

**Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020 6:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance-** Mike Hinrichsen, Village President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Village President/Trustees	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mike Hinrichsen – President	Present														
Julia Miller (Electronic)	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									
Stephanie Chaon	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									
Dick Hartman	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									
Jim O’Laughlin	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									
Marty Clinch	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									
Todd Rice(electronic)	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									

Todd Rice and Julia Miller attended the board meeting by electronic means as per allowed by the Governor’s Executive Order and the modification of the Open Meetings Act. The village hall was open for the public.

Also, in attendance:

Rich Brecklin, Superintendent of Public Works
Scott DeSplinter, CMT, Village engineer (electronic)
Bill Streeter, Village Attorney
Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike Hinrichsen stated that he would like to do a moment of silence thanking those serving our Country both near and afar preserving our freedom.

2. Minutes Approval

- a. September 17, 2020 Village Board Meeting**
- b. October 5, 2020 Special Village Board Meeting**

A motion was made by Jim O’Laughlin to approve the September 17, 2020 and October 5, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dick Hartman. **Motion passed #1.**

3. Public Comments on Any Action Item on the Agenda-None

4. Public Comments on Any Non-Action Items

Jaclyn Shallat was in attendance and thanked the board for listening. In July she published a petition on line to remove the Thin Blue Line Flags or display other flags. She discussed the meaning of the Blue Line Flag and read several of the comments from the petition. She stated

she feels the flags should be welcoming to everyone and asked the board to reconsider the flying of the Blue Line Flags. Jaclyn gave copies of the petition to the board.

Olyvia Palacios was in attendance to discuss the Thin Blue Line Flags. She stated she felt it is appropriate to fly the flags at First Responders Park but felt there's no clear reason to have them at each end of the village. She explained Black Lives Matter vs Blue Lives Matter and what they mean. She requested the removal of the entrance flags and replace them with something more inclusive to represent our diverse population.

John Shallat was in attendance and stated he is not anti-police and is very thankful of their contributions. He told a story of his great grandmother and grandfather about how some words can mean something very different to people of different backgrounds. When the flags initially went up it was for something good but the problem is that some people don't see the same thing and it means something different now.

Trish Palacios stated last time she was at the meeting she discussed the meaning of resident, community and talked about privileged, prejudice and racism. Trish discussed coded language and covert racism. She read comments that have been said and the false information that has been spread throughout the community.

5. Current Agenda Items

a. Presentation of the Annual Audit and Financial Reports for FY 19-20

CliftonLarsonAllen

Adam Pulley from CliftonLarsonAllen was in attendance to present the audit and financial reports for FY 19-20. Adam reviewed the fund balances.

CliftonLarsonAllen issued an internal control letter with their findings and the letter of governance. He noted this year he had a different audit team as those that had been involved in past years had moved on to other opportunities. He thanked the village.

The board thanked Adam for all of his work.

b. Approval on the proposal to upgrade the two weather warning signs

Ann Sasso reported that updates are needed to the two warning sirens in order to be compatible with the new emergency system at Woodford County.

A motion was made by Jim O'Laughlin to approve the proposal to upgrade the two weather warning signs in the amount of \$2,200. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #2.**

c. Approval of the sidewalk along Woodland Knolls Road in front of State Farm and the funding of the sidewalk

Scott DeSplinter stated they have finished the design and have submitted it to IDOT for review for their portion that is in the right of way. The project is going out to bid on October 28th to be awarded this year.

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the sidewalk along Woodland Knolls Road in front of State Farm and the funding of the sidewalk out of the Business District Funds. The motion was seconded by Jim O'Laughlin. **Motion passed #3.**

d. Approval on the future plans for the Community Center

Dick Hartman stated that the park committee had recommended demolishing the Community Center. Rich Brecklin is checking on an estimated cost and the timing of the work. He will also check with the fire department on their possible training activities with the building.

e. Approval on the development of Triangle Park

Dick Hartman noted Rich Brecklin has put together a design for a Veteran display at Triangle Park. Rich Brecklin will get a more specific plan and costs for the next meeting. Dick Hartman stated he appreciated Rich's work on putting this together.

6. Ongoing Agenda Items-None

a. Discussion and approval on returning to normal works schedules, and opening the hall-The board agreed to leave things as is.

7. Presentation of Bills

a. General/Sewer/Audit/MFT Bills-A motion was made by Jim O'Laughlin to approve the General, Sewer bills, Business District and Audit bills as amended. The motion was seconded by Dick Hartman. **Motion passed #4.**

The bills included the additional bill to Fritch Heating for the air purifiers. Ann Sasso noted with the previous amount that was approved the total cost is now approximately \$100,000. This will be submitted to the CURE Program for reimbursement.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Stephanie Chaon stated she would be scheduling a meeting to discuss the tax levy in November.

b. Streets/Equipment-Todd Rice had nothing new to report.

c. Personnel-Julia Miller had nothing new to report.

d. Police-Marty Clinch had nothing new to report.

e. Parks-Dick Hartman stated the First Responders Park sign has been installed. We will plan a dedication soon. Rich Brecklin is getting a light for the sign and a Rotary sign indicating the donation of the pine trees.

f. Sewer-Jim O'Laughlin discussed the lining of a culvert.

g. Storm Water-Jim O'Laughlin had nothing new to report.

h. Economic Development Council-Ann Sasso noted she is helping the Germantown Hills School and Terra Engineering on the ITEP Grant letters of support for a pedestrian bridge and trail. The Mixed-Use Zoning is going to the Planning and Zoning meetings with a recommendation to the Village board on November 18th. This would allow a residential use along with a commercial use. The Village received the drawings on the revolving loan improvements to the Village Hall doorways. Ann submitted a request to the CURE Program for the first reimbursement on the air purifiers, which was approved. The additional air purifiers are being ordered with a request to the State for reimbursement.

9. Reports of Special Committees-Nothing new to report.

10. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Sasso stated the garbage fee will be discussed in November as the cost of garbage just went up on the Village's contract. Todd will schedule a meeting to discuss. Ann Sasso ordered the title searches on the properties for the Fandel Annexation so that the agreement can be drafted. Ann received two quotes from an insurance company to compare to our current coverage that are being reviewed. The Verizon tower request may be coming sometime next year but they may need to request a variance. The Village's Christmas party is cancelled this year. Ann reminded the board about the next meeting dates along with the fall landscape dates in November.

b. Superintendent of Public Works-Rich Brecklin stated he is getting new tires for a couple of the trucks. Rich noted everything is ready for the winter as we have plenty of salt. Rich noted IDOT is doing traffic counts within the village.

The guys are working on grinder p.m.'s. Rich noted at his operator's meeting some safety guidelines were discussed. Rich stated he may be looking at replacing some of the Village's safety equipment.

We are starting to get some applications for the open position. The contractor will be starting soon on Fandel Road. Rich reported he had gotten called out to help save a puppy in a culvert.

Julia Miller stated she knows the family was extremely grateful.

c. Village Attorney-Bill Streeter had nothing new to report.

d. Village President-Mike Hinrichsen had nothing new to report.

11. Communications to the Board-Two letters were received and read. One was requesting a food pantry in the area and one was about the flags.

12. Adjournment-A motion was made by Jim O'Laughlin to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #5.**

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk