

Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 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 | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | | |
| Amy Pace | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | | |
| Dick Hartman | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | | |
| Jim O’Laughlin | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | | |
| Marty Clinch | Present | Y | Y | - | - | - | - | - | | | | | | | |
| Todd Rice | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | | |

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

Also, in attendance:
 Bill Streeter and Chuck Urban, Village Attorney’s
 Scott DeSplinter, Village Engineer
 Rich Brecklin, Superintendent of Public Works.

2. Introduction of employees

Rich Brecklin introduced the employees. Jake Craig and Zack Hecht that have been with the Village for four years and Eddie Flatt Jr and Mike Scott that were just hired recently. Unfortunately, Jake Craig recently gave his two weeks’ notice to leave for a great opportunity in East Peoria. The Board thanked Jake for his time and service to the community and welcomed the new employees.

3. Minutes Approval

- a. September 20, 2018 Village Board Meeting-**A motion was made by Marty Clinch to approve the September 20, 2018 Village board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Amy Pace. **Motion passed #1.**

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

5. Public Comments on Any Non-Action items

Jim O’Laughlin stated he was pleased to be chosen for the Honor Flight. He stated it was one of the best experiences of his life. He explained his experience in going to Washington D.C. on Tuesday. Mike Hinrichsen thanked him for his service.

6. Current Agenda Items

a. Discussion on the Feral Cat issue

Krystal Uppole, Sherry Powley and Debbie Thurman have been working on the managing of the feral cat issue in the community. They have been trying to find groups and programs to help in order to be cost effective. They have been trapping some of the cats and taking them to the Vet hoping to reduce the numbers as much as possible. They are working on how to resolve the issue. Tim Beechler has created a Facebook page to help get people to assist in finding homes for the cats.

Mike noted we are trying to take this to a manageable level. The County doesn’t want to deal with this but they have a trust fund that was set up to pay for dogs, cats and other critters. Mike indicated the possibility of the Village being able to give some funds at some point until the trust fund can help.

b. Discussion and approval on the demolition of the Community Center

Julia Miller noted the park committee discussed the condition of the Community Center. The committee had recommended removing it. Rich had an estimate to demolish it a couple of years ago and is trying to get an updated amount but has not received it yet. Once a new bid is received this will be discussed at a meeting.

c. Discussion and approval of the Park Hours & Rules

Julia Miller stated the park committee recommended the park hours and rules to be posted at the parks. Rich Brecklin had a cost on a sign holder. Bill Streeter stated the purchase approval wasn’t on the agenda for approval so this will be added to the next board agenda.

d. Discussion and approval of an engineering agreement for the Somerset Sidewalk

Julia Miller had asked for this item to be on the agenda for discussion. She felt at the previous meeting the focus was on speeding instead of the safety of the kids. She noted the speed of the vehicle has the impact on injuries but not the number of incidents. She stated with not having the engineering done we are missing out on a Safe Routes to School Grant. She felt it’s a shame because through the grants is how Fandel Road sidewalk was built. Julia found data that incidents with pedestrians and vehicles that it is rarely the driver’s fault but mostly the kids’ fault. She feels strongly the need to get the kids off the roads and that people move here for the safety.

Marty Clinch noted at the Police Committee meeting they discussed both short term and long-term solutions. They discussed putting in temporary speed humps and increased police presence.

Mike Hinrichsen had shared traffic counts and speeds with Tri-County Planning Commission and they gave us some information.

Scott DeSplinter noted it is the intent to design the sidewalk along Somerset in the right of way but until they look more closely they wouldn't know if easements would be needed.

Marty Clinch left at 6:54 p.m.

Todd Rice noted there are two issues which include the speeding along Somerset and getting the kids off the roads.

Scott DeSplinter explained what the engineering agreement for Somerset included. It would be a lesser cost if they only determined location and whether or not it would be in the right of way, easements, north or south side of the road.

Todd Rice noted this is the same explanation Scott gave the board in January when the engineering agreement was discussed.

Ann Sasso noted the Village can't look for grants if the preliminary engineering isn't done which keeps us from starting the sidewalk along Somerset and applying for grants. Many communities struggle with not having projects shovel ready in order take advantage of grant opportunities.

Todd Rice stated it will be hard for him to support anything at Germantown Crossing if we aren't willing to spend money to do the preliminary engineering to have Somerset ready for sidewalk improvements.

Mike Hinrichsen noted we need to know what that lesser amount would be as the total cost for the engineering was approximately \$65,000.

Rich Brecklin indicated the possibility of striping a bike lane in some areas.

Scott DeSplinter will get a quote for the planning portion and the preliminary engineering for the next agenda.

e. Approval of a Resolution amending the Personnel Policy regarding sexual harassment

Bill Streeter explained a new law amended the Sexual Harassment policy on the number of days of when you can file a complaint.

A motion was made by Amy Pace to approve Resolution-2018-02 to amend the Personnel Policy regarding sexual harassment. The motion was seconded by Jim O'Laughlin. **Motion passed #2.**

7. Ongoing Agenda Items-Discussion and approval of a lease agreement for the cable tower property-Nothing new to report.

8. Presentation of Bills

a. General-A motion was made by Jim O'Laughlin to approve the general bills. The motion was seconded by Julia Miller. **Motion passed #3.**

b. Sewer-A motion was made by Jim O’Laughlin to approve the sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Julia Miller. **Motion passed #4.**

c. Audit-None

d. MFT-None

9. Reports of Standing Committees

a. **Finance**-Amy Pace stated she would schedule a finance meeting to discuss the tax levy on November 15th at 5:30 p.m.

b. **Streets/Equipment**-Todd Rice indicated the Village has received lots of compliments on the road work this year.

c. **Personnel**-Julia Miller noted we have an awesome team of employees.

d. **Police**-Marty Clinch was not in attendance.

e. **Parks**- Julia Miller had nothing new to report.

f. **Sewer**-Dick Hartman had nothing to report.

g. **Storm Water**-Jim O’Laughlin stated there had been a little drainage damage with the new subdivision that they inspected. Scott DeSplinter had looked at it and has informed the developers.

h. **Economic Development Council**-None

10. Reports of Special Committees-None

11. Reports of Officers

a. **Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator**-Ann Sasso asked the board about the Christmas party and banners this year. She also mentioned the possibility of another potential lot in the area for sale if the board would be interested.

Ann noted after receiving an insurance quote we will be continuing our business with ILMRMA based on the service and cost. The School has authorized an engineering company to put together information supporting the meeting of the warrants in IDOT’s administrative code, which allows for the sharing of the cost of a pedestrian overpass over Rt. 116 along with the plans for a sidewalk from Arbor Vitae to the crossing. This would also be a connection to MTCO Park.

b. **Superintendent of Public Works**-Rich Brecklin reported they have closed the restroom for the season at the park.

The road work has received a number of compliments from the community. Rich reported on the new trucks.

Rich noted he had to get a new blower at the plant for \$8500 because it could not be rebuilt. The guys have been working on grinder pumps weather permitting.

Rich attended the IPWMAN Conference and there's a PPUATS meeting next week where hopefully we can get some funding in the future on a couple of roads in the Village that are eligible.

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

d. Village President-Mike Hinrichsen stated they are having a combined PPUATS meeting next week to see if there are STU funds.

There was a meeting with Congressman Darin LaHood to see if there are funds available and he was supportive of the proposed pedestrian crossing from the School to MTCO Park.

Representative Ryan Spain is also checking into potential funding for some Village improvements.

There will be a Natural Hazard Mitigation public meeting in January that will allow the Village to apply for grants.

Rich Brecklin, Ann Sasso and Mike Hinrichsen had toured Morton's Memorial Plaza and parks for ideas for the Village Square. Mike noted there's a lot of work that needs to be done from now until the spring. There's going to be a meeting on MTCO Park next week.

12. Communications to the Board-None

13. Approval of closed sessions pursuant to: Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village or legal counsel for the Village

A motion was made by Todd Rice to go into executive session at 7:42 p.m. pursuant to: Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village or legal counsel for the Village. The motion was seconded by Julia Miller. **Motion passed #5.**

A motion was made by Todd Rice to come out of executive session at 8:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Julia Miller. **Motion passed #6.**

Todd Rice noted the most recent hiring process went very well. He would suggest not using consensus in the future since it should have been a unanimous decision at the board meeting based on the consensus vote. He would recommend bringing the recommendation to the full board on the hiring of an applicant but the full board would not be involved in the interviewing.

Bill Streeter noted he would recommend not doing consensus votes unless there is some urgency, which there was in this case.

Jim O'Laughlin explained his reasoning behind his vote.

14. Adjournment-A motion was made by Amy Pace to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The motion was seconded by Todd Rice. **Motion passed #7.**

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk