

Village of Germantown Hills

Village Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2023, 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 - 13
Jeff DeGroot – President	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Stephanie Chaon	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Heather Armistead	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Karl Figg	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Todd Rice	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						

Also, in attendance:

Bill Streeter, Village Attorney

Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Zack Hecht, Public Works

Scott DeSplinter, Village Engineer

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes Approval

a. December 15, 2022, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the December 15, 2022, 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

Todd Rice stated he had received an email from a resident just outside the corporate limits about garbage collection. He stated half of his street is in the village and half is out. His portion doesn't have sewer nor are they a part of the garbage contract. The homeowner asked how they could be a part of the garbage contract since their costs have gone up so much.

Todd Rice noted there are areas along Hickory Creek Court and Whispering Oaks Subdivisions that should be looked at to see about the possibility of annexing as part of the streets are in the village and parts are out.

The board agreed the option to annex some areas could be explored.

Heather Armistead stated a neighbor had asked her if anything could be done with the intersection at Holland and Woodland Knolls Road. Her neighbor feels there are a lot of accidents in this location.

Scott DeSplinter noted a traffic study was completed years ago when they were looking at a possible round about. The intersection wasn't designated unsafe but very busy due to the closeness of the intersection to the Rt. 116 intersection. They discussed options at the time but decided it was not feasible.

5. Current Agenda Items

a. Discussion and Recommendation on Village Trustee Compensation

Jeff DeGroot had asked for this to be on the agenda for a discussion.

Todd Rice noted years ago the board talked about changing the compensation. He noted other communities' compensations were looked at and discussed. Each community does things differently. At the time, the board agreed to leave the rate as is. Todd Rice had recommended \$125 for each board meeting. There would be no extra pay for committee meetings. The board was in consensus to modify the ordinance. Ann Sasso will amend the ordinance for the next meeting for consideration.

b. Discussion on the Assistant Bookkeeper/Treasurer Position

Ann Sasso noted the person we thought was going to take the job may not be able to due to looking for childcare. Ann asked the board if they wanted to wait or go ahead and advertise.

Jeff DeGroot stated to go ahead and put the job opening on Facebook.

c. Discussion on the Somerset Sidewalk and Next Steps

Representative Darin LaHood had called to inform the village they had received the grant for the Somerset sidewalk.

Scott DeSplinter noted when they looked at the sidewalk for Somerset the south side had more utilities plus there were more conflicts getting kids safely across the street from the southside. Scott noted it looks like there will need to be a temporary grading easement, but they will finalize their preliminary plan to see what is needed.

Ann Sasso will check on the timeline and who is administering the grant.

d. Discussion and Potential Approval on a Donation to Mars/Wars

Mars/Wars had asked for a donation to the program this year.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve a donation to Mars/Wars in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. **Motion passed #2.**

e. Approval of CMT's 2023-2024 General Engineering

Scott DeSplinter presented their general engineering agreement.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve CMT's 2023-2024 General Engineering Agreement. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #3.**

6. Ongoing Agenda Items-None

a. Village Board review of the Journal Entry Report-Ann Sasso noted the journal entry reports for October, November and December are in the board packet for review. The journal entries are revenues and transfers entered each month. The board reviewed.

7. Presentation of Bills

a. General/Sewer/Audit/Business District/MFT Bills- A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the General, and Sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #4.**

8. Reports of Standing Committees

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

b. Streets/Equipment-Todd Rice stated the road inspections would be coming up soon.

c. Personnel-Nathan Henricks had nothing new to report.

d. Police-Karl Figg stated there will be a new police services contract in May so he would be scheduling a meeting.

e. Parks-Heather Armistead stated we would have a park meeting soon. Ann Sasso had sent an email to the board that the RTP grant had opened and that it is a grant opportunity to apply for a trail for the new park. Scott DeSplinter will need to map out a trail so that we can apply for the grant.

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

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

h. Economic Development Council- Ann Sasso talked to Harold from MadMacs about attending the Farmers Market this year and he is going to check to see if he can make it work. The EDC talked about the vacant lots in Germantown Hills. Cullinan still wants \$300,000 for the lot by Dollar General and the Coventry Farm Commercial property is listed at \$595,000. Cullinan stated they are continuing to reach out to various local and national grocery stores, retailers and restaurants. Ann noted there may be a potential developer interested in the 4-acre parcel by the State Police. Ann had talked to Bill Streeter about the process to sell the property. Jeff DeGroot stated he recommended that he, Bill, and Ann meet with the potential developer.

Ann noted she would be attending the Annual Rural and Community Economic Development Conference in February.

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

10. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Sasso noted the Chamber vendor event and pork chop sale will be on May 6th this year. Ann asked the board about two different dates for the Community Cleanup Day. The board agreed to the week of May 22nd.

Ricky's gas station has asked about the possibility of video gaming but he would need a different liquor license. The board agreed to check with him on the location of where he will put the machines and how he will handle the additional parking.

Ann asked the board if they would have interest in the texting program Metamora is now using. The board agreed it would be a good way to communicate with the village residents and agreed to have it set up.

Ann stated she is putting together some information to put on Facebook about all of the benefits with the garbage services. The board reviewed the information and agreed.

b. Director of Public Works-Rich Brecklin was not in attendance. Zack Hecht stated the German Hills lift station construction is going well and they are hopeful for startup on Monday.

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

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

11. Communications to the Board-None

12. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: February 16, 2023-A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon.
Motion passed #5.

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk