

Minutes of May 14, 2024 Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 6:31pm.

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

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Helsley announced the public hearing was cancelled due to the applicant not proceeding at this time.

Supervisor Helsley opened the town board meeting and Led with the Pledge to the Flag followed by a moment of silence for Rose Suarez.

Motion to approve the April 9, 2024 meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions.

Motion to pay the audited bills for May 2024 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received monthly reports from Highway & History departments.

Supervisor Helsley thanked the Highway department on the great job they did on the ball fields.

MAY REPORT

- 1-DOCKS IN AT ANCHORAGE
- 2-TRENCHING DONE FOR GENERATOR
- 3-CHEVIOT DOCKS ARE IN
- 4-SOFTBALL FIELD CLEANED UP
- 5-REPLACED BROKEN SPRING RIDE IN PLAYGROUND
- 6-PICKED UP GARBAGE ALONG TOWN ROADS
- 7-STARTED MOWING ALONG TOWN ROADS
- 8-ASSISTED IN RIVER SWEEP, PICKED UP OVER 500 LBS OF GARBAGE
- 9-PUT GRILLS AND PICNIC TABLES OUT
- 10-PEPSI COOLER AND VENDING MACHINE HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO PEPSI

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REQUEST THAT WE MAKE A TRANSFER OF 15000 FROM 5142.4 TO GO INTO 5110.4 I AM CONCERNED WITH RISING FUEL COSTS AND THE NEED TO REPLACE MORE CULVERT PIPES THAT MY 5110.4 WILL BE OVERSPENT.

ANTHONY CIDRAS
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

History Department Update
May 6, 2024

- No History Advisory Committee held on April 27th due to schedule conflicts. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 18th at 10:30 AM, to avoid Memorial Day.
- NAGPRA: a draft Notice of Inventory Completion (Step 5) was sent to Corinne for review on April 9th.
- The Pomeroy Foundation accepted our LOI for a new Transportation History marker commemorating the various modes of transportation at Anchorage over the years. Tom will submit proposed language and primary documents by May 11th.
- Roof/Chimney work: Tom sent contacts for two more potential chimney contractors to Anthony. No luck getting either to take the job.
- Still waiting for the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Historic Preservation Grant to open up for 2024. Will keep moving on scopes of work and quotes from contractors in anticipation.
- Tom recently submitted an article about the 1931 Germantown National Bank failure to the Columbia Paper. Look for it in the next few weeks.
- Rich and Alvin cleaned out a bunch of scrap sheet rock from the attic, and Tom organized the filing cabinets and archive boxes upstairs in preparation of Hudson Mohawk Vernacular Architecture's visit to the Parsonage on May 18th. Will focus on yardwork next Saturday, May 11th.
- Bank of Greene County grant: we received word that our application for funds to digitize our newspaper collection was granted in the amount of \$1,000, to be paid to FOHG after an announcement ceremony in June or July.
- The Greater Hudson Heritage Network has two grant opportunities available, due May 31st. One for preservation supplies (\$650), one for a site assessment by an archival consultant (\$1,000). We will definitely apply for the preservation supplies grant. We have to figure out what the full cost of a consultant visit would be before we apply for the assessment grant. Their much larger conservation treatment grant will be available in June.
- William Better returned to duty as County Historian and Chair of the ColumbiaNY250 Committee on April 29th. Tom is still working as his assistant, a member of the ColumbiaNY250 Committee, and Chair of its Marketing Subcommittee.
- The ColumbiaNY250 Research Guide is now online for your perusal. It is a work in progress and will grow over time.
<https://historian.columbiacountyny.com/research-guide-columbiany250>
- We have a lot more Reformed Church documents on loan for digitization, including the 1728-1737 and c. 1801-1849 churchbooks.
- Events:
 - May 18th, Hudson Mohawk Vernacular Architecture visit to Parsonage.
 - May 27th, 10AM or so, Tom will offer remarks as the Memorial Day ceremony prior to the parade.
 - June 1st, 5PM, Tom will speak about connections between the Palatines and the Clermont, or Lower Manor, Livingstons. Chancellor's Dinner.
 - June 6-9th, Palatines to America Conference, Albany. Visit to Germantown Library on June 9th.
 - June 15th, 5PM, Walking Tour of the Second Lutheran Cemetery, PATH Through History Weekend.
 - July 6th, Independence Day celebration at Palatine Park. The History Department will have a display table.

Old Business

- Kellner Activity Building- New IFB is ready to be issued. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION
Dated: May 14, 2024

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown’s Kellner Community Youth and Activities Building is in need of improvements to permit it to operate as an Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(2) actions for “replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building, energy, or fire codes unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of this Part” have been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment and are precluded from environmental review under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project does not meet or exceed any of the thresholds in Section 617.4.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows:

1. The Town Board declares itself lead agency for purposes of State Environmental Quality Review (“SEQR”) for the proposed project and hereby finds that the proposed project is a Type II action and is not subject to any further review under SEQR; and
1. The Town Supervisor, in consultation with the attorney for the Town, is authorized to issue the Invitation for Bids requesting bids for the Kellner Community Youth and Activities Building Renovations according to the specifications contained therein and to receive sealed bids.

On a motion by Councilman Sullivan 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.

Joyce Vale, Town Clerk

- Town Hall roof- IFB is ready to be issued. Supervisory Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION
Dated: May 14, 2024

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown’s Town Hall located at 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York is in need of a new roof; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(2) actions for “replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including

upgrading buildings to meet building, energy, or fire codes unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of this Part” have been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment and are precluded from environmental review under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project does not meet or exceed any of the thresholds in Section 617.4.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows:

1. The Town Board declares itself lead agency for purposes of State Environmental Quality Review (“SEQR”) for the proposed project and hereby finds that the proposed project is a Type II action and is not subject to any further review under SEQR; and

1. The Town Supervisor, in consultation with the attorney for the Town, is authorized to issue the Invitation for Bids requesting bids for the re-roofing of the Town Hall according to the specifications contained therein and to receive sealed bids.

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

Joyce Vale, Town Clerk

- SPEDES permit- completed application has been submitted to DEC- Awaiting their response. Councilman Christian thanked Supervisor Helsley for taking care of this.

New Business

- Salt Shed roof Solar array. Resolution to proceed. Supervisor Helsley thanked Councilman Christian. Councilman Christian thanked CSC, Matthew and Christina for their hard work. Councilman Christian said the funds are a combination of \$40,000 NYSERDA grant, \$5,000 Green Revolving fund, \$5,000 from Clean Heating Tier 1 Action grant and funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, which all total slightly more \$70,000 and will provide a substantial solar array on the salt shed roof, which will save the town money over the years. Councilman Christian mentioned a small change to the Resolution which should state the \$5,000 Tier One grant is not a reimbursement grant and that phrase needs to be removed.

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

May 14, 2024

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown, working closely with its Climate Smart Communities Task Force, wants to initiate a project to place solar panels on the roof of the Town’s Salt Shed (“Salt Shed Solar Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown wants to use locally generated solar energy to reduce the Town’s future electrical energy costs; and

WHEREAS, by resolution dated April 9, 2024, the Town Board declared itself lead agency for the Salt Shed Solar Project, authorized the Supervisor to sign the contract with NYSERDA awarding the Town \$40,000 to be used for the Salt Shed Solar Project, and directed the Climate Smart Communities Task force to prepare required deliverables under the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board appoints Matthew Mercier as Project Director for the Salt Shed Solar Project, and directs him to be the Town’s main point of contact with NYSERDA for this project, and to be the person supplying project deliverables to the NYSERDA Salesforce portal; and be it further RESOLVED, to use the \$5,000 from the Green Revolving Fund, following the Policies and Procedures set out in the Town’s Green Revolving Fund resolution dated May 9,

2023, for the Salt Shed Solar Project; and be it further
RESOLVED, to use the \$5,000 NYSEDA Clean Heating Tier 1 Action Grant that was
awarded to the Town in December of 2023, for the Salt Shed Solar Project; and be it
further
RESOLVED, to use the \$40,000 NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities Grant, a
reimbursement grant, for the Salt Shed Solar Project; and be it further
RESOLVED, to apply for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Direct Pay reimbursement for the
Salt Shed Solar Project, in consultation with the accountant for the Town, and to use the
estimated IRA reimbursement for the Salt Shed Solar Project; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor, in consultation with the attorney for the Town, is
authorized to issue an Invitation for Bids requesting bids for the Salt Shed Solar Project,
taking into account the estimated Direct Pay reimbursement from the IRA, and to
receive sealed bids.

Introduced by Councilman Christian

Seconded by Councilman Kukon

The proposed Resolution having been approved by the majority of the Board, the same was
declared duly adopted by the Germantown Town Board.

Supervisor's Report

- Town wide yard sale this Saturday, May 18, 2024. Sheriff's Mobile Command Center will
be in the park doing a car seat safety check.
- First Music by the Lake event also Saturday, May 18, 2024 6-9pm. Second Chance
Band to perform with food being served by Boston Pete's BBQ and Alma's Tacos.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Sullivan reported Camp signups are Saturday, June 1st at 9:00-11:00am.

Comments and Questions from the public

Martin Overington thanked the town and the DPW, Anthony, Phil and Luke for a successful 27th
River Sweep. Martin said there was less trash than last year. Martin announced the WAC will
be holding a water chestnut pull on June 16th at Cheviot from 9AM to Noon. Martin said they are
cleaning up the ice house after the flooding. DEC reported more rip rap. Losing more land at
Lasher Park. Martin is also concerned about RV parking at Cheviot.

Tom Shannon asked Corinne the status on NAGRA. Corinne has to finish it and before she
submits it she will have Tom review it. Tom said Columbia County representative will come to
assess the site and make some recommendations. Tom said the town board will have to write a
letter first. Supervisor Helsley will work with Tom to draft a letter. Tom said they are still trying to
find someone to repair the chimney.

Councilman Christian added that the DEC rep is waiting for a couple of approvals for the Bard
parcel grant.

Motion to enter into executive session at 6:56pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by
Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of executive session at 7:17pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by
Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley said Anthony mentioned in the monthly report that he would like permission
to make a transfer of \$15,000 from account 5142.4 to go into 5110.4.
Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD

TOWN OF GERMANTOWN

COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT

Dated: May 14, 2024

WHEREAS, Motorcycle LLC commenced a proceeding in New York State Supreme Court, Columbia County, under Index No. E012023020911 challenging the 2023 tax assessment for property designated as Tax Grid No. 103600-148.-1-56 (18 Northern Boulevard) (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Town Assessor and attorney for the Town have recommended a settlement in the proceeding, which the Property owner has agreed to, summarized as follows:

The parties have agreed that the assessment for year 2023 is hereby reduced, corrected and fixed for the assessment rolls as follows, and that the Property owner is entitled to a refund for taxes already paid in excess of the reduced assessment:

Assessment Roll	Original Assessment	Reduced Assessment	Amount of Reduction in Assessment
2023	\$1,178,500.00	\$978,500.00	\$200,000

The parties have further agreed that the 2024 assessment shall be set as follows:

Assessment Roll	Assessment
2024	\$993,500.00

WHEREAS, it appears to be in the best interests of the Town of Germantown to settle said matters as recommended without further legal and appraisal costs relating to said matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows:

1. The attorney for the Town is hereby authorized to enter into a Consent Judgment and appropriate court orders to accomplish said settlement and upon entry of said orders to execute a stipulation of discontinuance in said proceeding.
2. The Town Supervisor be and hereby is authorized to make and pay or direct to be made and paid refunds of taxes on the terms set forth in the Consent Judgment in accordance therewith.
3. The Town Supervisor, Town Assessor, and attorney for the Town are hereby authorized to take all actions necessary and appropriate to effect the terms of this Resolution.

On a motion by Councilman Sullivan 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.

Joyce Vale, Town Clerk

Motion to approve the transfer of \$15,000 from account 5142.4 to 5110.4 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to adjourn at 7:20pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,