

Minutes of May 12, 2026, 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.

Motion to approve the April 14, 2026 Public Hearing and Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley will meet with accountant Brian and make some adjustments for June.

Motion to pay audited bills for May 2026 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Town Clerk received monthly Highway report.

MAY REPORT

1-GOT PARSONAGE READY FOR EARTH DAY

2-MOWED AND WEED EATED

3-PLOWS AND SANDERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFF AND PUT AWAY

4-INSTALLED CHEVIOT DOCKS

5-DISPOSED OF OLD CHEVIOT DOCKS

6-RIVER SWEEP WENT WELL 1400 LBS OF GARBAGE AND METAL PICKED UP

7-PUT 15 YARDS OF MULCH IN PLAYGROUND

8-CLEANED OUT ALL CATCH BASINS ON CHEVIOT RD 5 ARE IN NEED OF REPAIR  
HAVE REPAIRED 2 OF THEM WILL REPAIR OTHER 3 AS WEATHER PERMITS

9-LOADER HAS BEEN REPAIRED

10-WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFER 15000 FROM LINE 5142.4 TO 5130.4 BECAUSE OF UNFOR SEEN  
REPAIRS NEEDED ON LOADER

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT  
ANTHONY CIDRAS

Presentation on the Germantown Central School proposed 2026-2027 budget.

Elementary Principal Beverly Meagher introduced herself stating they worked hard on aligning the budget. Ms. Meagher said Phase 3 of the Capital Project is the playground, new locker rooms, tearing down the old maintenance garage and building a new garage next to the High School Gym and also re-doing the Main Street parking lot. Ms. Meagher said the tax levy of 3.9% was already approved by voters. Ms. Meagher added that Health Insurance, Outside district placement, competition for staff are part of the proposed budget. The goal is to increase enrollment. The proposed budget for 2026-2027 is \$18,488,848 and includes a 6.56% tax levy. Voters will vote on Proposition 2- Bus & vehicle repair to replace buses and vans, no tax increase, no cost to taxpayers. Proposition 3- Capital project/facility improvements reserve for building repairs, renovations and site work, no tax increase, no impact on tax levy. Ms. Meagher said there are 4 candidates running to fill 3 open seats on the Board of Education. Councilman Christian complimented the presentation. Voting is Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 7:30am to 9:00pm.

### **Old Business**

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Revised Draft Code and Use Tables have been received. Comments from Council. Councilman Christian asked where we are with the draft? Corinne said the new section has to be reviewed by the Town Board. Corinne asked the Town Board to put comments on the draft, then Matthew can make changes then Corinne will send to Planning and Zoning Boards. Councilman Christian asked if it were possible to do by the July meeting.

- Salt Shed Solar array service. Final connection by National Grid is complete. Awaiting connection by Hudson River Solar- email notifying them has been sent.

- Hamlet traffic safety. Any updates? Councilmember Suarez spoke with Columbia County Sheriff's Department in regards to enhanced patrols. Councilmember Suarez said there has been many emails in regards to the speed reduction. Councilmember Suarez reached out to Didi Barrett's office.

- Independence Day Celebration- Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Santore's World Famous Fireworks has been booked. Guilty Pleasure band is booked. Meeting to discuss details and assignments. Councilmember Suarez needs the raindate for the flyer.

- Designation of Ice House Landing as Hudson River Greenway Water Trail Site. Any questions? Councilman Christian gave the update that the full application is in the folder and ready for the Greenway Board meeting. Councilman Christian will attend the meeting at the FDR House in Hyde Park, next Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Big Towel agreement for Fall 2026- Spring 2027. New agreement to be drafted and circulated for review in upcoming months. Supervisor Helsley said the utilities fee needs to go from \$50.00 to \$100.00 a month. The Town Board agreed to add language if building is rented Big Towel will not use the kitchen. Motion to approve new license agreement with Big Towel subject to attorney changes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed. Councilmember Suarez recused herself from the vote.

- Parsonage Archaeology Agreement with Hartgen. Letter requesting access to Bard storage has been sent via email. Supervisor Helsley sent the wrong letter initially- Correct letter was sent 5/9- Awaiting response from Bard. Councilman Christian asked for the final version with Hartgen to be put in the google drive.

- Lasher Park Updates. Temporary Solar Lighting Unit installed by DEC. DEC is planning to remove the Trees near the Launch and placing the new Kiosk in that area with ADA compliant accessibility. Additional space may house an ADA compliant Porta-John. Councilman Christian met with a Landscape Architect to discuss additional options. The Town Board discussed ideas for the turn around and would like to convince DEC to make the turn around more attractive.

Supervisor Helsley and Councilman Christian will come up with a more attractive design.

- Resolution Approving the Standard Workday for NYSLRS. Tabled until next month.

- Kayak Rack design has been submitted and approved by Brandon. To be constructed by volunteer labor using Town purchased supplies. Made a couple of changes. Andy Fennell volunteered to build the kayak rack. Councilman Christian will draft signage for the kayak rack for Corinne to review.

### **New Business**

- Recreation Committee updates. Councilman Christian spoke with Tatiana who was unable to attend the Town Board meeting. Councilman Christian said the Ackerman Grant has been submitted. The Ackerman Grant is related to funding playgrounds. Councilman Christian said Tatiana may be at the June Town Board meeting to as permission to apply. Councilmember Suarez said the Recreation Committee is working hand in hand with the Park Commission.

- Cementon Redevelopment Project Updates. Councilman Christian attended the public meeting where they presented the plan to the public. Martin Overington said WAC is asking them to include river front access in their plan. Martin said there are no docks or ramps there. Martin said WAC is looking for the Town Board support on the proposal. Councilman Christian said the Town of Saugerties is interested in the park as well. Town Board gave permission.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- River Sweep was on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to all that participated. Supervisor Helsley said River Sweep was well attended. Martin Overington reported there was just under a ton of garbage. Martin also said the people from the River Keeper helped out as well. Martin thanked Anthony and the Highway department. Martin announced this was the 29<sup>th</sup> year of River Sweep and he is looking forward to next year. Martin also thanked the Town.

- Happy belated Mother's Day to all the Mothers, Grandmothers, Great Grandmothers and all those acting as a Mother figure.

- Town Wide Yard Sale- May 16<sup>th</sup>- Details can be found at **AroundGtown.com**

- Memorial Day Remembrance- Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Details will be posted to the Town website.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Supervisor Helsley brought up dogs on the ballfields and playgrounds  
Councilman Sullivan asked how do we restrict dogs to a certain area? Do we need to pass a Local Law?

Corinne suggested to adopt a regulation of a policy by Resolution.

Councilman Kukon brought up motorized bikes, e-bikes and motor vehicles not being allowed on the trails.

Councilman Christian thanked everyone that helped out with the Theodore Robinson Park ceremony. He said there was a great turnout and people were impressed.

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

Martin Overington said that River Sweep made the front page of the Columbia Paper. Councilman Christian added that Robinson Park was in the Columbia Paper as well. Martin Overington brought up the money donated by Donald Dubac for a plaque in memory of his wife Doris Dubac. Martin requested money for load of dirt at the Ice House Landing. Martin also suggested putting a door through the wall in the shower in the Kellner Activity Building.

Tom Shannon said they received a generous donation to FOHG for a Revolutionary Monument. Tom wrote the text for the monument and is asking permission for a place to put it. Tom suggested to place the monument by the 9/11 monument or by the war monuments at the Town Hall. Town Board agreed the Revolutionary monument should be with the war monuments at the Town Hall.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:38pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 9:04pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,