

Minutes of February 11, 2020 Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York, commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Beury
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon
Councilmember Suarez
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to open the meeting made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve the January 2, 2020 re-organization meeting minutes and the January 14, 2020 regular meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay audited bills made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received a letter of resignation from Councilman Christian as Chair of the Waterfront Advisory Committee. Letter will be on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:02pm to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person, collective negotiations, and current litigation made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Margaret DellaCioppa said that Supervisor Beury is required by law to state the matters for the executive session. Supervisor Beury answered by saying he did. They are discussing the appointment of particular people for a new committee, the status of collective negotiations regarding the new Union contract, and there is current litigation that the Town Board needs to be brought up to date about.

Motion to come out of executive session at 8:04pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to re-enter the regular meeting made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Old Business

- IFB for the Salt Shed Roof. They will be meeting on February 27, 2020 in Town hall at 11am to open the sealed bids.
- Resolution to eliminate passing lane on 9G from Woods Road to East Camp Road Extension. There had been discussion in the past to eliminate the passing lane because of the school and on the recommendation of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board the Town Board will consider the following:

Supervisor Beury read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION

Dated: February 11, 2020

WHEREAS, the Town Board has been made aware of a potentially unsafe traffic condition on State Route 9G between Woods Road and East Camp Extension (“School Zone”); and

WHEREAS, the speed limit in the School Zone is 45 MPH; and

WHEREAS, the unsafe condition involves a passing zone in the School Zone where vehicles may cross the broken yellow line and pass slower vehicles creating risk to school busses and other vehicles in the School Zone.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown does hereby request the New York State Department of State eliminate said passing zone.

Motion to approve the Resolution made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Audit Report of the Justice Court for 2019. Supervisor Beaury said there were no issues regarding the Justice Court Report and our two Justices were complimented for going above and beyond in keeping their paperwork.

Motion to accept the Audit Report of the Justice Court for 2019 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Beaury wanted to thank the interview committee and all the people that came in to apply for the positions as member of the ZBA and alternate seats on the ZBA and Planning Board.

New Business

- Appoint a particular person to the ZBA.

Motion to appoint Garrett Montgomery to the ZBA to a term effective February 11, 2020 through December 31, 2024 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Appoint particular persons as Alternates to the Planning Board/ZBA.

Motion to appoint David Crawford, Rachel Levine and Benjamin Davidson as Alternates to the Planning Board/ZBA to a term effective February 11, 2020 through December 31, 2020 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Appointments to Town Committees: Supervisor Beaury stated that anyone can come in and observe these meetings, they are open to the public. But you can only become a member of any of these committees if appointed by the Town Board. Supervisor Beaury also said any fund raiser or activities need to come before the Town Board to discuss first. Going forward, committee meeting dates/times will be posted on the Town site.

Motion to appoint the following individuals to the LWRP Committee, Tony Albino, Christina Bohnsack, John Borchert, Jennifer Crawford, Amy Davison, Ellen Epstein, Jo Hills, Barbara Hughey, Martin Overington, Billy Shannon and Karen Targove made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez. Supervisor Beaury, Councilman Sullivan, Councilman Kukon and Councilmember Suarez all voted “aye” and Councilman Christian abstained.

- Appoint a particular person to the CC Environmental Management Council.

Motion to appoint Barbara Hughey to the CC EMC for a term of two years made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Formation of a Grant Committee for the Parsonage.

Motion to appoint Tom Shannon as chairperson, Billy Shannon, Donald Dubac, Tony Albino and Alvin Sheffer to serve on the Grant Committee for the Parsonage made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Update from the Technology Committee. Councilman Sullivan and Councilmember Suarez met and made suggestions to the Town Board regarding communications with residents. Councilmember Suarez said they made a list of goals they wanted to work on and the website was one of them. Councilman Sullivan said a volunteer from the community came up with some suggestions to improve sound which would include purchasing mics, amplifiers and mixers and the cost would approximately be \$1,300. Corinne Smith said they will need to get 3 quotes. Councilman Sullivan suggested a quarterly newsletter and will get pricing.
- Supervisor Beaury would like Bruce Bohnsack's archived pictures added to the TV screen in the lobby of Town Hall and asked if the committee could look into that.
- Motion to appoint a particular person as Chair of the Waterfront Advisory Committee. Supervisor Beaury said this matter will be tabled until the March meeting.
- Reformation of the Waterfront Advisory Committee. Tabled until March meeting.
- Motion to appoint a particular person as Chair of the Economic Development Committee.

Motion to appoint Pippa Biddle as Chair of the Economic Development Committee made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Motion to appoint particular persons to the Economic Development Committee.

Motion to appoint Benjamin Davidson, Amy Jo Davison, Sarah Suarez, Tracey Martin, Tony Albino and Genette Picicci to the Economic Development Advisory Committee made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Reformation of the Economic Advisory Committee. Supervisor Beaury, Councilmember Suarez and Pippa Biddle met and will focus for 2020 looking into getting the Parsonage more involved in tourism. There meetings will be here in Town Hall and are open to the public.

Motion to approve Highway Agreement prepared by Rich Jennings, Highway Superintendent

Motion to approve spending \$128,000 on Hog Trough Road made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to authorize the Supervisor to file Union Paperwork with PERB.

Motion to authorize the Supervisor to file Union Paperwork with PERB made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve PRISM program sponsored by Cornell University Cooperative Extension for May 22, 2020- September 7, 2020 at Lasher Memorial Park. Supervisor Beaury said last year they did voluntary watercraft inspections. Councilman Christian said they were very helpful dealing with the boaters. He suggested their presence at Cheviot Park as well.

Motion to approve PRISM program sponsored by Cornell University Cooperative Extension from May 22, 2020 through September 7, 2020 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Discussion hiring a second clerk for the Justice Court. Supervisor Beaury said since the bail reform legislation went into effect the paperwork has increased, and time frames have been shortened. The Justices would like to consider hiring a second Justice clerk 4 hours a week at \$15.00 per hour.

The Board discussed the need and agreed to post the position and conduct interviews. Supervisor Beaury will provide the Board with an update at the March meeting.

- Discussion regarding possible upgrade to No Smoking Policy to include e-cigarettes. Supervisor Beaury said he received a letter from Tobacco Free Action on ideas to expand the “No Smoking Policy.”

Motion to upgrade the “No Smoking Policy” to ban vaping made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Corinne Smith will follow up on this for the March meeting.

Supervisor’s Report

- Peckham Industries- application to DEC. Supervisor Beaury said Peckham Industries wants to build a 40-50’ berm across from Germantown. Supervisor Beaury wrote a letter to DEC. The agency responded by adding us to the list of interested parties and informed Supervisor Beaury that the application is incomplete at this time.
- Holly Tanner, Columbia County Clerk to present on Real ID, March 10, 2020.
- Fish Fry every Friday beginning February 28, 2020 until the end of March in the Activity Building.
- Next meeting is March 10, 2020 at 7pm.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Christian said he had to re-think a lot of things since he is on the Town Board and felt his resignation as Chair from the Waterfront Advisory Committee was appropriate. Councilman Christian feels that somebody else should take that leadership role. Another interest of Councilman Christian is the LWRP and he is happy to see that underway and that the Town Board is supportive.

Councilman Sullivan said Little League met with Tony down at the ballfields and discussed ideas and pricing for the north field. Councilman Sullivan also mentioned Little League sign-ups are underway.

Public

Ellen Epstein asked if Arts and tourism were part of GEDAC? Councilmember Suarez said yes it should be.

Ellen also asked what are the next steps for the LWRP? Supervisor Beaury said they will appoint a Chair at the March meeting and we are wait for the State to send the paperwork.

Steve Savoris asked about the resolution removing the passing lane. He asked if the Town could pass a resolution reducing speed limits in Town. Supervisor Beaury said they cannot do that. This resolution was done at the request of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board and they will interact with NYS.

Martin Overington asked if the second court clerk was a Town position? Supervisor Beaury told him that it is a Town position. Martin also asked if there was money in the budget for the position. Supervisor Beaury said no, but that we have to get the additional help for the Town Court.

Margaret DellaCioppa asked where does the money from the tickets go? Supervisor Beaury said depending on the type of ticket some of it goes to the Town and the rest goes to NYS and Columbia County.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Meeting closed at 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,