

Minutes of October 8, 2024, 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 September 10, 2024 Public Hearing and Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley said he just got them today and they are on the google drive. No comments from Town Board.

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

Written communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received report from the Highway department. Town Clerk also received resignation from Philip Salvatore which she read.

OCTOBER REPORT

- 1-WORKED ON BALLFIELDS
- 2-PUT CHIPS DOWN ON TRAILS
- 3-WENT THROUGH TRAIL AND PRUNED AND CUT TREES
- 4-HAD FUEL PUMP TO UNLEADED GAS REPLACED
- 5-DITCHED VIEWMONT
- 6-BLACKTOPPED CROSSOVER PIPES AND DRIVEWAYS THAT WE REPLACED PIPES
- 7-LONG DID SITE VISIT FOR GENERATOR HOOF UP AND PROPANE TANK INSTALL
- 8-HAVING HEATING SYSTEMS AND GENERATORS SERVICED
- 9-BROUGHT IN TOPSOIL TO REPAIR DAMAGE DONE TO LAWNS
- 10-RECIEVED PHIL SALVATORES LETTER OF RESIGNATION

ANTHONY CIDRAS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Old Business

- Kellner Activity Building. Work has commenced. Under slab plumbing is installed and the concrete for the floor will be poured 10/10/24. Framing to begin the week of 10/14. Work is nicely progressing.
- SPEDES permit- Still under DEC review- additional information has been requested.

- Salt Shed Roof Solar array. Supervisor Helsley said there were some questions about direct pay. Matthew suggested to use just the grant money and complete the job then the town would be eligible for other grants. Councilman Christian said the issue is they need a correctly written request proposal and corresponding contract with the contractor that will meet all the requirements of the direct pay process. Councilman Christian has confidence that Corinne can do it as quickly as possible. Corinne said she cannot give tax advice. Corinne also said she never dealt with direct pay before. Supervisor Helsley said Brian, the accountant has not dealt with direct pay either. Councilman Christian said they are not asking for tax advice that is a grant from the IRS. Councilman Sullivan is questioning will and can we get the money back? Councilman Christian said if we apply and meet the requirements we will get the money back. Matthew Mercier would like to use the grant money and move the project forward and Supervisor Helsley agreed. Councilman Christian said we would spend \$50,000 of the grant money put out an RFP that meets the grant requirements. Supervisor Helsley asked Corinne to revise the RFP to add in the provision and dates.
- Bard Parcel- Additional information has been requested. Supervisor Helsley said DEC has additional requirements in the assessment. Councilman Christian sent the checklist to Concra Appraisals.
- Amtrak correspondence- A response was received from Amtrak. They do not contest the current boundaries. The markers were for installation of the new high-speed switch. Supervisor Helsley commented he has a new contact at Amtrak.
- Vandalism at Palatine Park. Installation of cameras. A request for a meeting has been sent to Verkada. Supervisor Helsley has a zoom meeting on Saturday, October 26th to go over the basics.
- DEC work at Lasher Park. Supervisor Helsley spoke with Dennis at DEC, new docks will not be received for next spring. The work will now likely occur in the Fall of 2025. Councilman Christian added putting off the lighting project until Fall 2025.

New Business

- The Columbia County Hazard Mitigation policy is nearing completion. Big thanks to Councilmember Christian for his hard work on preparing this for the Town. The draft has been submitted to various committee chairs and the Board for comment. Today is the last day for comments. Councilman Christian received a lot of comments from Anthony and Phil. Councilman Christian had also received comments from Corinne and Martin as well. The next step is draft with the comments and then go back to them. Review after. Councilmember Suarez asked if we could adopt our version?
- Establish a filming policy? Supervisor Helsley said we should establish a filming policy in the Town of Germantown. Corinne said we would start with a Local Law with a permitting process by what the Town Board wants it to look like and the type of fees and insurance requirements. Supervisor Helsley looked at the Hudson and Chatham filming laws. Corinne would like the Town Board to let her know what the issues are so they can draft the local law to address those things. Councilmember Suarez agrees to permit. Councilman Kukon commented there should be limitations on what you can and cannot do. Councilman Christian mentioned Hudson's film law has certain exemptions like student filming, TV news. Councilmember Suarez will take a look at the town of Nyack local law. Corinne said Dutchess County has more laws than Columbia County and go to the link on the DOS website where all the local laws are. Supervisor Helsley also mentioned the Hudson Valley Filming Commission. Town Board will get all their input to Corinne before the next Town Board meeting.
- Local Law C of 2024 Establishing Income Levels For Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemption. The Town Board set the date for the Public Hearing for Local Law C of 2024 for 6:45pm on November 12, 2024 immediately followed by Local Law D or 2024, immediately followed by the Town Board meeting.
- NAGPRA Resolution.

Corinne said Tom went through all the steps required for NAGPRA. Corinne said Tom will arrange the transfer of the remains to Muncy. Supervisor Helsley will sign the letters and send them to Corinne via email and she will circulate them.

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ISSUING REPATRIATION STATEMENT

Dated: October 8, 2024

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Town of Germantown completed an inventory of human remains and determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Inventory Completion was published in the Federal Register in Volume 89, No. 133, page 56900, on July 11, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2024, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community sent a request for repatriation; and

WHEREAS, no other requests for repatriation were received.

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

1. Stockbridge-Munsee Community's request for repatriation meets the criteria under paragraph (f) of 43 CFR § 10.10 and the Town Supervisor be and is hereby directed to issue a response to this request;
2. The Town Supervisor be and is hereby directed to issue the Repatriation Statement, relinquishing possession and control of the human remains to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community; and
3. The Town of Germantown and the Town Historian will consult with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community on custody and physical transfer, document any physical transfer, and protect sensitive information from disclosure to the general public to the extent consistent with applicable law.

Introduced by Councilmember Suarez

Seconded by Councilman Sullivan

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- With our subscriptions to Office 365, Supervisor Helsley would like to discuss transferring from Zoom to MS Teams for remote meetings. Supervisor Helsley said this was just a suggestion. Councilmember Suarez would like to look into our annual fees for zoom and drive. Supervisor Helsley will investigate more into Microsoft.
- The Planning Board and ZBA chairs have interest in establishing town email accounts for their use instead of personal accounts. Discuss again.
- How to handle abandoned building department applications. Corinne recommended a Local Law. Draft and send to LaBella.

Supervisor's Report

- Supervisor Helsley to undergo left knee replacement on 10/31. Current plan is to attend the November 12th Town Board meeting.
- Supervisor Helsley is happy to announce that Jami DelPozzo is now uploading all electronic building department applications to the drive.

Comments from Councilmembers

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No comments from council.

Comments and Questions from the public

John Smith said he was not at the board meeting to complain he came to the meeting to make some observations about filming that he thinks can help the town board. John thinks the first thing should be is an insurance policy. John explained the situation with the Boom Truck operating under the power lines and how National Grid had to shut down the power. John also said the film company was also stopping traffic going up and down Anchorage Road and he feels that is a big liability for the town. Supervisor Helsley said after he heard all of the complaints was in contact with the production manager.

Tony Albino spoke in regards to the Fire Alarm Reactivation Law. Tony will sit down with Brandon and the Fire Chief and discuss about writing a law. Tony will create a booklet of what the contractors have to do while working on resident's houses that have alarms. Tony will bring the draft law to the November board meeting.

Martin wanted to thank the Town Board for all they have done. Martin also said the Park Commission bought trees to plant at the Ice House Landing. Two of the unplanted trees were stolen. Martin would like to a trail camera at Ice House. Corinne said yes that signage would deter vandalism. History marker on it. Martin said WAC thanked for the supporting letter to Amtrak. Martin said they received a Hover Grant for water chestnut removal in the amount of \$1,250.00. Access the stolen trees go through Amtrak cameras. Martin mentioned in filming action scenes guns, racing cars, smoke.

Tom Shannon and Councilman Christian are working on field trip to Cheviot Park for GCS Earth Science students to participate in the 'A Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor' sponsored by the DEC and its partners. Councilman Christian mentioned HHS students are also participating in the program, but at Lasher Park.

Tom mentioned Hover Foundation \$8,000.00 to the Friends of Hudson.

Ben Davidson said they are pursuing other grants. Ben also said the Lt Governor wants to see the site.

Corinne said to let the Union know the Highway department is looking for an applicant.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,