

Minutes of February 6, 2024, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 6:34pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley  
Councilman Sullivan  
Councilman Kukon  
Councilmember Suarez

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Present via Zoom: Councilman Christian

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Reorganizational meeting, January 9, 2024 LWRP workshop and January 9, 2024 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. Supervisor Helsley said the reports were not ready the board can review the reports at the end of the week.

Motion to pay audited bills for February 2024 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Town Clerk received History department report.

#### **Old Business**

- Kellner Activity Building- Pricing was received from Handcrafted Builders- Estimate came in at \$234K. \$156K in ARPA funds remaining with \$23K allocated for the final payment of the backup generator, leaving \$133K available for renovations. Supervisor Helsley has prepared bid specifications and will work with the Town attorney to get additional pricing. Next large step will be floor cutting and installation of new drainage. We will likely need to seek less expensive alternatives, or approve the expenditure of fund balance to cover the difference in cost. Supervisor Helsley will send bid documentation to Corinne. Supervisor Helsley said the building is gutted and needs to be completed. Supervisor Helsley checked with the insurance company about volunteer labor and liability. Supervisor Helsley will volunteer to do the electrical work which will need to be inspected. Supervisor Helsley said if they can't get it done with the remaining ARPA funds they would have to approve expenditure of fund balance.
- STR law- next steps. Corinne will work on the language. Corinne said the board will hold another public hearing once closed, part 2 & 3 of SEQR, then a resolution adopting the local law. Next month, March 12<sup>th</sup> LWRP at 6:00pm followed by STR then TB meeting.
- SPEDES permit- documentation between North Dome and Delaware is being exchanged, anticipates a complete application this month.
- Bard archeological MOU. Tom had sent the board the revised MOU language. Tom's biggest concern is the reporting language. Tom introduced Ethan Dickerman who is helping with archeological specifications. Tom said he hasn't received any new reports of last year's dig season. Tom suggested to ask Dr. Lindner to stop the digs until the reports are caught up. Supervisor Helsley supports this. Tom will draft a letter to the Town Board. Tom also told the board there is still a need for the MOU. Corinne asked if Tom had any concerns how Bard is maintaining the collection? Tom answered they are stored in the basement of one of the buildings. Tom is concerned what will happen after Dr. Lindner retires. Supervisor Helsley think Bard administration needs to be informed as well. Tom reported going over to the records retention room with the Town Clerk and

looked into the box labeled real skull. Tom briefly told of the unearthing of a native American burial ground on Moore Road where the skull was found and was treated a homicide. The history department has the forensic report of a native American man in his 30's who lived somewhere in 1690-1790. Tom said the first step is updated osteology report. Ripley Hathaway asked what the cost would be for this? Ethan said he & Tom undertake pro bono, the exact cost is uncertain.

- Bard parcel- updated budget. Supervisor Helsley asked Councilman Christian for an update. Councilman Christian said they are going to discuss the budget. Councilman Christian said the grant came in at about 80% of what they asked for. Councilman Christian said the total project would be \$266,000 and the town would have to contribute almost \$27,000 half in cash and half in time. Councilman Christian created a budget based on those figures. Councilman Christian said the main change is less cash is required from the town and the DPW work would be required for 2 years instead of 3 years.

Motion to approve the updated budget made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan.

- RoeJan park Greenway grant discussion. Councilman Christian said they applied for a Greenway grant approximately three years ago to do some improvements at RoeJan park which included funding for the kiosk, Gtel WiFi and stairway to upper park. Councilman Christian said they received the grant and the grant is expiring and none of the items have been done. Councilman Christian said there are a few options they could ask for an extension or revision or we no longer continue with the grant. Councilman Christian thinks the scouts don't need the stairs they use the pavilion. Councilman Sullivan asked how hard is it to get an extension? Councilman Sullivan thinks they should apply for the extension. Councilman Christian suggested removing the stairway from the grant and there would be enough funding. Supervisor Helsley suggested to move forward and get the extension.

Motion to enter into executive session at 6:58pm to discuss Attorney Client Privileged information made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of executive session at 8:31pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

### **New Business**

- Ice House landing- review letter from the Waterfront Advisory Committee. Councilman Christian would like to be notified by Amtrak when they are doing work. Councilman Sullivan asked if we let Amtrak know when doing stuff at the Ice House. Supervisor Helsley is okay with sending the letter that the Waterfront Committee wrote. Councilmember Suarez asked if Councilman Christian along with Martin Overington could draft a version to send to Amtrak. Councilman Christian said "yes" they will draft a letter from the town board and will keep it cordial
- Motion to approve the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys as submitted by the Highway Superintendent made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Independence Day celebration planning meeting scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the Town Hall.

Motion to approve Legion Fireworks in the amount of \$7,500 date of July 6, 2024, rain date of July 13, 2024 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

No comments from Council.

**Comments and Questions from the public**

No public comments.

Motion to adjourn at 8:41pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,