for 8 years the total is approximately \$1,000 a year. Supervisor Helsley said the decision does not need to made tonight. Councilman Christian suggested signage that one unit is down. Town Board agreed to hold off on the grant.
- Recreation committee. Amendment to LL #3 of 2005? Appointment recommendations. Corinne said LL #3 of 2005 is outdated. Corinne said the law can be left as is while the town has workshops on it. Councilmember Suarez said 5 people agreed to join the committee. Councilman Kukon thanked them for joining. A workshop will be scheduled at a further date. A draft will be circulated for comments. Town Board set up a workshop for the LWRP on March 11, 2025 at 6:00pm.
- Big Towel regarding the use of the park for public saunas. Review of site plan and discuss fees. Kelly owner/operator of Big Towel spoke in regards to the plan for saunas at the park. Kelly said they operate 2 mobile saunas for public or private use in April – June. Kelly said the saunas are wood-fired and are ADA complaint, accessible with ramps and deck. They will be open Friday-Monday 8am to 8pm and are always supervised. There is no nudity and you will have to be 18 years or older. Councilmember Suarez spoke with. Martin Overington asked if smoke would enter the Activity Building? Kelly said the stoves are very efficient they only smoke for about 5 minutes. Rachel commented she went in Hudson and it was great. Town Board will work with Kelly. Corinne will amend slightly to fit Germantown. Kelly said they could pair with town events.

New Business

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Proposed Fire Alarm Law from Germantown Fire District. Review of law and recommendations for changes. Set dates for Public Hearing. Supervisor Helsley said the fire alarm law was modified. Tony Albino said they beefed up the details for the public and Corinne needs to review and give legal advice. Councilmember Suarez said to make it clear to residents that installation of smoke alarms is not the same as an alarm system. Tony said the fire company is pleased with this version. Corinne will redline for March meeting.
- Discussion about fees and agreements for use of the Kellner Activity Building. Councilman Sullivan likes the Livingston agreement. Supervisor Helsley will modify Livingston's agreement for the town of Germantown for the March meeting.

Supervisor's Report

- Forestry Grant Presentation Wednesday, 2/12/2025 at 7pm. Councilman Kukon asked about the deed restrictions? Corinne said all is good.
- The Germantown Fire Company has successfully raised the funds needed for the replacement of their kiosk with an electronic sign. Martin thinks it is an asset but depends on the way it is strobing and that it may be distracting to drivers. Councilman Sullivan said there are some exceptions in NYS. Councilman Christian doesn't know if the current zoning law permits this type of sign.
- Supervisor Helsley mentioned getting emails with comments in before, he closes the agenda.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Christian said the Roe Jan Park kiosk has the posters installed and the maps look good.

Councilmember Suarez said the Parks Commission is bringing back the Haunted Hay rides this year. The Parks Commission will be meeting in February in the Town Hall.

Councilman Sullivan said that Halloween is on a Friday night this year. We will have to close off Main Street it will be too busy.

Comments and Questions from the Public

Sandra Osborn asked if the Activity Building would be available for the Parkinson's group meetings? Sandra will stop into the Town Clerk's office to book the dates.

Rachel Levine asked if we have an Assessor's report on the solar farm project and is it possible to get one? Corinne said there is no report. Rachel asked if there was a moratorium? Supervisor Helsley said the moratorium was put into effect because there were some questions on some of the verbiage the Attorney reviewed then the moratorium was lifted. Corinne added the Town Board looked at the language of the Solar Law and decided they were not going to make any changes. Rachel would like to know the status of the Rezoning law.

Councilman Sullivan said they are working on a final Rezoning draft to go on to the CEO and the Town Board and for public input. Corinne said because it is a zoning Law it will have to go to the town Planning and ZBA, then to the County Planning Board as well.

Tony Albino said the Rezoning committee made no changes to the law so it will go for public comments and to the zoning and planning boards to make any changes.

Martin Overington said the WAC thanked the board for their patience. Martin also said that DEC wants to talk to them again for next year in regards to spraying the water chestnuts. Martin said WAC has not made a decision. Thank you

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:22pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of executive session at 9:05pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:07pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

