

Minutes of February 7, 2023, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:09pm.

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

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve the January 3, 2023 reorganizational meeting minutes, January 10, 2023 workshop minutes, January 10, 2023 public hearing minutes, and January 10, 2023 board meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay the audited bills for February 2023 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

#### **Written Communications to the Town Clerk**

Received monthly reports from Highway and History departments.

#### **Old Business**

- Reorganizational corrections.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

Resolve to accept updated salaries as stated in, and to the limit provided for, in the 2023 Budget as follows:

1. Town Clerk- \$8,000 year/paid monthly
2. Deputy Town Clerk(s)- \$18 per hour/paid monthly
3. Tax Collector- \$3,900 per year with a \$1,500 per year stipend for sewer billing/paid monthly

Motion to accept updated salaries as stated in and to the limit provided for, in the 2023 budget made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Tax exemption for First responders
  - Set exemption percentage (up to 10%)
  - Set length of service requirement (2-5 years)

Include sections 6 and 7 as written?  
Motion to adopt.

Corinne needs feedback from the Town Board as to what they would like to set the real property tax exemption at. Corinne said it could be set up to 10% and the minimum years of service to be eligible for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers. Councilman Kukon asked what Corinne had seen from other towns? Corinne only found one other town because legislation was just enacted. Councilmember Suarez suggested 2 years of service. Supervisor Helsley agreed to this. Section 5- Lifetime membership 20 years or more. Section 6- Passing away in line of duty the un-remarried spouse will be able to keep the exemption. Section 7- Not passing away in the line of duty with 20 years of service, the un-remarried spouse will be able to maintain the exemption. Town Board agreed to sections 5,6, & 7. Public hearing set for March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm.

- Updates to website documents  
Updates to planning and ZBA policies/procedures  
Councilman Christian will take point on this effort with assistance from other board members as needed.
  
- ARPA fund utilization- need to develop a plan.  
Councilman Sullivan said they should decide what to do about the Kellner Building and get some numbers. Councilmember Suarez said in order to get the numbers would they need to spend more money? Councilman Sullivan feels with the plans we have that contractors would be able to give us numbers. Supervisor Helsley said the contractors he had spoken to said there wasn't enough details. Councilman Sullivan thinks the major part is the bathrooms and shower room. Councilman Sullivan also said a lot of the demolition can be done in house but the electrical and plumbing would need to be done by a professional. Councilmember Suarez would like to keep it moving forward. Greg Haefelin was in the audience and said he would be happy to look over the plans. Supervisor Helsley will get together with Greg.
  
- Set a date for the next STR workshop. Town Board will look over revised draft law. Workshop date set for Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Supervisor Helsley said we are not at the point yet for public comment.

### **New Business**

Resolution for Final 2022 budget adjustments. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ADOPTING GENERAL AND HIGHWAY / DPW FUND 2022 BUDGET  
ADJUSTMENTS - 2/7/2023

**WHEREAS**, the Germantown Town Board has determined that from time-to-time budget amendments are necessary to reflect properly the allocation and expenditure of funds;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown to make the following amendment:

### **Highway Fund**

Increase the following Revenue Lines:

DA9000 Appropriated \$17,100

Increase the following Expense Lines:

DA51101 Maint Str Pers Serv \$20,200

Decrease the following Expense Line:

DA51102 Maint Str Equip \$20,200

### **General Fund**

Increase the following Revenue Lines:

A1120 Sales Tax \$17,325

Increase the following Expense Lines:

A10104 Leg Board, Cont Exp \$350

A12201 Supervisor, Per Serv \$1,550

A13204 Accounting Contractual \$8,700

A1410 Clerk, Pers Serv \$1,005

A14104 Clerk, Contr Exp \$1,200

A14504 Elections, Contr Exp \$160

A19104 Unallocated Ins Cont Exp \$2,650

A36204 Safety Insp, Contr Exp \$210

Decrease the following Expense Line:

A802041 Contractual \$17,325

### **Sewer Fund**

Increase the following Expense Line

SS8010.1 Sewer Admin Personal Service \$1500

Decrease the following Expense Line:

SS99019.9 Interfund Transfer \$1500

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan  
Seconded by Councilmember Suarez

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows: Roll call by Town Clerk

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

- Resolution signing amended out of district user agreement for Hemlock Management LLC.

Corinne read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNING OF OUT OF DISTRICT USER AGREEMENT

Dated: February 7, 2023

WHEREAS, Hemlock Management LLC (the "Applicant") submitted an application and engineering plans to the Town of Germantown Town Board ("Town Board") requesting to connect to the municipal sewer system as an out of district user for its property located at 4374 Route 9G, Germantown, NY, Tax ID#158.4-1-1; and

WHEREAS, since the property situated outside of the Town's existing Sewer District No. 1, an out of district user agreement is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board approved the signing of an Out of District User Agreement dated October 25, 2022 based on plans submitted to the Planning Board that have materially changed necessitating additional approval and amendment to the original agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board as lead agency has determined that the proposed project is an unlisted action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form, and has determined that the agreement and proposed project will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown hereby authorizes the Supervisor to execute the Amendment to the Out of District User Agreement.

On a motion by Councilmember Suarez, and seconded by Councilman Kukon and having been approved by a majority of the Board, this Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town of Germantown Town Board.

Supervisor Helsley and Greg Haefelin both signed the agreement.

- Motion to approve the Supervisor to sign the contract with Legion Fireworks Co., Inc. with the town attorney's modifications. July 1<sup>st</sup> Independence Celebration with the rain date of July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to approve the Supervisor to sign the contract with Legion Fireworks Co., Inc made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Junk Law enforcement. Supervisor Helsley said that Brandon has had a few complaints. Brandon said there was a Germantown court decision from 2018 on a certain property that was supposed to have been cleaned up but the resident was just fined no clean up was done. Brandon also said there are 6 properties in town that need to be cleaned up. Town Board will support Brandon. Corinne will review the Junk Law.
- Climate Smart committee- use of Green Revolving fund. Christina said Councilman Sullivan spoke with her in regards to a solution for Lasher Park that may be green. Christina said they never finished setting up the revolving fund and feels the committee would possibly be in support of using the money for that. Christina, Matthew, 2 board members and Anthony would meet at the beginning of the year to see what they wanted to fund that year and then again around budget time to see what savings happened that year. Corinne asked if she could be sent a simplified blurb of what those funds would be used for so she could write up the resolution. Corinne said this is would be an internal account which the \$5,000 grant would be specifically used for. Councilman Sullivan asked if any overage of the \$5,000 be set up in a fund every year? Corinne said no, the reserve funds are very specific on what they can be used for. Councilman Christian asked if they could add another \$5,000 in to have a bigger fund? Corinne answered saying each the green initiatives can be put into the budget. Christina said there is a \$5,000 grant earmarked for the heat pump community campaign. Christina said they will be holding an Earth Day event on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the County has a zoom event scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Christina said with all of this we will reach 3,000 mark which will give us another \$10,000. Councilman Christian said the money received from NYSEDA in August is not going into the revolving account and they need a place to put the funds into. Councilman Sullivan said there is a separate account- CSC account. Supervisor Helsley said the Green Revolving account is a separate

account. Supervisor Helsley will create a separate account for that second \$5,000. Councilman Christian NYSEDA wants to know what the funds were actually used for what was said they were used for. Supervisor Helsley and Councilman Sullivan will discuss budgeting for this.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- The Columbia County Sheriff's office will no longer be staffing the office in Town Hall full time. All deputies will be taking vehicles home and beginning their shift by checking in at the main office. As such, the Town will be reclaiming the "locker room" space for office use.
- Community Events workshop to be held Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Kellner Activity Building.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilmember Suarez said Garrett Montgomery contacted her and asked if there was a volunteer project that the 7<sup>th</sup> graders could do. Councilmember Suarez also said Tracy from the Economic Developmental committee told her there is a meeting at the Central House on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm.

Councilman Sullivan was asked if there is any way for non-food members not to have insurance. Supervisor Helsley said they were told "no" before. Corinne said based on the town policy they need to have their own insurance as well. Supervisor Helsley suggested that a group get together and form a Co-op.

### **Comments and Questions from the public**

Martin Overington spoke as a member of WAC, they are working on the icehouse landing dock and are working on getting grants, clearing the land, planting trees and putting up a platform. Martin gave the Town Board the plan for them to review. They also are planning a spring cleanup and having boulders moved. Riversweep will take place in May. Martin also mentioned solar lights or wind generator lights for Lasher Park. Martin is concerned about sewer pumping up to the library's line. Martin commented that when Dollar General connected to the sewer that the line should have been extended to Palatine Park Road. Councilman Sullivan said they had to provide service to Dollar General they are in the district.

Christina Bohnsack mentioned the CSC getting the "Bronze Status" they get a big advantage when they apply for a grant and she thinks we should decide on what grant to apply which is for bigger things like maybe sidewalks or sewer expansion with a 50% match.

Motion to enter into Executive session at 8:38pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit Executive session at 9:05pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to appoint Ben Davison to the Planning Board for a term ending on 12/31/2029 and appoint Simon Burstall and Rebecca VanDesand as alternates to the Planning Board and/or Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire 12/31/2023 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Meeting closed at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT