

Village of Germantown Hills

Village Board Meeting Minutes

November 18, 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	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Stephanie Chaon	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Dick Hartman	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Jim O’Laughlin (Electronic)	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
Marty Clinch (Electronic)	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
Todd Rice (Electronic)	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Todd Rice, Marty Clinch, and Jim O’Laughlin 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)
- Chuck Urban, Village Attorney (Electronic)

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. October 15, 2020 Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Jim O’Laughlin to approve the October 15, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #1.**

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

4. Public Comments on Any Non-Action Items-None

5. Current Agenda Items

a. Approval of the Tax Levy Ordinance FY 20-21

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve Ordinance #828 the Annual Tax Levy Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Dick Hartman. **Motion passed #2.**

b. Discussion and approval of submitting a request to the Local CURE Program for additional PPE equipment due to COVID-19

Ann Sasso explained that the village has approximately \$44,000 of funds available as a part of the Local CURE Program to be used on COVID related expenses. She has compiled a list of needs from the Fire Department and water company along with some additional village needs. The total is near \$20,000. Ann asked if additional COVID related equipment and supplies could be purchased in order to use up the funds allotted to Germantown Hills and request from DCEO an additional \$100,000 to help our business community with COVID related expenses.

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve submitted a request to the Local CURE Program for additional PPE equipment due to COVID-19 and an additional request for \$100,000. The motion was seconded by Marty Clinch. **Motion passed #3.**

c. Discussion and approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Tri-County Planning Commission

Mike Hinrichsen explained the Memorandum of Understanding with Tri-County Planning Commission and how the communities work together.

A motion was made by Julia Miller to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Tri-County Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #4.**

d. Discussion and approval on the liquor license fees for 2021

Ann Sasso asked the board if they would waive or discount the liquor license fees for 2021 in order to give some help to our businesses within the Village of Germantown Hills. She stated the total fees amount to \$3,200 and although this would be a small gesture it would at least be a help to our businesses during this difficult time.

A motion was made by Julia Miller to approve waiving the liquor license fees for calendar year 2021. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #5.**

Ann Sasso stated the ordinance making the change for the liquor license fees for 2021 would be brought to the December meeting.

e. Approval of the bid to construct a sidewalk along Woodland Knolls Road in front of State Farm

Rich Brecklin stated there were two bidders for the sidewalk along Woodland Knolls Road in front of State Farm. ICCI was the low bidder. The bid came in higher than the engineer's estimate. The main reason was due to the asphalt patch being higher than was anticipated. The general fund will pay \$18,116.12 for the part that is outside of the Business District. The Business District will pay the remainder of \$58,655.88.

A motion was made by Jim O’Laughlin to approve the bid from ICCI in the amount of \$76,722 for the sidewalk along Woodland Knolls Road in front of State Farm. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #6.**

f. Approval of the final closeout certifications with IEPA

Scott DeSplinter explained the close out documents for the IEPA that include three certifications that have to be signed.

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the final closeout certifications from the IEPA. The motion was seconded by Julia Miller. **Motion passed #7.**

g. Approval of the WWTP #2 Loan Repayment Agreement

A motion was made by Jim O’Laughlin to approve the WWTP #2 Loan Repayment Agreement. The motion was seconded by Dick Hartman. **Motion passed #8.**

h. Discussion and approval on the garbage fee

Todd Rice explained where we are at on the garbage fee charged to the residents versus what we are being charged as a part of the Village garbage contract. In October it will go up again as we are already getting close to not covering our costs. Todd stated he proposes to raise the garbage fee \$1.00 a month but then hopefully not need to raise it until October 2022. The garbage fee is still reasonable especially with all of the services that are provided. The board discussed possible changes we can discuss when we start looking at a new contract.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve raising the garbage fee by \$1.00 a month effective March 2021. The motion was seconded by Jim O’Laughlin. **Motion passed #9.**

i. Approval of an Ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance in regards to Mixed Use Zoning

Jim O’Laughlin asked about requiring alarm and sprinkler systems in allowing residential with commercial for mixed-use zoning.

Chuck Urban noted they had looked at the code and it wouldn’t be prudent or advisable to try enforce it with the ability to take action as the village doesn’t currently have codes or inspections. There are laws at the state level but the village doesn’t have staff for inspections or compliance at this time.

Ann Sasso noted we have discussed the possibility of changing the code.

Marty Clinch and Jim O’Laughlin both noted the need to look at doing this in order to protect the village.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approved Ordinance #829 an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance in regards to Mixed-Use Zoning. The motion was seconded by Dick Hartman. **Motion passed #10.**

j. Discussion and approval of a Christmas bonus for the village employees

Julia Miller explained due to the unusual year she is proposing a \$500 bonus to each employee.

Todd Rice stated he is in favor to increase it this year if it helps our employees plus it is the right thing to do with everything that has been going on in 2020.

A motion was made by Julia Miller to approve a \$500 bonus to all village employees. The motion was seconded by Todd Rice. **Motion passed #11.**

k. Discussion on the results of the advisory referendum public question

Mike Hinrichsen explained the results from the advisory referendum public question on a cannabis dispensary. The board discussed whether to put it on the agenda next month or wait until January. The board agreed to wait until January.

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. The board discussed setting up Zoom meetings but leaving it up to the board members on their preference on attendance.

b. Approval on the future plans for the Community Center-Rich Brecklin is waiting on estimates.

c. Approval on the development of Triangle Park with a Veteran's Display-Rich Brecklin noted he had to have the property pins marked in order to confirm placement of the Veteran's display. He is working with ICCI on a concrete design and CMT is looking at doing a visual design.

7. Presentation of Bills

a. General/Sewer Bills-A motion was made by Jim O'Laughlin to approve the General and Sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Marty Clinch. **Motion passed #12.**

8. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Stephanie Chaon had nothing new to report.

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

c. Personnel-Julia Miller stated the job descriptions were just completed once Ann Sasso makes the revisions. A new employee has been hired and has already started.

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

e. Parks-Dick Hartman had nothing new to report.

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 the School had applied for an ITEP Grant for the pedestrian crossing and trail to Arbor Vitae. Debbie's' Gaming is closing at the end of the month.

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

10. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Sasso stated the title searches have been completed on the Donald Fandel property so we are working on the annexation agreement. We received the bill from the diesel fuel leak that will be paid soon. It was for \$31,235.38 but insurance will be covering it.

Ann Sasso asked if the board would be interested in having the safari animals in our area for display just for something different within the community. Ann had reached out to the artist about the sculptures. The board agreed to possibly look at doing something in the spring in coordination with the Chamber Vendor event.

b. Superintendent of Public Works-Rich Brecklin stated the snow equipment is ready. The salt price went up for this year. The Fandel Road sidewalk drainage project has been completed. Some village streets are being swept weather permitting. The staff is working on the grinder p.m.'s.

The new employee has started and is doing great. He brings a lot of knowledge that should be a help to the village in the future.

Jim O'Laughlin thanked Rich Brecklin with helping a homeowner with some sink holes. Jim asked about the street lights.

c. Village Attorney-Bill Streeter was not in attendance due to another meeting conflict. Chuck Urban and Bill Streeter wished the board a Happy Thanksgiving.

d. Village President-Mike Hinrichsen stated he and Ann Sasso had met with Ryan Spain to talk about the things the Village is doing. Ryan was very complimentary of First Responders Park and is a big supporter of the Village.

The board discussed having a small event at First Responders Park this year. Ann Sasso noted other residents have asked about making it a bigger event next year with a tree lighting and other festivities.

11. Communications to the Board-None

12. Adjournment-A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. The motion was seconded by Julia Miller. **Motion passed #13.**

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk