Minutes of September 8, 2026, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:20pm.

Present:	Supervisor Helsley Councilman Sullivan Councilman Kukon Councilmember Dufresne Town Attorney, Corinne Smith
Present via Zoom:	Councilman Christian
Recorded by:	Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve the August 11, 2026 Public Hearing and Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Dufresne, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Financial reports were just received today. No comments from council.

Motion to pay the audited bills for September 2026 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Dufresne, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received Highway report and letter with comments on the Zoning and Subdivision Law (attached to the minutes).

MONTHLY REPORT

1-FINISHED SHOULDERS ON HILLTOP RD

2-HUNTERSTOWN RD HAS BEEN REPAIRED

3-12 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

4-STARTED PARKING LOT BY PARSONAGE

5-ON OUR LAST PASS OF MOWING SHUOLDERS THEN WILL BEGIN OVER THE RAIL MOWING

6-HAD PLOW INSTALLED ON NEW TRUCK

7-SERVICED ALL UV FILTERS

8-STILL MOWING A LOT

9-REPAIRED WASHOUTS ON TRAIL

10-HAVE BEEN HAULING IN SCREEN FILL

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

ANTHONY CIDRAS

Presentation by Chad Dickason on the status of the Twin Ponds Solar Project. Chad started by saying this project has been 4 years in the making. Chad said there is a pending suit on the property. Chad is going to stop in to see Brandon tomorrow evening to discuss. Chad said a lot has been spent on this project and he feels this is a good project.

Old Business

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Comments have been received from Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals members- Thank you for your quick turn around and review. Schedule another Board Workshop? Councilman Christian said History department sent in a letter with comments. Martin Overington asked is there a delay to comment? Corinne said that WAC can send in comments. A workshop is set for September 22, 2026 at 7pm. Corinne will let the other boards know about the workshop.

- Salt Shed array service. All documentation is in order and the Direct Pay process will be completed.

- School Zone. Supporting Documentation from GCS. Resolution requesting the Creation of a School Zone. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION REQUESTING CREATION OF A SCHOOL ZONE

Dated: September 8, 2026

WHEREAS, Main Street (County Route 8) in the Town of Germantown, Columbia County, New York passes along the property line of the Germantown Central School District and is used by students, families, school staff, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists traveling to and from the school campus; and

WHEREAS, residents, school staff, and users of the roadway have expressed concerns regarding vehicle speeds along this segment of Main Street and the associated risks to student, pedestrian, bicyclist, and traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, the Germantown Central School District has indicated its support for creation of a school zone and that as of June 2026: (a) the school district enrolls 452 students, Pre-K through grade 12; (b) at least a dozen students bike or walk to school on a daily basis; (c) the crosswalk is unsupervised; and (d) many students travel between the school and Stewarts's afterschool and before evening events; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the establishment of a school speed zone on the segment of Main Street (County Route 8) along the Germantown Central School District property line from the intersection of Main Street (County Route 8) and Palatine Park Road to the intersection of Main Street (County Route 8) and NYS Route 9G would serve the public interest by improving roadway safety in the vicinity of the school district property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1622(1), the New York State Department of Transportation, upon the request of the county superintendent of highways and the town board of the affected town, may establish school speed limits of not less than fifteen miles per hour for a distance not to exceed one thousand three hundred twenty feet on a highway passing a school building, entrance, or exit of a school abutting the highway; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to formally request that the Columbia County Superintendent of Highways and NYSDOT evaluate and approve the creation of the school zone on segment of Main Street (County Route 8) along the Germantown Central School District property line from the intersection of Main Street (County Route 8) and Palatine Park Road to the intersection of Main Street (County Route 8) and NYS Route 9G, or the maximum distance permitted, at a speed limit of 20 miles per hour or such lesser limit as safety may require.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown hereby requests that the Columbia County Superintendent of Highways file the necessary certification and submit this request to the New York State Department of Transportation for review and approval, and that NYSDOT establish a school speed zone on the segment of Main Street (County Route 8) along the Germantown Central School District property line, from the intersection of Main Street (County Route 8) and NYS Route 9G, or the maximum distance permitted, at a speed limit of 20 miles per hour or such lesser limit as safety may require; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Columbia County Superintendent of Highways, the New York State Department of Transportation, the Germantown Central School District, and such other agencies or offices as may be necessary to complete this request.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilman Kukon

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Helsley	Aye
Deputy Supervisor Sullivan	Aye
Councilmember Christian	Aye
Councilmember Kukon	Aye
Councilmember Dufresne	Aye

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Big Towel agreement for Fall 2026- Spring 2027. Counter signed agreement has been received.

- Parsonage Archaeology Agreement with Hartgen. Professor Lindner has suggested September 28th for a visit to Achebe House on Bard's Campus by a consultant from Hartgen Archaeological Associates. Tom said the consultant is

good with the date of September 28th. Tom thinks the contract was executed by the town. FOHG will be paying for this.

- Resolution Approving Standard Workday for NYSLRS. Tabled for this month.

- Solar Moratorium- Awaiting response from Columbia County Planning Board. Corinne stated the Solar Moratorium is on the Columbia County Planning Board's September agenda.

New Business

- The budget process has begun. Form A's are being sent to Department Heads. Forms need to be returned by September 20, 2026.

- Dog Warden Ticket. Next steps are to approve the dog warden approved by the Town Board. Councilmember Dufresne suggested Triplicate forms.

Motion to approve Dog Warden Tickets made by Supervisor Helsley, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Lasher Park updates. Councilman Christian said proposed changes after they met with Josh Parquette. Councilman Christian said they will be cutting trees around the circle and keeping a pattern. There will also have a Town Park sign with plantings, benches, ornamental shrubbery that needs little maintenance. Councilman Sullivan thinks work should be done on all the town gardens. Councilman Christian said they will be removing some grass to make more parking spots. Councilman Christian suggested getting the outline of the parcel boundary from Josh. Supervisor Helsley will request this. Supervisor Helsley said paving will take place next spring.

- Corinne mentioned the Special meeting for the budget. Budget workshop set for Thursday, October 1st at 7pm.

- Motion to accept the Bid of $3,500.00 for the ambulance submitted by Felix Nordfords.

Motion to accept the bid of $3,500.00 for the ambulance submitted by Felix Nordfords made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Dufresne. Councilman Sullivan abstained.

- Approval of the Proposed Road names at Taconic Biosciences 273 Hover Avenue Facility for 911 response purposes. Map is in the drive.

Motion to approve the Proposed Road names at Taconic Biosciences 273 Hover Avenue Facility for 911 response purposes made by Councilmember Dufresne, seconded by Councilman Kukon. Supervisor Helsley abstained.

Supervisor's Report

- Hunterstown Road is now reopened with repairs being complete.

- Lower Main Street is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Christian said Matthew Mercier submitted the application to NYSERDSA for reimbursement for the expenses for the solar of $40,000. Councilman Christian also mentioned they are finishing up getting the final funds of the Theodore Robinson Forest grant for $10,000. Councilman Christian mentioned that Anthony and the Highway department have started the parking lot. Councilman Christian said there is only one more requirement left on the grant- creating a new trail.

Comments and Questions from the public

Martin Overington thanked Councilman Christian for all his work. Martin asked in regards to the flooding on Main Street, are they going to re-do or pave the street? Martin also asked if they are putting in a larger pipe with grates on the ends? Martin mentioned Amtrak raised the tracks from1 foot to 3 feet and all the water was dammed up. Supervisor Helsley will ask if the County can put a culver in. Martin said there is a culvert there already. Supervisor Helsley suggested Martin to put in a foil request to the County Clerk. Councilman Christian said DEC did a survey of all the culverts in Columbia County a few years ago. Martin thanked for all the hard work and new docks at Lasher Park.

Motion to adjourn at 8:17pm made by Councilmember Dufresne, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,