

Village of Germantown Hills

Village Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 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	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Stephanie Chaon	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Heather Armistead	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Nathan Henricks	Absent	-	-	-	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	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		

Also, in attendance:

Bill Streeter, Village Attorney

Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes Approval

a. August 17, 2023, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the August 17, 2023, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Todd Rice. **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 to hire a part time Assistant Bookkeeper/Village Treasurer to work up to 20 hours a week as needed.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to hire Marcie Cowling as the part time Assistant Bookkeeper/Treasurer to work up to 20 hours a week as needed. The motion was seconded by Karl Figg. **Motion passed #2.**

b. Approval for the Assistant Bookkeeper/Village Treasurer to be added to the CEFCU Accounts for transactions and the Illinois Fund Accounts

A motion was made by Karl Figg to add the Assistant Bookkeeper/Treasurer to the CEFCU Accounts for transactions and the Illinois Fund Accounts. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #3.** Marcie Cowling was sworn in as Village Treasurer.

Nathan Henricks arrived at 6:06 p.m.

c. Approval of the Joint Funding Agreement for PE/ROW for the Engineering for the Trail & Pedestrian Bridge over Rt. 116 in Germantown Hills

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the Joint Funding Agreement for PE/ROW for the Engineering for the Trail & Pedestrian Bridge over Rt. 116 in Germantown Hills. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. **Motion passed #4.**

d. Discussion and Approval of the Business Community Improvement Grant Requests

A request for a Business Community Improvement Grant was received from Ann Alton Physical Therapy for a new sign on the Kaufman Center Building. The grant request would be for \$422.50.

A motion was made by Karl Figg to approve a Business Community Improvement Grant for Ann Alton Physical Therapy in the amount of \$422.50 for a new sign. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Chaon. **Motion passed #5.**

A request for a Business Community Improvement Grant was received from Veronica Axelson to re-install the lighting on the Kaufman Center building. The grant request would be for \$466.19.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve a Business Community Improvement Grant for \$466.19 to Veronica Axelson. The motion was seconded by Karl Figg. **Motion passed #6.**

A request for a Business Community Improvement was received from the Germantown Hills Chamber for a new sign on the Kaufman Center Building for the Germantown Hills Chamber and the Art Korner.

There had been much discussion at the EDC meeting on the chamber meeting the requirements as a business and signing over a year lease. Veronica Axelson stated the Germantown Hills Chamber is set up as a 501 C-6 non-profit organization and they signed a 13-month lease with payment for rent not starting until October.

Todd Rice noted concern with giving a grant to a non-profit and wondered if this could be a donation similar to what the board has done in the past with other requests. He feels the grant process could create a problem with a non-profit and there's a need to keep them separate.

A motion was made by Karl Figg to approve a donation to the Chamber in lieu of a grant to be administered the same as the requirements of the business community improvement grant program. The motion was seconded by Todd Rice. **Motion passed #7.**

6. Ongoing Agenda Items-None

a. **Village Board review of the Journal Entry Report**-Ann noted the journal entries are revenues and transfers entered each month. The journal report was reviewed by the board.

7. Presentation of Bills

a. **General/Sewer/Audit/Business District/MFT Bills**- A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the General, Sewer, and Business District bills. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #8.**

8. Reports of Standing Committees

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

b. **Streets/Equipment**-Todd Rice stated there have been some drainage concerns at MTCO Park. The concerns have been communicated to the school.

c. **Personnel**-Nathan Henricks noted the post for the public works position is still being advertised as there was an issue with the first advertisement.

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

e. **Parks**-Heather Armistead had nothing new to report. Ann stated we received notice that the village had been awarded the grant for phase 1 of the trail and she will talk with Dan Mair about having the kids at the school help with the naming of the park.

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

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

h. **Economic Development Council**- Ann Doubet noted Blue Margaritas has purchased Kouris and they hope to open the first part of December. Leon Edwards is in the First Build Associates Building now with his business.

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

10. Reports of Officers

a. **Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator**-Ann Doubet stated she is looking at different desks since the present ones are not in good shape. Great Oaks Church has some, but we would need to get new tops for them. She is also looking at getting another drawer type of safe to replace the old one that was disposed of. The cell tower is supposed to be operational October 1st. IDOT is going to install accessible pedestrian signals push buttons at our stop lights. Typically, there would be a cost participation by the village, but IDOT is waiving it for this project.

b. **Director of Public Works**-Rich Brecklin was not in attendance.

c. **Village Attorney**-Bill Streeter had nothing new to report. Chuck Urban noted the complaint has been drafted for the resident in Whispering Oaks.

d. **Village President**-Jeff DeGroot noted there will be an ESDA meeting in October. Jeff noted he cannot attend the Community Prayer Breakfast and asked who would be able to attend and speak in his place. Karl Figg agreed to attend and speak.

11. Communications to the Board-The village received a thank you note from St. Mary's School for the golf outing donation.

12. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: October 19, 2023-A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks.
Motion passed #9.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk