

Minutes of March 30, 2021 Germantown Town Board workshop, via Zoom, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present: Supervisor Beaury  
Councilman Sullivan  
Councilman Kukon  
Councilmember Suarez  
Councilman Christian  
  
Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Beaury welcomed all and Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

#### Local Law #1 Of 2021- DPW

Supervisor Beaury gave a presentation on the Local Law #1 of 2021 duties of the DPW Superintendent including the relevant sections of NYS Highway Law. The duties are to take care of town highways, bridges, road repair, trucks and equipment and maintaining the sidewalks in town, etc., which is all done on a regular basis. If new equipment is needed, they need to tell the Town Board why the equipment is needed and the cost. Explain their budget each year. The Superintendent must prepare an annual written inventory of machinery, tools, implement and equipment and present this to the Town Board.

Councilman Sullivan wants residents to understand why we are considering this law.

Supervisor Beaury said that for the past three years the Board has had a high standard for all people applying for seats on our Boards and Committees and the DPW Superintendent should be the best qualified individual for the job.

Discussion on the DPW.

Supervisor Beaury said the if the DPW Superintendent is an elected position the Town Board is not involved and there is no direct accountability.

The only requirements to become a superintendent is one has to be at least 18 years old and a resident of the town. If the position were an appointed one, the Town Board could appoint the most qualified individual to the position and have oversight.

Councilman Kukon agrees with Councilmember Suarez and Councilman Sullivan, we are a small town and people don't like change.

Councilmember Suarez suggested checking with the other towns that are going through this process.

Supervisor Beaury said there are three other towns in Columbia County doing the same thing we are this year.

Martin Overington said Rich Jennings has done a great job and he thanked him.

Kathy Overington said the explanation helped her understand why we are doing this.

#### Ballfields

Councilman Sullivan said he, Councilman Kukon, Tony and Peter Dedrick met on Thursday at the ballfields. Councilman Sullivan said they are in good shape. He said they will be using the North field as the home field for girls softball. They won't need to spend too much. The clay will be spread around the fields and the fields will be cut on a regular basis. Supervisor Beaury asked to be kept up to date.

Councilman Kukon said the South field will be used for minor league and tee ball.

Janet Crawford said that the Little League meeting is tonight with Tony and Brittany discussing the scheduling.

Councilman Kukon said work is needed to be done on the snack bar and Supervisor Beaury suggested he talk to Rich and Anthony about getting that done.

Councilmember Suarez suggested putting the bike rack by the pavilion.

#### Parsonage

Councilman Sullivan suggested organizing a group of people to focus on the Parsonage, unless the History Department wants to do this. Supervisor Beaury said the roof is top priority. Janet asked if anyone has reached out to the Hover Trust? Supervisor Beaury said Tom is looking into finding a grant to help with the renovations it needs. Councilmember Suarez said that Tom did apply for a Hover Foundation Grant but was denied because of the focus on Covid relief. Christina Bohnsack said that Tom was looking into something like Flex Tech by the Preservation League of New York.

#### Climate Smart

Councilmember Suarez wanted to ask the Town Board about the EV charge station placement. Supervisor Beaury would like to know where to put the second EV charger. Christina said there are 2 grants for the second charger, one from National Grid the other from NYSERDA. Christina is hoping that Councilman Christian and Matthew Mercier will help out. She said they need to know the location in order to receive the grant. Councilman Christian commented that most people charge at home but may need to charge at their destination. Councilman Christian suggested the municipal parking lot or the school. Supervisor Beaury suggested the Activity Building. Christina suggested the library parking lot. Kathy Overington said the library talked about it at one point. Supervisor Beaury said they will help the library with getting a grant for the EV Charging station.

Councilman Sullivan brought up when the Dollar General had the issue, he and some of the Fire Department talked about that emergency sign in board. Supervisor Beaury said he spoke with Roy Brown and Mike Lawson and offered to split the cost with them. Councilman Sullivan will get a letter from the Fire Company.

Supervisor Beaury said it is unclear what we can do with the stimulus money, the County is unclear as well. Supervisor Beaury said the money will be deposited into a separate account because the money needs to be accounted for. Supervisor Beaury will let the board know when the money comes in and after we receive guidance, we will put together a working group to discuss priorities.

Councilman Sullivan would like an update from Sam in the Building department on several issues. Supervisor Beaury said to send an email to Sam and copy him and Corinne.

Councilman Christian questioned partnering up with the fire department for the sign in board. Supervisor Beaury explained that the fire company needs this piece of equipment for safety purposes.

Councilman Christian also asked about the pile of debris in back of the Dollar General and if it was safe to move? Supervisor Beaury said the DEC tested it he was told it was safe to move. Corinne said they had to apply for a special permit to move the pile.

Councilman Christian suggested applying to the Climate Adaptive Design opportunity, which is a collaboration between the DEC Estuary program and the Cornell Department of Landscape Architecture. The Town Board agreed to the study at Lasher Memorial Park.

Councilman Sullivan asked if the Highway department had received any applications for the part-time position? Supervisor Beaury said he has not heard if anyone applied. Councilman Sullivan and Councilman Kukon don't want to see the Highway guys overwhelmed, and Supervisor Beaury agreed with them. We have had seasonal laborer help in the past. Councilman Kukon thinks they should be looking for a good candidate. Councilman Sullivan said if a more qualified individual comes along, we should consider hiring that person. Supervisor Beaury said they would like to hire someone with a CDL in the fall but if someone is interested, we can consider it sooner.

Discussion on the placement of the Flagpole at Lasher Park.

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

Workshop closed at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,