

Village of Germantown Hills
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2022 5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes Approval**-Jeff DeGroot called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and roll call was taken.

Village President/Trustees	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nathan Henricks – Chair	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Jeff DeGroot – Village President	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Heather Armistead	Absent	-	Y	Y	Y		
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Karl Figg	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y		

Also, Present:

Rich Brecklin, Superintendent of Public Works

Scott DeSplinter, Village Engineer

Bill Streeter, Village Attorney

- a. **October 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes**-A motion was made by Jeff DeGroot to approve the October 28, 2021 sewer committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #1.**

2. **Discussion and recommendation to the Village Board on a potential sewer extension**

Rich Brecklin reported that the OSF Motherhouse is interested in the possibility of connecting to the village's sewer system as their system needs to be replaced. They are approximately 1¼ miles away. Back in 1971 the village agreed to allow them to hook on but that never happened. The village needs to decide if it's ok for the Motherhouse to run a main up to Casey's and hook on to the sewer. Rich noted there are not many that are living there now but could potentially house up to 200 people. The village would need to decide if we are going to own the lift station and maintain it or have them own and maintain it.

Scott DeSplinter stated the force main would be in the right of way so the village would own it along with the air valve. There would be some maintenance on the air valve with a little income for the sewer user fees. The force main would be there if anyone along Rt. 116 would need sewer but they would have to pump to it.

Stephanie Chaon arrived at 5:09 p.m.

Scott DeSplinter noted the pipe would be sized to whatever the Motherhouse would need. The village would need to have a develop agreement with the Motherhouse in order to approve accepting the sewer improvements, maintenance and billing processes.

Rich Brecklin stated they already have a contractor lined up but would need to get an engineer to do the design.

Todd Rice arrived at 5:18 p.m.

Rich Brecklin stated the Motherhouse has to do something as the EPA won't let them put back what they had.

The committee discussed the benefits.

A motion was made by Jeff DeGroot to recommend to the village board to consider the potential of a sewer extension from the Motherhouse along Rt. 116 to the village sewer main extension. The motion was seconded by Karl Figg. **Motion passed #2.**

Rich Brecklin will let them know that the village is interested and confirm that they are interested before moving forward.

Jeff DeGroot asked about the legal and engineering costs. The committee discussed the possibility of having a larger sewer hookup fee to offset the additional costs.

3. Discussion and recommendation to the Village Board on the Wastewater Certifications

Rich Brecklin explained that the wastewater licenses are tough to get as the test is hard to pass. Currently the job description for the public works maintenance position requires the employee to get a Class 4 Wastewater license within 3 years of employment. The employees have to be on the job for at least a year before taking the test. The village provides all of the books for the employees and the employees are encouraged to study when time allows at the sewer plant. Rich noted there a couple of employees that haven't passed their wastewater license. The employees work under Rich's Class 2 wastewater license as that is required in order to be a chief operator and run the sewer plant for the village.

There are two questions that need clarification. Does the board want to continue to require the employees to get their Class 4 Wastewater License within 3 years? Secondly, does the board want to continue paying for the time to go take the tests and reimburse the employee for the mileage no matter how many times they take it? The committee discussed.

A motion was made by Jeff DeGroot to recommend to the village board to make taking the Class 4 Wastewater license test optional and the village will continue to pay for the test, time away and reimbursement of the mileage to take the test no matter how many times the employee takes it. This will be up to the discretion of the supervisor to allow the employee to leave work and reimbursement will be made upon proof of taking the test. The motion was seconded by Karl Figg. **Motion passed #3.**

Even though the village is not going to require the license as a part of their employment, it will still be encouraged to do so.

4. Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this act, for the semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated.

Bill Streeter, Rich Brecklin and Ann Sasso had reviewed the executive meeting minutes and had recommended to the committee that they all remain closed. The committee agreed. Ann Sasso explained since there were no sewer committee meeting minutes to open and all would remain closed an executive session would not be needed. There will be a short committee meeting before the next board meeting to approve the sewer committee meeting minutes.

5. Adjournment-A motion was made by Jeff DeGroot to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m. The motion was seconded by Karl Figg. **Motion passed #4.**

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk