

Minutes of November 12, 2024, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom commencing at 6:49pm.

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 October 8, 2024 workshop and Town Board meeting minutes, October 22, 2024 workshop minutes and October 29, 2024 Public Hearing minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley just got the October report today, he has a meeting with Brian the accountant on Friday.

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

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received monthly report from the Highway department.

Old Business

- 2025 Budget. Resolution to adopt the budget as prepared.

TOWN BOARD TOWN OF GERMANTOWN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ADOPTING ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Dated: November 12, 2024

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly held on October 29, 2024 on the Preliminary Budget approved by this Board and filed with the Town Clerk for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2025 and having heard all persons desiring to be heard in the matter and the matter of the budget for this Town for such fiscal year having been fully discussed and considered, it is

RESOLVED, that the said Preliminary Budget is approved and filed as aforesaid, and hereby amended as follows:

[Budget line item] [Account no.] [Increase/Decrease] from [dollar amount] to [dollar amount]

and as so amended is hereby approved and established as the budget for the Town of Germantown for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilman Kukon

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

- Kellner Activity Building. Electrical rough-in is complete. Inspection passed on 11/8/2024. Rough-in plumbing is being completed and insulation and drywall to begin this week. Thank you to Councilmember Christian for the assistance with the fan work. Supervisor Helsley also thanked John Rustici for his help. Councilmember Suarez said at the meeting for the Winter Glow some members asked will the bathrooms be ready? Supervisor Helsley said if the bathrooms were not ready the town will supply port o potties. Supervisor Helsley said the plan is to be completely done by December 6th. Councilmember Suarez also asked will the kitchen be ready for the food vendor to use? Supervisor Helsley said the same the stove works and there are 18 different circuits in the kitchen and serving area. Councilmember Suarez asked will the building be clean and not dusty? Supervisor Helsley said if we have to, we will hire a cleaning crew. Supervisor Helsley does not see any delays.
- SPEDES permit- Comment from Jaime Malcom "I wanted to let you know that CO-BWP will be assisting me with the full technical review of your SPEDES permit, likely to start in Q1 2025, and hope to have it completed/out for public comment during the middle part of the year. I have worked on industrial permits mostly and needed the help with a municipal type WWTP."
- Salt Shed Roof Solar Array- only one vendor attended the pre-bid conference. Difficulty in the install on the salt shed roof as this is a sub feed and solar must be connected in front of the generator. There was some discussion about installing a new service and meter for the sole purpose of net metering. These comments will be posted as official questions and answers will be posted after November 15, 2024. Supervisor Helsley said comments are needed by the end of the week.
- Bard Parcel. The updated assessment was approved- still waiting word on the deed restrictions. Councilman Christian said he has not heard back about the deed restrictions.
- Vandalism at Palatine Park. Installation of cameras. Supervisor Helsley met with a representative from Verkada. She came up with a plan to provide coverage for town hall, beach house, Kellner, behind the garage and the snack bar/ball fields. A trial unit was shipped and will be installed on Kellner. Councilmember Suarez asked for financial quote? Supervisor Helsley said the representative is working on it.
- The Columbia County Hazard Mitigation policy. Any updates? Councilman Christian received a letter with the dates revising time schedule. Councilman Christian read the dates: November 18th mailing the draft of the core team, December 4th internal review, December 5th-16th revising based on the review, December 18th virtual presentation which is at 6pm online, January 18th review closes, wraps up January 31st.
- Local Law C- Real Property Tax Exemption for Seniors. Resolution to adopt.

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING INCOME LEVELS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

BE IT INACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE.

This Local Law shall be entitled "A Local Law Establishing Income Levels for Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemption."

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT.

The purpose of this local law is to provide a real property tax exemption to qualifying senior citizens as set forth in Real Property Tax Law § 467.

SECTION 3. AUTHORITY.

This Local Law is adopted in accordance with Real Property Tax Law § 467 and pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law section 10.

SECTION 4. EXEMPTION LEVELS.

The Town Board of the Town of Germantown, County of Columbia hereby adopts the following sliding scale schedule relative to income levels and the percentage of assessed valuation from taxation:

Annual Income	% of Exemption
\$34,000.00 and under	50
\$34,000.01 - \$34,999.99	45
\$35,000.00 - \$35,999.99	40
\$36,000.00 - \$36,999.99	35
\$37,000.00 - \$37,899.99	30
\$37,900.00 - \$38,799.99	25
\$38,800.00 - \$39,699.99	20
\$39,700.00 - \$40,599.99	15
\$40,600.00 - \$41,499.99	10
\$41,500.00 - \$42,399.99	5

SECTION 5. REPEAL.

All ordinances, local laws and parts thereof inconsistent with this local law are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, provision or part thereof this local law shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of this local law as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not so adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 7. WHEN EFFECTIVE.

This local law shall take effect January 1, 2025 and shall apply to taxable status dates occurring on or after such date.

Motion to adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2024 Real Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizen made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Roll call by the Town Clerk:

Supervisor Helsley: Aye

Councilmember Suarez: Aye
Councilman Sullivan: Aye
Councilman Kukon: Aye
Councilman Christian: Aye

- Local Law D- Real Property Tax Exemption for Disabled and Low Income Residents.

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Local Law No. 2 of 2024

A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING INCOME LEVELS FOR DISABLED AND LOW INCOME CITIZENS REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE.

This Local Law shall be entitled “A Local Law Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low Income Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption.”

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT.

The purpose of this local law is to provide a real property tax exemption to qualifying disabled and low income citizens as set forth in Real Property Tax Law § 459-c.

SECTION 3. AUTHORITY.

This Local Law is adopted in accordance with Real Property Tax Law § 459-c and pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law section 10.

SECTION 4. EXEMPTION LEVELS.

The Town Board of the Town of Germantown, County of Columbia hereby adopts the following sliding scale schedule relative to income levels and the percentage of assessed valuation from taxation:

Annual Income	% of Exemption
\$34,000.00 and under	50
\$34,000.01 - \$34,999.99	45
\$35,000.00 - \$35,999.99	40
\$36,000.00 - \$36,999.99	35
\$37,000.00 - \$37,899.99	30
\$37,900.00 - \$38,799.99	25
\$38,800.00 - \$39,699.99	20
\$39,700.00 - \$40,599.99	15
\$40,600.00 - \$41,499.99	10
\$41,500.00 - \$42,399.99	5

SECTION 5. REPEAL

All ordinances, local laws and parts thereof inconsistent with this local law are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, provision or part thereof of this local law shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of this local law as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not so adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 7. WHEN EFFECTIVE.

This local law shall take effect January 1, 2025 and shall apply to taxable status dates occurring on or after such date.

Motion to adopt Local Law No. 2 of 2024 Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low Income Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Roll call by the Town Clerk:

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

- NAGPRA Repatriation letter has been sent. Tom is waiting for word back. Corinne said Tom will be contact person for the transfer.
- Filming policy- how to proceed? Corinne received conflicting comments from Councilmember Suarez and Councilman Christian. Corinne said she received a good list from Councilmember Suarez that can be used. Councilman Christian is concerned with the timeline, slow process of the crew. Councilmember Suarez would like the neighbors and people that are impacted to be protected. Corinne can draft the policy keeping it simple and covering all issues. Supervisor Helsley would like to make sure that the neighbors are well noticed of what's happening and the hours of filming. Corinne will draft the policy and send to the town board to comment/add to for the December town board meeting.

New Business

- Information adult soccer league. Jan Brochert asking if the town would sponsor a recreational program for adults? Jan is suggesting an indoor soccer league in the school gym. Jan spoke with the school about renting the gym and has a list of people who would participate. Jan said the school said they would need insurance. Councilman Kukon said that he ran a basketball program and were told they did not need insurance, then were told they needed insurance. Councilman Kukon and a few others went to a school board meeting and the members told him they did not need insurance. Jan suggested an umbrella policy under the town's insurance. Corinne suggested talking to the insurance agent about adding the school district as an additional insurer and if it would cover this. Supervisor Helsley will talk to insurance agent about adding school onto the insurance. Councilman Kukon said there are other avenues to go through for insurance. Town Board is in support of the recreational program.

Supervisor' Report

- Supervisor Helsley's knee replacement has been postponed.

Comment from Councilmembers

Councilmember Suarez mentioned the interest of a pickle ball court and if there were any concerns. Supervisor Helsley said this has become very popular. Councilmember Suarez said they had discussed about adding funds in the budget for the Winter Glow for supplies for decorating and luminaries. Supervisor Helsley will talk to the accountant Brian on Friday. Councilmember Suarez wanted to know if a town employee would be available on December 14th for wagon rides. Councilmember Suarez is concerned about the drought for lighting the bonfire and luminaries. Councilmember Suarez will talk to Fire Chief. Councilman Kukon and Supervisor Helsley said it should be alright by then. Councilmember Suarez said the tree lighting will be at dark in the hamlet and carolers will proceed to the Activity Building.

Supervisor Helsley will talk to the Sheriff about road closure of end of Church Ave to Palatine Park Road for the time of the event.

Councilman Christian mentioned the charger in the town lot only one of the channels are working. He had talked to Charge Point and they reset it but it only worked for a few weeks. Charge Point won't repair it can be left as a single channel charger. Councilman Christian had a few other options. Are there places cheaper than Charge Point? Or put in a home charger? Councilman Christian said the cheaper chargers are the non-commercial. Councilman Kukon asked how much a new one would cost? Councilman Christian said about \$3,000-\$5,000. Supervisor Helsley will look into it. Councilman Christian will look up some grants. will look into it.

Councilman Christian said the kiosk at Cheviot Park was vandalized. He talked to Anthony about getting some tougher glass.

Councilman Christian mentioned the library having a air quality device on the building. Councilman Christian said the data is available online and suggested putting the link on the town website.

Comments and Questions from the public

Tony is here to go back over the false alarm fire law. Tony said the last version was too complicated they want to keep this law simple and based on the state law for false alarms. Tony will write up a pamphlet to be given out to homeowners. Tony said fines will be involved after multiple alarms. Corinne will simplify the new law from the last one. Tony will give Corinne the draft from the Fire company and Brandon.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,