

Minutes of June 20, 2011 Germantown Town Board meeting, held at the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 7:00pm

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown
Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta
Councilwoman Joan Snyder
Councilman Joel Craig
Councilman Jeremy Smith
Town Lawyer Rob Stout

Recorded by: Town Clerk Charlene Diehl

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting was made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve paying audited bills made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye
Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye	Councilman Craig:	Aye
Councilman Smith:	Aye		

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues was made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye
Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye	Councilman Craig:	Aye
Councilman Smith:	Aye		

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye
Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye	Councilman Craig:	Aye
Councilman Smith:	Aye		

Communication – reported by Town Clerk

- letter of appreciation received from Martin and Kathy Overington for supporting the River Sweep.

Department Updates

Highway Department – reported by Joan Snyder

- crew finished with drainage on Anchorage;
- crew will be replacing 60' of pipe on Sharpe's Landing during the week;
- crew will be patching Dales Bridge Road where the culverts were replaced;
- first round of mowing almost done and cutting back will begin as weather permits.
- a seasonal employee has been hired, Jeff Shultz, from Maple Ave.
- crew cleaned up tree damage from bad storms;
- oil and stonework will begin in July.

Police Department – reported by Roger Rekow

- 132.25 hours of patrol time were logged in for May.

Park Patrols: Cheviot –33 times, Anchorage – 33 times, School –31 times,
Palatine Park – 27 times, Dales Bridge – 22 times

Sewer – reported by Joan Snyder

- Average daily flow for the month was 23,000 gallons per day;

- 8 'Call Before you Dig' requests were received for the month;
- attended first meeting with the engineers on their evaluation report for the WWTP.

Parks & Maintenance – reported by Anthony Cidras

- lake is set up for the summer and thanks to George for fixing the capacitor in the aerator.
- cabinets for Parsonage will be here this week; no word yet on the countertop delivery timeframe.
- fixed retaining wall by the beach house and 6x6s in parking lot.
- cleaned Anchorage again after high tide.
- lots of mowing.

Anthony thanked Steve Olivet who donated his time to help clean up the Parsonage and the trails.

Councilman Smith said everyone did a nice job of clean up after the storm. He also clarified with the board that anyone who cuts wood from the park cannot resell it; it must be used by them. Anthony said there are several more trees that will need to come down as time permits.

Supervisor Brown confirmed that when the countertops and cabinets are installed at the Parsonage it will complete Anthony's work there.

Councilman Craig asked about the weed problem in the lake. Anthony responded that the water chestnut problem is not as bad this year due to the work done last year, as well as removal of water chestnuts this year while putting the buoys in.

Supervisor Brown thanked Brianne Cidras for her help in removing the water chestnuts from the lake.

Economic Development – presented by Roy Brown

- committee met a few times and continues to work on the 12526.biz web site. Supervisor Brown said he did not realize how many home-based businesses are located within the zip code.

Councilman Smith said he had attended the Clearwater festival and saw the long line for the Tamale Factory, and how great it was to see a local business there.

Councilwoman Lamberta said that two artists have contacted Corinne about having a show, and there is interest in having another 12526. biz after hours event.

Councilwoman Snyder said they are still working on the plans for the 9/11 Memorial. Someone is coming in to estimate the concrete needed, and donations to the fund will be accepted as well.

Supervisor Brown said the town allowed the county to borrow the steel from the Twin Towers for the Flag Day Parade. The DMV and County Clerk's Office decorated it and won first place in their category, and the supervisor received a lot of positive feedback.

The town board held a workshop on June 13 with Barton & Loguidice to discuss the draft evaluation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Metal Tanks Engineering Report and their analysis of options for the board to consider in bringing the plant to where it needs to be. The board wanted more information about material not included in the original proposal. The revised agreement amount increased from \$6,900 to \$8,250 – not to exceed \$1,350, and the cost estimate will be in 2012 dollars for budgeting purposes. The information will be submitted to the supervisor in 90-120 days.

Motion to approve the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,350 in additional costs to determine the additional scope of the work the board requested of Barton & Loguidice made by Councilwoman Snyder, with a second by Councilman Craig.

Supervisor Brown:	Aye	Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye
Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye	Councilman Craig:	Aye
Councilman Smith:	Aye		

Supervisor Brown had given the board copies of the results of the additional testing the town undertook, stemming from a complaint about the water from the discharge of the town's stream contaminating a private well. Testing shows the town has not yet been in violation of the town's permit, and based on the information presented any contamination is coming from above the Wastewater Treatment plant. Any resident with well contamination concerns in the future should contact the Health Department. A copy of the report is available in the Town Clerk's office for those interested in reviewing it.

Councilman Smith inquired about the readings showing high figures when there was high water, and Supervisor Brown responded that the fields from the school drain to that stream, as well as a couple farms that in heavy rains wash into the stream as well, and the nature of where the high water is coming from leads to the higher readings.

Supervisor Brown received a note from the Oktoberfest committee with a proposal of what to do with the proceeds, and Brittany DuFresne advised the board to look it over to see where they would like the committee to direct the money.

Councilman Craig suggested a board workshop with all parties involved, as it would be an opportunity to discuss the top suggestions of the dog park and playground renovations in a roundtable manner. Mr. Craig said there are state grants available for recreational equipment, and it would be a good idea to bring all options to the table.

Councilman Smith said he was not sure of the difference between a Parks Committee and a Parks Commission and was waiting to hear from the town attorney on the answer, and suggested to Mrs. DuFresne that since she was now on the school board to investigate the costs of the playground equipment as they are quite expensive. Councilman Smith thinks the future of the Parks Commission/Committee should be looked at as well, and Councilman Craig replied that revamping the Parks Commission/Committee was on the list of proposals.

Supervisor Brown requested that Mrs. DuFresne take back to the committee the board's desire to have a workshop to discuss their suggestions.

Supervisor's Report

- the new seating in the meeting room was secured through a grant requested by Judge Beaury, and the Office of Court Administration provided the funding. Supervisor Brown commends Mr. Beaury for continuing to go after those funds.
- The county is still going through the process of hiring a County Manager, as there are 23 part-time supervisors but no one person in charge. There will be a vote on July 13th by the full county board.
- Hudson Valley Chairman's Summit had its fourth meeting since the start. Supervisor Brown and Amanda Thomas attended a presentation on Domestic Abuse in Poughkeepsie to see what Dutchess County does about domestic abuse and to see if what Columbia County does is sufficient.
- County budget time is beginning now as opposed to in September because of the impact of funding cutbacks and mandated programs. Greene County is laying off 12 employees and cutting another 13 positions due to cutbacks, and Columbia County is hoping to know by October 1 the possible impact on county employees.

Councilman Smith reminded the board that last year when the town budget was done the board used 50% of the reserve fund and the town can't afford to do that again this year, and Supervisor Brown agreed.

- The County continues to move forward with the Columbia County consolidation project to consolidate county offices under one roof to save efficiencies in personnel, energy and to create a true one-stop client based facility. There will be a board workshop on June 28 to discuss where the county is with the initiative.
- Deadline for signing up for swimming lessons is June 24, and lessons begin on June 27.
- Summer Camp registration applications are being accepted through July 8 with camp beginning on July 11.
- Supervisor Brown thanked Kathy and Martin Overington for their help with organizing River Sweep and the board thanks them for organizing it every year and appreciates their efforts.
- September 17 and 18 the Lion's Club will be sponsoring an Arts & Crafts Festival, with apple-themed merchandise.

Open to Public

Brittany DuFresne gave an update on the dog park, and that many people in town are willing to assist. Part of the Oktoberfest proceeds, \$2,000, will be donated to the dog park and Gtel is matching that donation. Thanks to Nina Fingar for assisting with the fundraising for the park, and there will be a sub sale on July 13 at the Activity Building to raise the remainder of the funds needed for the fence and installation.

Ellen Epstein asked about the timeline for training the members of the Zoning and Planning boards in relation to the new Zoning and Subdivision Law, as well as getting copies of the law for the members.

Supervisor Brown is working on having the maps made and getting copies to the members, and the updated information is on the town website as well.

Martin Wrabbe, from the town of Stuyvesant, thinks the Supervisor's Report is a good idea and that not many towns speak on county issues. He supports bridge repair and thinks a county manager could give guidance to the issue. Supervisor Brown said that anyone is welcome to attend county meetings and speak, and he does recognize the bridge repairs that are needed in the county.

Councilman Smith said he hopes the town/county is careful about closing roads and bridges and giving sufficient signage as he recently experienced a bridge closure and there were no signs advising drivers of the closing.

The next town board meeting is Monday, July 18 at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder, with all in favor and none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,