

Minutes of January 14, 2025, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 6:42pm.

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 December 27, 2024 Year End Town Board meeting made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions.

Resolution to make final adjustments for 2024. Resolution to make final adjustments for 2024. Supervisor Helsley said the budget was amended moving allocated funds for the Town Hall roof and the Bard property will be covered under the grant. Supervisor Helsley went over the changes:

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION AMENDING 2024 BUDGET

Dated: January 14, 2025

WHEREAS, the Germantown Town Board has determined that from time to time budget amendments are necessary to properly reflect the allocation and expenditure of funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Germantown Town Board that the 2024 budget is hereby amended and funds transferred as follows:

General Fund	Acct No.	Budget Amendments	
		Increase Appropriations Decrease Est. Revenues	Increase Est. Revenues or Appropriated Fund Balance Decrease Appropriations
BUILDINGS-ARPA FUNDED	A1620.22A	274,192.20	
BUILDINGS-ARPA FUNDED	A1620.42A		97,202.32
BUILDINGS	A1620.4		50,000.00
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	A03310		126,989.88
BARD	A7110.2	5,400.00	
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	A03310		5,400.00
PARKS	A7110.2	3,841.19	
TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS (WAC)	A05031		3,841.19
UNALLOCATED INSURANCE	A1910.4	3,686.85	
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	A03310		3,686.85
PARKS	A7110.2	2,341.19	
ATHLETIC FIELDS	A7110.42	1,088.16	
PARKS OTHER	A7110.44		3,429.35
YOUTH PROGRAMS	A7310.1	5,665.00	
PARK & REC CHARGES	A02001		3,156.58
PARKS OTHER	A7110.44		2,508.42
CELEBRATIONS	A7550.4	5,524.39	
REVENUE FROM SPECIAL EVENTS	A02771		5,524.39
ZONING SECRETARY	A8010.11	175.00	
ZONING	A8010.41		175.00
PLANNING SECRETARY	A8020.11	395.50	
PLANNING	A8020.4		395.50
PLANNING CSC CLIMATE SMART	A8020.4CSC	5,836.72	
STATE AID - NYSERTA	A03089.1		5,000.00
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	A03310		836.72
PLANNING	A8020.41	7,389.22	
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	A03310		7,389.22
STATE RETIREMENT	A9010.8	13,605.00	
SOCIAL SECURITY	A9030.8	7,554.49	
UNEMPLOYMENT	A9050.8	6,965.85	
UNIFORMS	A9089.8	1,326.69	
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	A03310		29,452.03
Total		344,987.45	344,987.45

(0.00)

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

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ENCUMBERING 2024 UNEXPENDED BALANCE
Dated: January 14, 2025

WHEREAS, in accordance with Town Law §110, as of December 31, 2024 the Germantown Town Supervisor encumbered the applicable appropriation account balances to the extent of such unpaid obligations for 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Germantown Town Board wishes to approve such encumbrance and encumber all current funds of the 2024 budget to pay future bills received in 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Germantown Town Board to approve the encumbrance by the Town Supervisory and to encumber all current funds of the 2024 budget to pay remaining 2024 bills and to pay fiscal obligations as put forth by motions and resolution of this Town Board during the 2025 fiscal year, including but not limited to encumbering the following unexpended balances:

Amount	Budget Item
\$314,500.00	A1620.22a
\$155,000.00	DA5112.2

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

Motion to pay the audited bills for December 2024 with 2024 Budgeted funds and January 2025 with 2025 Budgeted funds made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley said the abstract is here for the Town Board to look over.

Councilman Christian asked if the Bard parcel is covered? Supervisor Helsley said "yes, it is and is also on the agenda".

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received Highway report.

JANUARY REPORT

1-PUT SCREEN FILL DOWN AT DALES BRIDGE PARK

2-REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF ALL PLATFORMS AT DALES BRIDGE

3-HAD 2 TREES COME DOWN ON 1/8

4-INSTALLED NE CHAIN AND SKID PLATE ON SANDER

5-WHEN WEATHER PERMITS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON FRONT OF HIGHWAY GARAGE

6-HAVE SENT OUT FUEL INVOICES TO SCHOOL AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

7-SNOW EVENT 1/11

8-APPROVE THE HIRING OF DYLAN RIDEOUTS AND TAMMY LYONS

9-NEW TRUCK DELIVERY DATE CHANGED TO MIDDLE OF FEBUARY

10- HAVE TAKEN DOWN CHRISTMAS AND PUT IT AWAY

HIGHWAY SUPERINTEDEDENT

ANTHONY CIDRAS

Old Business

- Kellner Activity Building. Work continues- The contractor has relocated the kitchen hood and is putting in the final touches. Electrical work continues with the majority of the work to be done to finish the kitchen.
- SPEDES permit- A new requirement for a Climate Risk form has been requested and Delaware Engineering is in the process of completing it.
- Bard Parcel. A proposal to conduct the environmental assessment has been received from Crawford and Associates.

Motion to approve the Supervisor enter into the agreement with Crawford & Associates in the amount of \$3,500.00 made by Councilman Christian, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Councilman Christian has a thought to have the electrical covered for the solar array on the Salt Shed. Councilman Christian is going to look into a DEC grant.

- The Columbia County Hazard Mitigation policy. Any updates? Councilman Christian has not received any updates.
- Local Law E- Filming. Any additional comments/recommendations by Council? Law still needs to be reviewed by the town CEO and any comments will need to be addressed. Supervisor Helsley said they are waiting for comments from the CEO. Corinne said a public hearing is needed. Supervisor Helsley will ask Brandon to have his comments in by January 27th. Public Hearing is set for February 11th at 6:45pm.
- EV charging station. Review of proposal to replace the existing charger. Is this State Contract or will we need multiple bids? Councilman Christian said Piso said no other bid needed. Councilman Christian said there are the two choices keep the charging station we have now or Piso gave a quote for two charging stations each with two plugs. Councilman Christian thinks this would be no extra cost to the town but there would be a higher yearly cost for the networking. Councilman Christian said he's not sure which way to go that they could raise the charging rate to 40 cents. Supervisor Helsley asked how many times both charging stations are being used? Councilman Christian thinks 4 charging ports is more than we need at this point. Supervisor Helsley recommended going back

to two ports. Councilman Christian will send the information to Supervisor Helsley and Corinne for a grant.

- Formation of a Recreation committee. Amendment of LL#3 of 2005. Corinne said we don't need a Local Law to form a committee. Corinne recommended repealing of amending LL#3 of 2005. Supervisor Helsley recommends repealing LL#3 of 2005. Councilmember Suarez will call out for members and will work with Jan Borchert on goals the town is looking for in this committee.

Motion to approve formation of Recreation committee made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley asked if we will be ready for a LWRP laws workshop in February. Councilman Christian will find out.

New Business

- Proposal by the Columbia County Land Bank to purchase 2 lots in Germantown. 169.-1-33.112 and 169.-1-33.200. Supervisor Helsley introduced Chris Brown Housing Development Coordinator for Columbia County. Mr. Brown said they started the process by creating a land bank which is a NYS public authority and a non profit, this non profit receives annual funding from NYS. Chris said there are 2 properties in Germantown on the list that were appealing to the land bank. Chris explained the process 1) removing the properties from the foreclosure list. 2) put out to a public sale- the land bank will bid on it. Chris said the town has a say in what property becomes and supports land bank. Councilman Sullivan asked who can buy these houses? Chris answered "yes" they can be bought by private homeowners. Councilman Kukon asked if the properties go to county sale can anyone bid on them? Councilmember Suarez asked what Mr. Brown is looking for from the town board? Chris just wanted to let the town board have an idea of what the land bank would do with the properties. Supervisor Helsley would support this. Town Board agreed.
- DEC Proposal to use Herbicide to control water chestnuts. Using a drone applying Clearcast to leaves of water chestnuts. Martin Overington said we have been invaded by 150 or so acres of water chestnuts which had blocked Cheviot Boat Launch. WAC and volunteers have been cutting channels through the water chestnuts. Martin said DEC contacted WAC in regards to the drone spraying the water chestnuts once a year. This would be done each year and then analyzed. Martin said the cost would be \$80,000 a year. Councilman Kukon asked if DEC would cover the cost? Martin answered, "yes". Martin said they have done other locations, the Mohawk and Oswego rivers. Kai Landow has spoken to people who have been using the spray who are deciding if they would go forward with the spray. The Riverkeeper is not opposed to it. Scenic Hudson is undecided. WAC conclusion is undecided. The study is positive. DEC needs an answer soon. Councilman Kukon asked what are the results? Kai said they are not seeing any impacts. Councilmember Suarez asked if any other communities have decided? Supervisor Helsley said that the town hasn't had much time to research this. Kai will have more information soon. Town Board is not making a decision tonight. Supervisor Helsley said there is not enough data to be in favor for. Supervisor Helsley will touch base with Martin.

Supervisor' Report

No report.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilmember Suarez said Big Towel Sauna they are at Oakdale Lake in the fall and winter months and they are looking for a new home for April, May & June in Palatine Park. Supervisor Helsley would be interested in their proposal.

Comments, Questions from the public

Chris Brown will come back next month and will send the Resolution to Supervisor Helsley and he will forward to Corinne.

Councilman Sullivan will send the comments regarding DEC to Town Clerk for the record.

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:59pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 8:20pm made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to hire Dylan Rideout, MEO at \$19/hour made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Respectfully submitted,