

Minutes of November 24, 2014 Germantown Town Board meeting, held at the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Craig
Councilman Westmore
Councilman Mortenson
Councilman Phelan
Councilwoman Foley

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve the October Town Board meeting minutes was made by Councilman Mortenson, seconded by Councilman Westmore, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve paying town audited bills made by Councilman Westmore, seconded by Councilman Phelan.

Supervisor Craig:	Aye
Councilman Westmore:	Aye
Councilman Mortenson:	Aye
Councilman Phelan:	Aye
Councilwoman Foley:	Aye

Written Communication by Town Clerk

None.

At this time, Supervisor Craig opened the floor to the public to discuss some zoning and litter issues.

Frank Mammone addressed the Board with the ongoing problems with his neighbor. He handed out copies of letters he had received and updated pictures to the Town Board. Mr. Mammone said that his neighbor put up a man made fence to separate their properties, which you can see underneath it. Mr. Mammone said that he has been coming to the Town Board meetings since July and before this has been discussing this matter for 3 years prior. He asked the Town Board is there any update? Supervisor Craig said at the last Town Board meeting this matter was discussed and it was decided to leave it in the hands of the Code Enforcement Officer to approve the fence permit. Mr. Mammone stated that his neighbor put up a hand made fence, where he thought that his neighbor would have had the fence done by a professional fence company. Supervisor Craig asked Tal Rappleyea what can be done under the application. Tal Rappleyea stated that the Code Enforcement Officer has to go to the property and inspect it and make sure that it is safe. This is a difficult line for the town to walk because each of the property owners has their property rights. John Fieser will have to do a follow up.

Councilman Westmore said that this problem has been going on and on. Mr. Mammone said he is just asking him to clean up his mess. After all of this discussion, Mr. Mammone asked Tal Rappleyea if he should hire a lawyer. Tal told Mr. Mammone that he cannot give him legal advice. Councilman Westmore stated that in other cases, the town has forced other clean ups. Tal said that the land owners in those cases complied. Councilman Westmore asked how to

enforce it? Tal said ultimate enforcement by either the Germantown Town Police or Sheriffs. The next step would be to check with John Fieser and see if the land owner is complying with this issue. More discussion on this matter went on.

Mr. Tom Barberi addressed the Town Board in regards to Ralph Schmidt on Hover Avenue. He said that Mr. Schmidt has numerous unlicensed vehicles on his property. The town junk law is very specific in regards to how many number of unlicensed vehicles on a property. This has been going on for years on Mr. Schmidt's property and hasn't been enforced. Mr. Barberi also commented on his neighbors across from his house on 9G. He said the mobile home was put in place and he received a \$20,000 increase on his property. He also referred to the property as a marina because there are several boats on it. Mr. Barberi said why should he hire a lawyer, if the town can't enforce these laws then his problem is with the town.

Supervisor Craig said that he had received the report from the Code Enforcement Officer tonight and that he would send out copies.

Maintenance by Anthony Cidras

- New roof on the snack bar.
- Ripped out the hutch at the Parsonage.
- Everything has been put away for the winter. All water lines that needed to be drained, have been drained.
- Helped the Highway department clean up the accident in the town.
- Has estimates for the downspouts- Will be calling them to be doing the installation hopefully next week.
- Started painting in Town Hall.
- Cut a tree down by snack bar, because it had bore ash beetles in it.

Highway by Councilman Mortenson

- Finished painting and going over the equipment for the snow season.
- Cleaned out basins and blowing leaves out of pipes.
- Had Columbia Landscape cutting dead trees on South Road, Best Lane, Lasher Road and Viewmont Road.
- Started cutting brush on Lasher Road and making their way north.
- Getting ready for snow this week.
- Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Sewer

Supervisor Craig, George Sharpe, Peter Fingar and his sons met this week. They discussed some proposals. Mr. Fingar agreed to fix his piece of the proposal. Supervisor Craig said that then they would tap into existing line and hope this fixes the problem. Councilman Phelan asked if the pump is going in. Supervisor Craig answered no the pump is not going in. Supervisor Craig said hopefully this will be a lot cheaper just repairing the pipes.

Police by Roger Rekow

102.75 hours were logged in for the month of October.

- 5 tickets

- 16 warnings
- 1 call for fireworks (not at the town park)
- 1 sex offender registry (once on the sex offender list they have to be checked on once a year)
- 1 burglary call
- 1 aggravated unlicensed operation
- 2 assist EMS fire

Park Patrols: Cheviot- 11 times, Anchorage- 13 times, School- 12 times, Palatine Park- 13 times, Dales Bridge- 8 times.

Commissioner Rekow stated that since the docks are out at the Anchorage and Cheviot they are patrolled less.

History by Councilman Westmore

- The presentation by Dr. Lindner on the Parsonage archaeology was well attended.
- An Open House was held Saturday morning.
- Restoration of the old well.
- Alvin patched the roof on the kitchen side for the winter. He hopes that this will get them through the winter and will address the roof in the spring.
- Cut low hanging branches.
- Attended 12526.biz and received \$1,000 for the Parsonage from the Chinese Delegation.
- The history department was grateful for the recognition and the support from the community.

Business & Economic Development by Supervisor Craig

- On Friday the 12526.biz was hosted by the Business & Economic Committee.
- Money was given to History department and Community, Arts & Tourism.
- There will be a holiday gift fair on Saturday 11:00am-5:00pm and on Sunday 11:00am-3:00pm, runs through December 14th.

Parks & Recreation by Councilwoman Foley

- Christmas Tree Lighting and Stroll will be Saturday, December 13th at 5:00pm. Tree lighting will take place in front of Gtel, followed by a Santa led parade to the town park.
- Bigger venue this year.
- Looking for volunteers.

Old Business

In September they had a discussion about hiring a police consultant and the majority of the Board was not ready at that point. Supervisor Craig asked the Town Board where they stood in regards to this matter. Councilman Phelan asked if he was still willing to come. Supervisor Craig said that Peter is still willing to do a study and could start in January and would run for 3 months. Councilman Mortenson said, he is fine with him just coming in as a consultant. Councilman Phelan said, right now the best option would be moving forward.

Motion made to rescind prior motion from September by Councilman Mortenson, seconded by Councilman Phelan.

Supervisor Craig:	Aye
Councilman Westmore:	Aye
Councilman Mortenson:	Aye
Councilman Phelan:	Aye
Councilwoman Foley:	Aye

Motion made to proceed with agreement with Peter Volkman as a consultant to perform an audit of the Germantown Police Department beginning January 1, 2015 and will last a period not more than 3 months with re-imbursement of travel between his home and Germantown by Councilman Phelan, seconded by Councilman Mortenson.

Supervisor Craig:	Aye
Councilman Westmore:	Aye
Councilman Mortenson:	Aye
Councilman Phelan:	Aye
Councilwoman Foley:	Aye

New Business

Cheryl Jean spoke of a project started 3 weeks ago. She would like the endorsement of the Town for this project. The goal is to expand community activities related to the arts by introducing a series of jazz concerts organized by the Germantown Jazz committee. Joe Locke and his trio will perform at the Central House on April 25, 2015. Planet Arts will pay for the musicians with a grant from NYS. Chuck Stewart a famous jazz photographer will exhibit his portraits at the Central House in conjunction with the concert. The events are non profit. This will be a first in a series of three. This will be the start of something big for Germantown. Only 80 tickets will be available. Admission will be charged and a silent auction will be held to cover expenses. Councilman Westmore supports them and Supervisor Craig seconded.

Supervisor Craig mentioned that the Town applied for a liquor license for the new restaurant.

Supervisor's Report

- Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Holiday Tree Lighting
- Town Board workshop
- Next Town Board meeting, December 22, 2014.

Supervisor Craig also thanked the Zanchelli Bus Company for transporting the residents of Palatine Manor to vote.

Councilman Westmore said that he would like to preserve and improve the natural resources in town. Bring ideas and concerns.

Public

Kay Abraham asked the name of the second resident who spoke this evening. She also commented on what a terrible dilemma of enforcing these things.

Councilwoman Foley once again mentioned how volunteers were needed for the Holiday Tree Lighting celebration.

Police Chief Brian DuBois told all residents to lock their houses due to the amount of burglaries around town. He also said for residents to keep track of their belongings. These are hard times for many of us out there.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Mortenson, seconded by Councilwoman Foley.

Respectfully submitted,