

Minutes of July 11, 2023 Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon
Councilmember Suarez

Present via Zoom: 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, followed by a moment of silence for Peter Lasher.

Happy Birthday to Clerk Vale.

Motion to approve the June 13, 2023 public hearing minutes and June 13, 2023 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions.

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

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received History department report.
And a letter from Martin Overington Waterfront Committee chair.
Dear Town Board,

The volunteers on the Waterfront Advisory Committee have been working diligently on cutting access channels in our massive water chestnut infestation. Without our efforts, almost two miles of Germantown waterfront including Cheviot Park, would be completely inaccessible from June through September.

A representative from the DEC who we have been in touch with regarding the water chestnut issue asked us to apply for a substantial grant through their Hudson River Estuary Round 42 for River Access. We are seeking your permission to apply, through the Town's NYS grants gateway account, for approximately \$75,000 to purchase a new boat equipped with a cutter, similar but better than the boat we currently operate outside of Town auspices.

Should we be successful in obtaining this grant, there are a number of issues that would need to be resolved including potential insurance costs, town employees' roles versus volunteer's role in operating the boat, and other issues. We are hopeful that WAC and the Town can work together in the coming months to resolve those uncertainties. We want to be in a position where all of those questions are answered by the time the Town would accept the grant if it came to fruition.

The grant application is due on July 12, so we need to apply ASAP.
And looking for your support.

Sincerely,
Martin Overington
Waterfront Advisory Committee, Chair
mboverington@gmail.com
518-567-1828

Old Business

- Kellner Activity Building- no further activity to report.

- Local Law C -STR Law- Public Hearing set for July 25th at 6pm Kellner Activity Building.
- MOU with Bard regarding the archaeological dig at the Parsonage. Supervisor Helsley said that Corinne had requested that some addition language be added. Corinne mentioned as long as indemnification language was added to protect the town. Corinne also wanted to make sure that Tom was comfortable with the storage and maintenance of the artifacts. Corinne said this is just the MOU and if any issues came up that it could be re-visited at any time. Tom was comfortable with the language.
- Community Solar agreement. Corinne will have some changes to make. Corinne asked Councilman Christian if Cara Humphrey is the one to contact with changes? Councilman Christian answered "yes". Councilman Christian said that it needs to be done soon. Corinne will get it done. Corinne then said the Town Board could approve subject to Corinne's review and revisions.

Motion to approve the Supervisor sign the Community Solar agreement pending the Attorney's review and revisions made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- LWRP discussion. Supervisor Helsley asked if Councilman Christian would speak on this. Councilman Christian said Jen went through list of consultants and the current consultant leaving EDR. Councilman Christian said that right now they are using both EDR and Alta and Alta wants to withdraw so Corinne would need to draft documents switching them from Alta to EDR. Councilman Christian said that EDR made a recommendation for a new consultant Susan Carvana and part of what Jen worked out was to set up an interview with Susan and their people at EDR. Corinne will look at the scope and see what the changes are and make a draft and Corinne will have to look at the contract to see NYS will require anything else. Councilmember Suarez would like to be included in the interview process and so would Supervisor Helsley. Corinne will send an email to the newspaper to notify them 72-hour notice in regards to more than 2 town board members being involved in this.

New Business

- Eagle Scout project- Proposal by Owen Stier. Owen would like to make a few renovations to trail around the park including setting up benches, picnic tables, trail markers on the trails, 6 interchangeable signs for the library. Supervisor Helsley read the description of the project which is they will clear off the north side of the trail, install signs and trail markers on the trails, signs at either end which includes a trail map and interesting wild life in the area. Supervisor Helsley set up time for Owen to meet with Anthony. Councilmember Suarez asked what the signs were made of. Owen told her plexiglass. Councilman Sullivan asked where they were getting the benches from? Councilmember Suarez said she has the information of where to get the benches from like they have at Olana which are a mix of wood and metal. Supervisor Helsley told to Owen let Anthony know where they are buying them from, so in the future they wanted to buy more. Town Board approved the Eagle Scout project.
- Water Chestnut Harvester Grant. Supervisor Helsley asked if Martin Overington would like to speak on this. Martin is part of WAC and he said a letter came from the Roe Jan Boat Club then went to DEC then to the Town Board. Martin said there were about 50 people at the water chestnut pull. He said a thank you to Christina Bohnsack, Didi Barrett and her team, Boy Scouts, Roe Jan Boat Club. Martin said DEC came down and saw what they were doing and Prism came and did mapping of the area. Martin said the \$75,000 grant would be for a new Pontoon Boat and a cutter. Martin said they are following the Town of Esopus' plan. Martin said a thank you to Kai Landow for coming up with this concept. Tom said Pontoon will be town owned. Martin spoke with Anthony and there is room to store the boat in the highway garage. Supervisor Helsley said the boat will need to be transported by town vehicles. Corinne suggested a volunteer policy and a boater's safety course. Corinne said the grant looked good small typos in the funds section. Councilmember Suarez in support of them applying for the grant. Councilman Christian mentioned the town 15% match. Town Board agreed to submitting the grant. Supervisor Helsley will follow up with the insurance company. Councilman Sullivan is concerned about the boat being operated by town employees. Martin said

they are following the Esopus plan. Town Board thanked all of them for putting this together.

- Re-appoint Barbara Hughey to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council.

Motion to re-appoint Barbara Hughey to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Sylvia Center contribution? Camp Palatine Park Cooking program. Supervisor Helsley said that it costs the Sylvia Center \$5,300 to do this and it is not necessary to contribute to it but other towns are contributing. Councilman Sullivan said the library contributed \$500.00 and the Town of Livingston contributed \$750.00. Supervisor Helsley suggested that the Town of Germantown contribute \$750.00 as well.

Motion to approve Sylvia Center contribution of \$750.00 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Appoint Camp Palatine counselors.

Councilman Sullivan read the list of counselors:

Heather Christiana
Linda Gerlach
Logan Burleigh
Kira Kavanaugh
Sophia Speenburgh
Melissa Lynch
Nathan Clum
Anna Kukon
Chloe VanWagner
Kirsten Peterson
Sydney Stracher
Owen Watson
Abby Knauss
Bradley DelPozzo
Jonathan Mollo
Madelyn Dodge

Motion to approve Camp Palatine counselors made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Resolution to approve Highway Fund Budget adjustments. Supervisor Helsley said Chips money came in higher than budgeted for.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ADOPTING HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS
7/11/2023

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:

Budget Amendment Highway Fund

Transfer Funds for the following expense lines:

\$60,000 from DA5112.22 – Chips Reimbursed Permanent Improvement Highway Equipment to DA5110.42 – Chips Reimbursed Maintenance Street Contract Expenses
Due to funds that were allocated to the incorrect line during the budget process

Increase the following revenue line:

DA3501 – State Aid, CHIPS from \$56,000.00 to \$135,878.80
To increase the CHIPS State Aid revenue due to receiving more than budgeted

Increase the following expense line:

DA5110.42 – Chips Reimbursed Maintenance Street Contract Expenses
From \$56,000 to \$135,878.80
To allow for the expenditure of all CHIPS State Aid to be received.

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:

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

This Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted.

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

Councilman Sullivan would like to discuss not extra funding. Supervisor Helsley said utilizing Chips funds.

Supervisor’s Report

- Brian Fitzgerald has begun as the new accountant for the Town.
- Music events continue to be well attended. Supervisor Helsley was not at the last music event but heard there were about 150-200 people that attended.
- Independence Day Celebration was a huge success! Thank you to all of the volunteers for their hard work! Martin Overington said he liked dunking Supervisor Helsley. Supervisor Helsley said they will put Councilman Sullivan in the dunking booth the whole time next year.
- Electrical panel and service in the Activity Building needs evaluation. ARPA funds to cover this.
- There has been an offer by George Sharpe to purchase and install a bench in memory of Peter Lasher. More details forthcoming. Reviewed and approved by the Town Board.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilmember Suarez would like to share the STR Public Hearing on mail chimp. Councilmember would like it all over so no one is left out. Supervisor Helsley will share it on the Facebook page. Councilman Christian said at the last Planning Board meeting there were a number of comments on that law. Councilman Christian said the latest version of the STR Law is on the town website. Corinne also sent notices to all the Town Clerks in adjoining towns and to the Columbia County Planning Board, as well as a public notice being published in the newspaper. Supervisor Helsley will send to the ZBA as well. Councilman Sullivan will send to the Re-zoning committee.

Comments and Questions from the public

Martin Overington said a big Thank you to the Park Commission, Gary Keegan and Anthony. Gary Keegan restored Clipper sign and thank you to the Highway department for painting the wall.

Tom Shannon asked about the procurement policy. Supervisor Helsley can put it in the Town Board drive and just share that document. Councilmember Suarez will send Supervisor Helsley the most recent version. Councilmember Suarez will send it to Tom and all the department chairs.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:02pm to discuss Planning Board appointments made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 8:21pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to appoint Garrett Montgomery as chairperson of the Planning Board for the remainder of 2023 was made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Meeting closed at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,