

Minutes of August 12, 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

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Present via Zoom: Councilmember Suarez

Absent: Councilman Kukon
Councilman Christian

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Supervisor Helsley asked for a moment of silence for Donna Diehl, Dale Hinkein and David Crawford.

Motion to approve the July 8, 2025 LLA public hearing, LLB public hearing and Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley will schedule time with Brian to clarify a few things and makes some budget adjustments.

Motion to pay audited bills for August 2025 made by Supervisor Helsley, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

AUGUST REPORT

1-BUILT AND PUT INTO PLACE PLATFORMS AT DALES BRIDGE

2-SURRENDERED OLD 05 PLATES AND TOOK IT OFF INSURANCE

3-RESTAINED GAZEBO AND BENCHES

4-DID PATCHING OF POTHOLES

5-DID REPAIRS ON SCHOOLS PARKING LOT

6-FINISHED SHOULDERS ON VIEWMONT RD

7-GOT 6-WHEELER BACK REPAIRS FROM ACCIDENT ARE COMPLETED

8-INSTALLED FLAG POLE AT ANCHORAGE

9-WILL BE STORING FIRE TRUCKS IN HIGHWAY GARAGE FOR A WEEK WHILE THEY SEAL THERE PARKING LOT

10- SLILL BUSY WITH MOWING

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

ANTHONY CIDRAS

Town Clerk thanked Tom Shannon for all the time and energy he put into helping with moving shelves and organizing the Record Room.

Old Business

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update- Workshop conducted on July 30, 2025. Some modifications and additions will be made by LaBella. Schedule next workshop. Supervisor Helsley said the Board is waiting to hear from Matthew.

- Bard Parcel. Title policy drafted. Corinne said they need to add a survey reading as soon as it's done Corinne will send to DEC so they can process it.

- LWRP. The Harbor Management Local Law can be adopted, but will not go into effect until the LWRP is approved by the Department of State. Shoreline Local Law. This will

be incorporated into the Zoning updates. Corinne is waiting to get the initial comments back from DEC and if they wanted some changes

- IFB for Parsonage roof. Multiple potential bidders attended the pre-bid meeting on August 1, 2025. Supervisor Helsley said there were 5-6 potential bidders and hopefully get some competitive bids.

- Salt Shed Solar array. Request for 3 bidders. Award of bid. Supervisor Helsley said they got a response from 2 bidders. The lowest bid was from SKJ Electric.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION

Dated: August 12, 2025

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Town of Germantown's procurement policy, the Town solicited written quotes from contractors for electrical service at the Town's Salt Shed Building; and

WHEREAS, the Town received quotes from two contractors with the quote from SKJ Electric for \$6,817.27 is hereby accepted to be paid from the Green Revolving Grant account and the remaining from fund balance.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilmember Suarez

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Franchise Agreement with Hilltop Communications. Renewal agreement has been drafted and we are awaiting legal review by Archtop. No response yet.

New Business

- Sewer Plant. The new operator has been busy cleaning up the site and checking the operation of all equipment. Multiple sensors are not functioning. Supervisor Helsley suggests one day of work by Avanti Controls to repair the most critical items- Approximate cost of under \$5k. The remainder will be budgeted for in 2026. Supervisor Helsley complimented the new company on the great job they are doing cleaning up trimming and mowing the site looks good. They determined there are multiple sensors and floats that don't function. Supervisor Helsley estimates the cost under \$5,000.

Motion to approve the repair work by Avanti Controls for a cost of under \$5,000 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Authorize the acceptance of credit card payments and internet payments. Corinne said the town can authorize accepting credit card or online payments by either passing a Local Law or Resolution. Corinne suggested a Resolution. Corinne also said the town could sign an agreement with a third party for the service and the fee will be passed along to the payor. When the town board decides which type of payment, Corinne can draft a resolution. Supervisor Helsley will look into this and talk with Brian. Councilmember Suarez said there should be one method. Credit card fee will be made clear to the payor.

- Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace. Resolution to adopt pending review by UPSEU. Corinne said a late email came in from the Union and he hadn't had time to review the policy. Corinne suggested to table this for now.

- Revised Discrimination and Harrassment Policy. Resolution to adopt pending review by UPSEU. Corinne said there is annual training, based on the Columbia County policy. Corinne suggested table this as well until September.

- Dedication of the replacement flag pole at Lasher Memorial Park to Richard "Dale" Hinkein.

Motion to dedicated the flag pole at Lasher Memorial Park to Richard "Dale" Hinkein made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed. Supervisor Helsley said they will attach a brass plaque to the flag pole in Dale's memory.

Supervisor's Report

No report this month.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Sullivan asked when is the Union contract negotiation? Supervisor Helsley said the contract ends in 2026. Councilman Sullivan would like to sit in on the discussion of the Union contract.

Councilmember Suarez said the Pickle ball Pop Up was very successful they had over 30 people. The Recreation committee is hoping to do another one in September.

Comments and Questions from the public

There were no public comments.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,