

**Village of Germantown Hills**  
**Village Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 28, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

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

Village President/Trustees	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Jeff DeGroot – President	Present														
Stephanie Chaon	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Karl Figg	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Todd Rice	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					

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

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Minutes Approval**
  - a. **September 16, 2021 Village Board Meeting**  
 A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the September 16, 2021 Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Karl Figg. **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. **Presentation on the request of funds from Caterpillar Trail Public Water District**  
 Deferred
  - b. **Discussion and potential action on the request of a donation from the Metamora High School Robotics Team**

Two students (Gregory Fletcher and Zoe Stoecker) and their mentor (Darcy Hunt) were in attendance to discuss the MTHS Robotics Team. They discussed what the team does and how they are able to help mentally or physically disabled kids. They are asking for a donation to their program.

Todd Rice noted he is a huge proponent in giving to help our kids in the community.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve a donation to MarsWars as a gold level sponsorship in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon.

**Motion passed #2.**

### **Public Comments on any non-action items**

Tamra Watts, owner of the Liquor Shoppe was in attendance. She noted the current ordinance allows feather flags 6 times a year for 20 days each. She stated she has increased her income since she put up the feather flags and would like to have them up all year round. She stated Metamora doesn't have an ordinance, Washington allows them up all year for a \$10.00 fee and Peoria Heights allows them in certain commercial districts. Tamra stated 120 days a year is not enough to be allowed to have them up.

Ann Sasso stated the code allows a building with two or more businesses to have feather flags up six times a year for 20 days. The owner of the property is the one that gives permission for the permit. The Planning Commission looked at this in 2016, 2017, and 2018. The board approved the requirements in 2018 which are similar to the banner permit requirements.

The board agreed to have the Planning Commission revisit the issue with a recommendation to the village board. The Planning Commission meets on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Presentation on the request of funds from Caterpillar Trail Public Water District**

Bob Sutton, Caterpillar Trail Chairperson was in attendance to explain the request the Water District has made to the village to fund three of their projects with the American Rescue Plan Grant Funds totaling approximately \$53,000. Greg Long, Superintendent of the Water District, Zachary Taylor, Water District Trustee and John Heiple, the District's attorney were also in attendance.

Bob Sutton noted that Caterpillar Trail is a non-profit and they don't get any tax revenue. The American Rescue funds can be used for necessary infrastructure projects which include water, sewer and broadband. Bob noted half of their users are in the village limits. The Water District works cooperatively with the village in several ways. They have 3 projects that are shovel ready. Bob explained each project.

Jeff DeGroot noted the village had a sewer committee meeting before the board meeting, which Bob Sutton attended a portion of. Jeff noted everyone at the meeting should be able to see what our immediate needs are and the \$465,000 funds are going to be used up very quickly as the village has some urgent needs. Jeff noted the Water District's projects sound like viable projects but the village has projects to do in the next year, which total approximately \$500,000 and \$1.5 million in the next two years.

Zackary Taylor asked what the village's plan was before the funding was available.

Todd Rice stated the village has a sewer facility plan that addresses some of the needs.

Jeff DeGroot noted the two projects that just came up were not planned. They are emergencies. Woodford County has some funds available that Caterpillar Trail could apply for in order to fund their projects.

Bob Sutton stated the Water District already put in for 3 projects with the County but he expects the village to assist the district with these project requests.

Todd Rice questioned the quotes on the projects as they are over two years old and don't appear to be urgent needs. Todd Rice noted an issue with an attorney bill years ago that the district made the village pay. Todd felt the village shouldn't have had to pay it at that time. Todd Rice indicated the possibility of paying for one of the projects.

Nathan Henricks stated we need to look at the list of what the village needs to do and will discuss the request.

**c. Approval of the engineering agreement for WWTP #2 Wolf Creek Stream Restoration**

Scott DeSplinter explained the Wolf Creek Stream Restoration project.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the engineering agreement for WWTP #2 Wolf Creek Stream Restoration. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks.

**Motion passed #3.**

**d. Village President Planning Commission, EDC and Committee Appointments**

Jeff DeGroot made the appointment of Marc Wright to the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the appointment of Marc Wright to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Todd Rice. **Motion passed #4.**

Jeff DeGroot made the appointment of Nathan Henricks as personnel committee chairperson and Jeff will chair the parks committee. Julia Miller moved out of the village so she has resigned from the village board.

**e. Approval of a Resolution amending the Personnel Policy in regards to classification and compensation**

The personnel committee made a recommendation to the village board to eliminate private company comparisons in the personnel policy in regards to classification and compensation. The consultant that did the compensation study stated it was not feasible to compare village job positions and responsibilities to private companies.

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve Resolution #2021-01 a Resolution amending the Personnel Policy in regards to classification and compensation. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #5.**

**f. Approval of the employee wage adjustments**

Julia Miller was in attendance. Julia Miller explained the results of the compensation study, which showed what we already knew, in that a majority of our positions have been underpaid. The compensation study was completed by HR Fit, a local consultant.

The personnel committee made a recommendation to the finance committee, which made a recommendation to the village board to raise the hourly pay for all full-time employees by \$4.00 in order to more closely match the salary ranges. The part time position was already at the pay level recommended as a part of the compensation study.

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the employee wage adjustments for all full-time employees by \$4.00 an hour effective October 29, 2021. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #6.**

The board is hoping the pay and benefits will help to retain employees as the village has already lost several employees to other municipalities.

**g. Approval of the Pro-tem Village President upon his absence**

Jeff DeGroot appointed Todd Rice as Pro-Tem Village President in Jeff's absence.

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve Todd Rice as Pro-tem Village President upon Jeff DeGroot's absence. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #7.**

**6. Ongoing Agenda Items-None**

**a. Village Board review of the Journal Entry Report-**Ann Sasso noted the journal entry report is included in the board packet for review. The board reviewed the journal entry report. This report shows the revenues for the prior month plus any transfers between funds.

**7. Presentation of Bills**

**a. General/Sewer/Audit/MFT Bills-** A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the General and Sewer bills as amended. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #8.**

**8. Reports of Standing Committees**

**a. Finance-**Stephanie Chaon noted we are working on the levy for the next meeting.

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

**c. Personnel-**No report.

**d. Police-**Karl Figg had nothing new to report.

**e. Parks-**No report.

**f. Sewer-**Nathan Henricks had nothing new to report.

**g. Storm Water-**Tom Eckstein had nothing to report.

**h. Economic Development Council-**Ann Sasso noted that she and Rich had met with IDOT concerning the trees along Rt. 116 in front of the Germantown Crossing shopping center sign. A vegetation permit needs to be completed for First Build owners and CEFCU. We are working on trying to get this completed still this year.

At the TWG meeting this month Mark Fenton, an urban planner with an expertise in active transportation was the speaker.

The Germantown Chamber's Trunk or Treat event is on Saturday from 12-3:00 p.m. and the Fire Department is hosting a Halloween costume contest from 1-4:00 p.m.

Ann noted two area salons and one restaurant applied for the Back to Business Grants. The awards haven't been made at this time.

The village is sponsoring the next Chamber meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> at Kouris at 8:00 a.m. Board members are welcome to attend.

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

## **10. Reports of Officers**

**a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-**Ann Sasso noted we are still working on the German Hills lift station lot so that we can determine ownership and who has to sign off on the property. The village is still waiting on the specific plans to see what our next steps are on the cell tower possibility. There's also been some interest in the 26 acres parcel along Fandel Road with possibly a small subdivision.

There have been some complaints about the speeding through Oak Grove Park. Woodford County has sat there but we are not sure what else we can do.

Senator Stoller's office is assisting the village in getting the annexation agreement approved with the State Police as a part of the Intergovernmental Agreement from years ago.

Ann Sasso stated she has been working on some grant applications. One of the grants can be used for the Michael's Run for Life. Ann is meeting with Shane Mitchell and the committee to go over what is needed for the application.

Ann noted there's another grant that is available in regards to covid and commercial areas. Ann explained it would fit perfect with the vacant property the village was looking at but we would need a letter of intent in order to apply for this grant. Ann may have a contact person and asked if the board wants her to check on this. Otherwise, we would need to find another location in order to submit the grant. The board agreed to check on the possibility.

Woodford County is asking communities if they have projects for the American Rescue Funds. Ann Sasso submitted a request to Woodford County on the Townhall Road to Lourdes Road sewer extension. This is needed in order to continue the development to the east and serve MTCO Park and the commercial property in the future.

Ann Sasso noted she is having to revise the GATA (Grant Accountability and Transparency Act) During the MFT audit the \$34,000 transfer was not included in the total amount of MFT. The auditors are having to issue another type of opinion due to the village having over \$300,000 last year in state and federal fund. Ann indicated she was advising the board in case we get another bill from the auditor.

In looking at the Germantown Crossing sign by Ricky's, Ann polled the EDC and most wanted color logos for recognition. This will need to be talked about at the next meeting.

**b. Superintendent of Public Works**-Rich Brecklin stated he is waiting on hardware for the swings at the park. They should be starting on the concrete soon for Veterans Park.

Rich reported the snow equipment is ready and we have plenty of salt in storage.

The staff has been working on grinder p.m.'s and are doing a great job. Rich attended the IPWMAN Conference. It is a protection we have for mutual aid in the event of an emergency. If the village ever needs help, the organization will bring help to the village for 5 days at no charge.

**c. Village Attorney**-Bill Streeter and Chuck Urban had nothing new to report.

**d. Village President**-Jeff DeGroot had nothing new to report.

#### **11. Communications to the Board-None**

**12. Adjournment**-A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #9.**

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk