

# Village of Germantown Hills Village Board Meeting Minutes October 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	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	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	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		

Also, in attendance:

Bill Streeter, Village Attorney

Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Rich Brecklin, Director of Public Works

Scott DeSplinter, Village Engineer

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 2. Minutes Approval

### a. September 21, 2023, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the September 21, 2023, 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-**Kitty Cullet was in attendance to discuss the proposed sidewalk along Somerset Drive. Kitty stated she was attending the meeting as a representative of the homeowners for fact finding information. She stated they were not informed of a sidewalk being constructed and would like to know the exact plans of when and where with them being the end user.

Todd Rice noted that everything is preliminary right now, but the village received a grant, and the engineers are looking at utilities and right of ways for the sidewalk. Todd stated this has been discussed for years on how to get the kids off the road to keep them safe. During the meetings years ago, there were three different options of sidewalk plans that were discussed but funding wasn't possible at the time. The village looked at several options at that time and decided to put in speed humps to try and slow the traffic down.

Scott DeSplinter stated the project started in the study phase where they looked at different options with different costs. Right now, they are working on preliminary plans, cross sections, engineering, and the environmental review. They are trying to stay within the right of way and

hope to have the plans in a month or so to determine if there are any potential impacts to private property.

Kitty noted it would have been nice if the board would have come to the five homes to discuss other options.

Nathan Henricks stated the village is looking at the safety for the whole community.

Ann noted the village won't know if there is any impact to private property until the engineering is done but the hope is to keep the sidewalk in the right of way.

Karl Figg indicated to Kitty that they aren't the end user but it's the 50 plus kids that are walking and bicycling to school each day and then need to get home safe.

Scott DeSplinter noted they are working on the plan and trying to analyze the location of the sidewalk, along with IDOT standards, and working through the environmental review. He stated he is hoping to have something to review in a month or so but this is the typical process.

Jeff DeGroot noted the reason the right of way is there is for the village to have the right to make improvements when needed.

Todd Rice noted getting the kids off of the road is the village's priority.

CMT will get the plans completed and then a meeting can be scheduled.

## **5. Current Agenda Items**

### **a. Discussion on the Classifications of Liquor Licenses**

Veronica Axelson was in attendance as the Germantown Hills Chamber would like to ask for a liquor license. They would like to hold chamber events, business afterhours, First Friday events, and allow the Art Korner to have art classes to BYOB. She noted the chamber would have the insurance and they would have guest's sign a waiver.

The board would need to create a license or modify an existing license. The board was in consensus for Bill and Ann to put a proposed ordinance together.

### **b. Approval of the Agreement between the Village of Germantown Hills and the Sisters of the Third Order of St, Francis**

Bill Streeter stated the flat user rate has now been agreed upon. Bill proposed tying it to the CPI to adjust with inflation. The recapture agreement only impacts two properties due to a standard residential lot not being applicable.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the agreement between the Village of Germantown Hills and the Sisters of the Third Order of St, Francis to raise the basic fee after ten years based on the CPI. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks.

**Motion passed #2.**

### **c. Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Electronic Participation in Meetings.**

Bill Streeter stated the open meetings act has been amended to allow the missing of a meeting due to childcare scheduling conflicts.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve Ordinance #869 An Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Electronic Participation in Meetings. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. **Motion passed #3.**

**d. Approval of the Engineering Agreement for the Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail**

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the engineering agreement for the Germantown Hills to Metamora trail. The motion was seconded by Todd Rice. **Motion passed #4.**

**e. Approval to Hire a Part-Time Assistant Bookkeeper/Village Treasurer**

Defer

**f. Approval of a Resolution Setting Out Benefits to be Provided to Village Part-Time Employees**

Defer

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

Defer

**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 Todd Rice to approve the General, Sewer, and Business District bills. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #5.**

**8. Reports of Standing Committees**

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

**b. Streets/Equipment-**Todd Rice stated there will need to be a meeting at some point to talk about potential traffic issues with MTCO Park.

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

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

**e. Parks-**Heather Armistead had nothing new to report.

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

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

**h. Economic Development Council-** Goodfield State Bank is having an afterhours on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are removing the soil at the old Germantown Automotive and will be restoring the ground.

Jeff DeGroot stated the cell tower is up and running.

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

**10. Reports of Officers**

**a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-**Ann Doubet stated Blue Margaritas will be opening sooner now so we will be able to have our Christmas party.

**b. Director of Public Works-**Rich Brecklin stated the IEPA did an inspection, and they were impressed with our facility. They stated it was the best sewer plant lagoon they have seen. The plows have been checked and are ready to go. The new trucks have had the logos put on them. A local resident has offered to put up more trees at J.R. White Park. He is willing to purchase the trees and water them. Ratto Meismer is not going to be picking up trash along Rt. 116 anymore. The state wasn't furnishing bags and didn't pay for the light bar on his car that was required so he is going to be done. The village gave a gift card to Eddie due to the passing of his father.

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

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

**11. Executive session: Approval of closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village or legal counsel for the Village.**

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to go into executive session at 7:09 p.m. pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village or legal counsel for the Village. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #6.**

Rich Brecklin and Ann Doubet left the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

The board returned to regular session at 7:36 p.m.

**Approval to Hire a Part-Time Assistant Bookkeeper/Village Treasurer**

A motion was made by Karl Figg to approve the hiring of a part-time assistant bookkeeper/Village Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #7.**

**Approval of a Resolution Setting Out Benefits to be Provided to Village Part-Time Employees**

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve Resolution 2023-06 a Resolution Setting Out Benefits to be Provided to Village Part-Time Employees. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #8.**

**12. Communications to the Board-**None

**13. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: November 16, 2023-**A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #9.**

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk