

Minutes of April 8, 2025, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:00pm.

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 March 11, 2025 LWRP Workshop minutes, Public Hearing minutes for LL E of 2024 and 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. No comments or questions from Council.

Motion to pay the audited bills for April 2025 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Town Clerk received monthly report from the Highway Department

#### APRIL REPORT

1-RECEIVED NEW F-550

2-HAD DAVES PLUMBING IN ACTIVITY BUILDING

3-FINISHED SHHETROCK AND PAINTING IN ACTIVITY BUILDING

4-SPENT A WEEK CUTTING TREES AND BRUSH ON TOWN ROADS

5-ORDERED BALLFIELD CLAY

6- ORDERED AND RECEIVED 100 TON OF SALT

7-TOKE 6-WHEELER TO ZWACKS FOR ESTIMATE FOR DAMAGE DONE FROM ACCIDENT

8-DECLARE 2005 FORD F-550 SURPLUS

9-CAMERAS ARE BACK UP INSIDE ACTIVITY BUILDING

10-HAD MINI SPLITS IN ACTIVITY BUILDING SERVICED

I NEED THE TOWN BOARD TO ADVISE ME ON WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO WITH THE CHILDREN AT PLAY AND WATCH OUT FOR CHILDREN SIGNS, OUR INSURANCE COMPANY HAS STATED THAT THEY NEED TO COME DOWN AND I CHECKED WITH THE COUNTY AND THEY ALSO SAID THAT THOSE SIGNS NEED TO COME DOWN .THIS ALSO INCLUDES THE ONES PUT ON PALATINE PARK RD AND MOUNTAINVIEW RD.

ANTHONY CIDRAS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Town Board discussed signage mentioned in the Highway report. Supervisor Helsley will go over the signage specifications with Anthony. Supervisor Helsley will have Brandon update the occupancy capacity of the Kellner Building.

### **Old Business**

- Kellner Activity Building. Final Electrical Inspection will be on the week of 4/14/25.

- Bard Parcel. Awaiting DEC approval of contract and the time on the permissive referendum to run. Once approved, motion for the Supervisor to sign the contract and make \$1,000 down payment (used toward the purchase price). Corinne said if they are further delayed the town may just move forward.

Motion for the Supervisor to sign the contract and make \$1,000 down payment made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

- LWRP- Budget needs review- Contract was signed, awaiting response from EDR. Local laws still under legal review. Councilman Christian asked the ETA on the Local Laws? Corinne will have for next month's meeting.

- Filming Permit review. Approve of recommended changes and set fees. Corinne recommended setting fees which the board can set now then annually. Councilman Christian thinks fees should be based on the size of the production. Supervisor Helsley agreed. The Town Board will research fees, tabled until next month.
- Recreation Committee. Any updates needed at this time? Councilmember Suarez said they held a meeting last night. Councilmember Suarez asked the Town Board if Sandra Osborn could be added to the committee? Town Board agreed to Sandra Osborn joining the committee. Tatianna Carayannis is the chair. The committee talked about pickle ball, indoor soccer, kayaking on the lake.
- Hudson River Greenway Grant. Claim for payment has been signed. Councilman Christian said payment has been sent. Councilman Christian talked with Anthony about getting a sign.
- Big Towel regarding use of the park for public saunas. Review of site plan and set fees. Supervisor Helsley will sign the contract for Big Towel.
- Proposed Fire Alarm Law from Germantown Fire District. Review of law and recommendations for changes. Set dates for Public Hearing. Corinne wants to make sure she knows which alarms the fire department is having issues with. Tony Albino will send Corinne's redlined draft to the Fire Commissioners. Tony said to hold off on the workshop for now.
- Fees and agreements for use of Kellner Activity Building. Review agreement document and recommend changes. Supervisor Helsley said there will be no charges for community organizations. Damages will be paid for. Corinne will review the draft model. Not for profit a fee of \$25. Town Board discussed a better rate for Germantown residents than out of town. Supervisor Helsley recommended a \$100 security deposit.
- Twin Ponds Solar. Agreements not ready and review of security deposit. Corinne will have in the google drive for May.

### **New Business**

- Salt Shed Solar RFP. New meter will be installed on the salt shed. Initially for Net metering, possibility of future EV charging station. Supervisor Helsley met with Tara Dinadio and revisited the solar on the Salt Shed roof. Supervisor Helsley said they could install a separate service, the solar should offset the fee. Councilman Christian suggested the far east side of the building. Corinne updated the RFP. Bids should be in by April 25, 2025 at 1:00pm. Contractors can register at **[nyscr.ny.gov](https://nyscr.ny.gov) and/or [germantownny.org](https://germantownny.org)**

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD

TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION  
Dated: April 8, 2025

**WHEREAS**, the Town was awarded a \$40,000 grant by NYSERDA under its Clean Energy Communities program to be used for installation of a minimum 20.25 kW rooftop solar array on the Town's salt shed located at 65 Palatine Park Road, Town of Germantown, Columbia County, NY; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(15) "installation of solar energy arrays on an existing structure" such as the Town's salt shed 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.

**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
2. The Town Supervisor, in consultation with the attorney for the Town, is authorized to issue the Invitation for Bids requesting bids for the Clean Energy Communities Program Roof Mounted Solar Array project according to the specifications contained therein and to receive sealed bids to be opened at the Town Hall on June 6, 2025 at 1 pm.

On a motion by Councilmember Suarez 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

- Website requirements. Corinne said there is new legislation in town's with a population over 1,500 residents require a **.gov domain**. Councilman Sullivan suggested to redirect .gov to the current website. Corinne will double check if this is possible. Corinne said there is guidance on how to establish the website.

- Town's Northern Border. The previous consultant used the middle of the Roe Jan as a boundary. The LWRP maps were made with the line in the wrong place. The NYS maps show correct border. Councilman Christian will talk to the GIS people at the County. Councilman Christian said he would write a letter explaining the problem. Town Board agreed to the letter. Supervisor Helsley thanked Councilman Christian for bringing this up.

- Amtrak survey of their Right of Way. Councilman Christian said several residents that border the Amtrak right of way have received letters asking to supply information where the boundary is and a number to call. Councilman Christian said the town has not received a letter yet. Supervisor Helsley will call the number on the letter and ask Amtrak if they are going to ask the town for maps. Corinne said that Amtrak should

Councilmember Suarez brought up the Resolution for the Harriet Tubman Scenic Byway, roof and Bard parcel. Tom Shannon said the scope of work, issue an RFP. Scenic letter from town drafted. Tom said a suggested name for the Bard parcel is Theodore Robinson Community Forrest. The Town Board will review the Resolution for the Harriet Tubman Scenic Byway. Corinne will correct the language for the May meeting. Corinne asked Tom for the roof estimate and building specifications and a written quote and how much? Tom said it is in the \$30,000 range. Corinne will prepare the RFP for Tom to review.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Reminder of the State Burn Ban until May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Petition circulating to recommend adding a County Executive. Be informed.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilmember Suarez said River Sweep will be held on April 26, 2025, 9:00am to Noon. Councilmember Suarez also mentioned the Town Wide Yard Sale and Garden Club Plant Sale is on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Comments and Questions from the public**

No comments from the public.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,