

Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes

November 18, 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
Jeff DeGroot – President	Present											
Stephanie Chaon	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Karl Figg	Present	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Todd Rice	Present	Y	Y	P	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. **October 28, 2021 Village Board Meeting**

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the October 28, 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. **Approval of the appointment to fill the Village Board Trustee vacancy**

Jeff DeGroot stated he, Rich Brecklin and Ann Sasso had met with proposed trustee Heather Armistead and feels she will be a great addition to the board.

Jeff DeGroot made the appointment of Heather Armistead to fill the Village Board Trustee vacancy left by Julia Miller. Heather will be sworn in at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the appointment of Heather Armistead to fill the Village Board Trustee vacancy left by Julia Miller. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #2.**

b. Village President Committee Appointments

Jeff DeGroot made the committee appointments to Heather Armistead that Julia Miller served on, which includes Heather as Park Chairperson.

c. Approval of the use of the American Rescue Plan Grant Funds

Jeff DeGroot stated in October the sewer committee had met to discuss sewer infrastructure needs that will be required in the next two years that total \$1.5 million.

Karl Figg had talked to Bob Sutton about the Caterpillar Trail grant request to the village and asked him to prioritize the three projects. He noted Cat Trail's chlorine level is regulated by the EPA so it would be a priority for the community with a total approximate cost of \$33,375.

Rich Brecklin stated the village is also regulated by the EPA so the improvements to the sewer system would also be a priority.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve using the American Rescue Plan Grant Funds for urgent sewer infrastructure needs. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #3.**

d. Approval of the Tax Levy Ordinance for FY 21-22

Ann Sasso stated a tax levy spreadsheet was sent out for review by the board with potential recommendations. A Tax Levy Ordinance showing the levy at the same total tax dollars with no changes or increases was presented for consideration.

Todd Rice gave the history of past tax levy ordinances. He noted since he has been on the board, the levy was raised only one time by 4.9%. Otherwise, the board has kept the levy at the same total tax dollars each year. The board has been able to sustain healthy fund balances even though funds have been spent on new equipment and roads.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve Ordinance #843 the Tax Levy Ordinance for FY 21-22. The motion was seconded by Karl Figg. **Motion passed #4.**

e. Discussion on the State Police Annexation Agreement

Ann Sasso stated she has been working with Senator Stoller's office on getting the State Police Annexation Agreement signed. The State Police have requested that as a part of the annexation agreement that the village agree to pay to install the sewer lateral and any other costs to make the sewer connection. Ann Sasso talked with Rich Brecklin about the possibility.

Rich Brecklin explained that he is not sure of where the sewer is and if it would need to be bored under the road and parking lot. Rich suggested waiting until the sewer main is constructed as the State Police would be required to hook on to the sewer once their septic system fails.

The board discussed and agreed to table this for now. The village needs to get the funds in order to extend the sewer main, which could be over \$500,000 and the village was already giving the State Police a free sewer hookup currently valued at \$2,600.

f. Discussion and approval on the Germantown Crossing ground sign

Ann Sasso noted the EDC had discussed the Germantown Crossing ground sign and have recommended going with a black curved ground sign with colored logos.

Todd Rice felt we should look into the option of putting something better in that location such as an LED sign in order to give notices to the residents. The board discussed and agreed to have Ann Sasso talk with the owner on their plans with their LED sign.

g. Discussion and approval on an employee Christmas bonus

Jeff DeGroot stated previous to last year each employee has received a \$250 bonus.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the employee Christmas bonus of \$250 per employee. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #5.**

h. Discussion on the Woods of Germantown Hills

Ann Sasso noted the sidewalks in the Woods of Germantown Hills Subdivision were supposed to be completed by November 15th. They are close with only 7 remaining. One of the developers of the Woods of Germantown Hills subdivision asked if because of the weather, labor issues and having to adjust the sidewalk plan that they could have until spring to complete the remaining sidewalks. The board agreed to allow the extension until May 1st so the letter of credit will be extended.

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 Tom Eckstein to approve the General and Sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #6.**

8. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Stephanie Chaon was not in attendance.

b. Streets/Equipment-Todd Rice stated he will be scheduling a street committee meeting to discuss the budget for the streets and the sidewalk plan.

c. Personnel-Nathan Henricks had nothing new to report. Rich Brecklin noted the new employee will have completed his 90-day probationary period later in November.

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 asked the board about putting up new Xmas banners. The board agreed.

Ann Sasso noted the Chamber breakfast this month was sponsored by the village. There will probably be a chamber social in January but no date has been set yet. The Prayer breakfast and Halloween events were a success. The Chamber asked to get as many businesses as possible to put up white Christmas lights.

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

10. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Sasso noted the Planning Commission will be discussing the feather flags in January. Ann reported the village's total grant award history since 2007 is \$1,377,928. This does not include the EPA loan forgiveness amounts. At the next meeting Captain Marc Wright would like to present two boys with a citizen's award. The village will be getting each boy some gift certificates for the presentation.

Ann Sasso stated the village has received the permit request for the cell tower. They will need a special use and variances as the village code is out of date in regards to updated tower specifications. The village could also look at updating the code as a part of this process. The board agreed to have a draft ordinance put together for their review.

b. Superintendent of Public Works-Rich Brecklin stated everything is going well and he will be out starting December 6, 2021 for medical reasons.

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 Karl Figg to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #7.**

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk