

Minutes of January 13, 2026 Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 6:43pm.

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.

Motion to approve the December 9, 2025 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. No review yet.

Motion to pay the audited bills for December 2025 with 2025 Budgeted funds and January 2026 with 2026 Budgeted funds made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received the monthly Highway report.

JANUARY REPORT

- 1-HAVE HAD SEVERAL SNOW AND ICE EVENTS
- 2-SPOKE WITH TATIANA ABOUT PICKLEBALL COURT
- 3-COMPLETED INVENTORY
- 4-COMPLETED 284 AGREEMENT
- 5-COLUMBIA TREE CAME IN AND CUT TREE DOWN AT PARSONAGE
- 6-REROUTED HEAT IN ACTIVITY BUILDING TO KEEP UTILITY ROOM WARM
- 7-HAD 8 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
- 8-GOT 2020 TRUCK BACK
- 9-ORDERED 100 TON OF SALT
- 10- CLEAN OUT AUGER AT SEWER PLANT

ANTHONY CIDRAS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Old Business

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Workshop with LaBella scheduled for January 27, 2026 at 6pm.

- Theodore Robinson Forest. Additional survey work is complete- The Town Attorney has circulated to DEC with no response yet. Once approved, the map will be filed.

- Salt Shed Solar array service. The contract amendment has been sent with a completion date of no later than January 31, 2026.

- Franchise Agreement with Hilltop Communications. Contact has been made. A meeting to be scheduled upon the Town Attorney returning from vacation.

- Hamlet traffic safety. Unfortunately, we will need to interview and appoint a new representative. Councilmember Suarez gave a suggestion of speed trailer monitoring and increased Columbia County Sheriff patrols. Supervisor Helsley will talk to the Sheriff. The reduction request is in.

- Discussion of MOU between FOHG and the Town. Meeting with FOHG. Councilmember Suarez, Supervisor Helsley and the Town Attorney scheduled for January 21, 2026 at 6pm. Councilmember Suarez made a correction the meeting is January 21, 2026 at 3:15pm.

New Business

- Pickleball courts Grant. Tatiana Carayannis gave an update and handed the Town Board the proposed Pickleball project. Tatiana said they have had several pickleball pop ups with a lot of community interest. They are applying for a grant. A 90/10 grant which the deadline is February 9, 2026. Tatiana said pickleball is fastly growing in the US because it is low cost and finding it beneficial therapy for Parkinson's Disease. The proposed location is to the west of the ballfields where a site is already cleared, the Highway department has been filling the site. They would use the existing parking lot, the Highway department would build wooden steps down to the courts. Tatiana explained what they were proposing, 4 pickleball courts, exterior fencing, benches with shade over them, bike rack, signage, garbage cans, they may use the existing storage shed at the ballfields. Tatiana mentioned AC & water hookup. Supervisor Helsley said there is 100 AMPS service at the ballfield which they could pull from. Tatiana also brought up maybe hiring someone to run the concession stand on the weekends. Supervisor Helsley is concerned about parking during baseball season. Councilman Christian suggested if a problem does occur may look into additional parking. Tatiana said the committee is modeling our pickleball court after Saugerties. Tatiana said Highway department will do the excavating and labor, would outsource for the court surface. Councilman Kukon asked if the cost would change if the courts were on concrete compared to asphalt? Tatiana said concrete tends to be more costly. Supervisor Helsley asked Tatiana to reach out to ACE Sports for cost of concrete. Councilman Kukon would like to look into the price of concrete and check into the drainage at the proposed site. Councilman Christian said the Parks & Recreation Grant has 2 survey requirements, show ownership of the 5 parcels that make up Palatine park. Corinne would have to note or amend on the County records as park perpetuity. Supervisor Helsley announced holding a Special Meeting on January 27, 2026 immediately following the Rezoning workshop.

- Kayak Launch- Greenway Grant Application. Councilman Christian said the Greenway Trails Conservancy Grant for improvement on water trail systems. Councilman Christian said they are looking into a ADA kayak launch at Lasher Park.

Councilman Christian said it is a 50/50 grant, estimate approximately \$40,000. Martin Overington said WAC is here to help promote the waterfront trying to find a grant. Martin also said a future grant is important in saving north end of Lasher Park. Tom Shannon got a quote for the dock of \$37,000 and change. The Grant is due January 30, 2026. Town Board is in favor of moving forward. Supervisor Helsley thanked all of those involved.

- Planning Board Members. Reduce the board to 5 members? Councilmember Suarez will put out advertising for 1 Planning Board member & 1 Planning Board alternate as well as 2 members for the Board of Assessment Review. Town Board will decide after they advertise.

Supervisor's Report

No report this month.

Comments from Councilmembers

No comments from Council.

Comments and Questions from the public

Kathy Overington representing the Library said since 2008 when the Library opened the town has been plowing the Library parking lot and sidewalks but the last storm in December 2025 there was only 1 path plowed. Anthony told Lynn his highway staff was reduced and they can't plow the Library now. Kathy wanted to know if the Town Board was aware of this. Supervisor Helsley will meet with Councilman Kukon, Anthony, Kathy & Martin Overington and come to an agreement.

Tony Albino asked if the notification for the fire alarm law went out with the tax bills? Supervisor Helsley answered "yes". Tony said now they can start the process of enforcing it.

Tatiana Carayannis said her partner Maureen Burnley is on the board of Animal Kind, a cat rescue. Tatiana said Animal Kind would like to enter into a MOU with the Town of Germantown with a vaccination and spay/neuter program for any stray/feral cats. Supervisor Helsley likes the idea and that Corrine would have to review the MOU first.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,