

Minutes of December 9, 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
Councilmember Suarez
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Absent: Councilman Kukon

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Motion to approve the November 6, 2025 workshop minutes and November 6, 2025, Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley is meeting with the Accountant Brian on December 19th.

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

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received Highway monthly report.

DECEMBER REPORT

- 1-GOT ALL EQUIPMENT READY FOR WINTER
- 2-HELPED PUT CHRISTMAS TREE IN PLACE IN VILLAGE
- 3-RECEIVED 100 TON OF SALT
- 4-LEAF BLOW LEAVES IN PARK AND DITCHES ALONG ROADS
- 5-PUT DRAINAGE LINE IN AT THE ENTRANCE TO BALLFIELD
- 6-CUT BRUSH AND TREES ALONG ROAD, PARSONAGE AND PARK
- 7-12 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
- 8-GOT NEW FRIDGE FOR ACTIVITY BUILDING
- 9-PUT GRILLS AND PICNIC TABLES AWAY
- 10-RECEIVED SOLAR PANELS AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLYS FOR SAND AND SALT BUILDING

**ANTHONY CIDRAS
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

Old Business

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Next steps after the workshop. Corinne received some minor comments from Brandon and will add them in. The next steps is feedback from all boards. Councilmember Suarez asked if we should have one more meeting with all the changes? Corinne feels Matthew Rogers should be at the next

meeting/workshop. Councilman Christian asked if the next copy would be redlined or a clean copy? Corinne feels a clean copy is easier to read. Councilmember Suarez suggested another workshop once Matthew has finished reviewing. Supervisor Helsley would like to shoot for February 10th or sooner.

- Theodore Robinson Forest. Letters to the affected residents has been sent, survey updates to happen this month.

- Parsonage roof. Work is complete. Tom Shannon said the roof looks great.

- Salt Shed Solar array service. Hudson Solar is proposing installation in January. Corinne suggested to extend the date of completion until the end of January and for the Town Board to authorize an amendment to the contract. Corinne will draft the amendment with the end date. Councilman Christian didn't see the date of January 31st. Corinne said the date was discussed in a phone call with Hudson Solar.

Motion to for indemnification and extension of the contract with Hudson Solar made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Franchise Agreement with Hilltop Communications. Awaiting scheduling of updated negotiations. Supervisor Helsley has not heard anything. Corinne will follow up again.

- Hamlet traffic safety. Next Traffic Safety Meeting was 11/20/25. Any updates? Councilmember Suarez and Alex Stier attended the meeting. Councilmember Suarez said the request was sent in to Columbia County Highway, Anthony DeMarco. Councilmember Suarez met Michael Reagan from the Sheriff's department, he said they would increase traffic patrols in the hamlet area. Councilmember Suarez said the next meeting is in January.

New Business

- Appoint Betsy Osborne, Natasha Sweeten, and Avery Jannelli to the recreation committee.

Motion to appoint Betsy Osborne, Natasha Sweeten and Avery Jannelli to the recreation committee made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Resolution allowing Dog Licensing and Alarm Law Memoranda to be included in the 2026 tax bill mailings. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE INCLUSION OF MEMORANDA REGARDING TOWN
DOG LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND LOCAL ALARM LAW PROCEDURES WITH
THE 2026 TAX BILLS AND/ OR PAYMENT RECEIPTS
12/9/2025

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown has an established law requiring the owners of all dogs over the age of 4 months to be properly licensed; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that there are likely many dogs that are not properly licensed residing in Germantown; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown established Local Law 3 of 2025, requiring all alarm systems to be registered; and

WHEREAS, Local Law 3 of 2025, is intended to reduce the number of false alarms requiring emergency personnel to respond; and

WHEREAS, Town tax bills and / or payments receipts are mailed each year to all residents in the Town of Germantown; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of memoranda reminding dog owners of the licensing requirements and the Local Alarm Law procedures in the annual tax documents will result in significant savings in postage and labor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown to allow the preparation of Memoranda regarding dog licensing requirements, and registration of all alarm systems in the Town of Germantown, and once approved by a majority of the Town Board, to be included with the mailings of Town tax bills and / or receipts for the 2026 tax year.

On a motion by Council Member Sullivan, and seconded by Council Member Suarez and having been approved by a majority of the Board, this Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town of Germantown Town Board.

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Discussion of MOU between FOHG and the Town. Supervisor Helsley asked for comments and/or concerns. Councilmember Suarez would like Corinne's opinion. Corinne spoke with Tom and she would like to have Tom's opinion and suggestions. Tom said he, Tony and Ethan put together a draft MOU. Tom would like a meeting with Supervisor Helsley, Councilmember Suarez, Corinne, Ethan and himself to discuss.

- Parsonage Archaeology. Next steps to obtain the records and artifacts collected. Tom read a letter from SHPO. Tom said last year he reached out to the NYS Preservation office in regards to the artifacts. This year Tom received the letter with recommendations, the main recommendation is to retrieve the artifacts from Bard College. Tom said one of the recommendations from the assessment was how to remove the artifacts and the short and long term for storage. Also, part of the assessment is a professional drawing of where all the dig sites are. A quote of \$4,800. Tom would like to pursue getting the artifacts back from Bard College. Ethan Dickerson said the assessment is very critical for what the town should do next in regards to what scope of the collection that the town owns and the next steps. Ethan said FOHG is supporting the town with this matter. Supervisor Helsley and Town Board support. Tom will help with drafting a letter.

- Discussion of Resolution in Support of Congressman Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) and in Opposition to Government Mandated Natural Gas Bans. Supervisor Helsley said the House Energy & Commerce committee passed the ban on natural gas today. Supervisor Helsley said if the town board should pass the resolution it does mainly focus on natural gas. Town Board agreed not to discuss further.

- Set dates for 2025 Year end and Re-organizational meetings. Year end meeting set for December 30, 2025 at 1:00pm. Re-organizational meeting set for January 13, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Supervisor's Report

- Dales Bridge will be reduced to 1 way traffic based on the recent inspection per Anthony.

- Winter Glow- Saturday, December 13th.

- Germantown will no longer be receiving EMS services from Empress (Formerly NDP) Authorize the signing of the MOU between Germantown and CCEMS.

- Supervisor Helsley was informed the 2024 Ford pickup needs a new transmission in the amount of \$10,000.00

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilmember Suarez mentioned the Reformed Church will be hosting a musical in the memory of Donna Diehl on December 14th at 4:00pm.

Councilmember Suarez said the Recreation committee had a great turn out for indoor soccer.

Sandra Osborne said the Turkey Walk was a lot of fun. A big group of people walked through the park, looked at the area for the pickle ball site and ended up at the Activity Building for cider.

Councilman Christian said that he, Martin Overington and Tom Shannon are still trying to figure out the DEC grant for the new equipment. The new equipment will cost \$17,000.00. Tom said the last time they did this grant they needed two price quotes and they only have one. They will keep trying to receive this grant.

Comments and Questions from the public

Tony Albino brought up the \$25.00 fee for the Fire Alarm Law. Tony also said the Fire Alarms will have to be renewed every two years and the fire department feels it is unnecessary to charge a \$25.00 fee upon renewal, unless you change systems, or renew systems.

Tony also brought up the Board of Assessment Review has only three members. Tony mentioned that the Town Clerk, Joyce Vale and Kerrie Abela were interested in the positions. Tony spoke with the County Assessor and he told Tony that it is completely up to the Town Attorney to deal with this. Corinne stated she provided her legal opinion on this matter.

Martin Overington thanked the Town Board for a great year. Martin also thanked Councilman Christian and Tom Shannon for their work on WAC.

Supervisor Helsley thanked Martin Overington for all he has done for the town.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss Attorney- Client Privileged information at 8:08pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 8:20pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to adjourn at 8:24pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,