

Village of Germantown Hills Village Board Meeting Minutes November 16, 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			
Stephanie Chaon	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Heather Armistead	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Karl Figg	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Todd Rice	Present	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. October 19, 2023, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the October 19, 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-**Jeff DeGroot informed the meeting attendees that each speaker would be allowed to speak for five minutes per the village code.

Damien Cruse, 201 Whispering Oaks Drive was in attendance and asked why the Somerset residents weren't notified about the proposed sidewalk construction. The sidewalk is going to take up a good portion of their yard.

Todd Rice indicated this has been a topic of discussion for the past 9 years and this a main thoroughfare for three subdivisions that funnel to Somerset in order for the kids to get to the school. In the past, the village has tried to have more police protection and has installed speed humps to slow the traffic down. A third option was to construct a sidewalk within the right of way. CMT had developed three different sidewalk plans at the time, but the funding was not there. A grant opportunity came up that made the multi-use path a possibility in order to get the kids off the street. Todd noted the village couldn't come to the residents until there was a plan.

Scott DeSplinter stated the village approved funding a few months ago and they are working to finalize the plans. They are following up on some utility questions and once everything is pulled together then the village will be prepared to talk to the residents.

Todd Rice noted the village is looking to do what we can to get the kids off the road.

Stephanie Cruse, 201 Whispering Oaks stated the safe way to keep kids off street is for the kids to take the bus. It's only for a few months that parents can take the kids to school, or they can ride the bus.

Todd Rice noted the village can't force parents to make the kids ride the buses.

Kitty Cullett asked if there could be a smaller buffer to put the sidewalk closer to the road so that it's less intrusive to their properties.

Todd Rice noted once we have a detailed plan the village will hold individual meetings with property owners so that everyone can see the plan.

Kitty Cullett stated they want their wishes to be heard all together.

Terry Wilmarth stated he doesn't have a problem with the sidewalk and realizes it is needed in parts of the village. Mr. Wilmarth asked about the plan and timing of construction.

Scott DeSplinter explained the grant is for a multi-use path. They are looking at both sides of the road and the impacts on utilities, drainage and impacts to personal property. As an engineer they have requirements and standards that they can't vary from so once they have a recommended plan it will be presented to the village for review. At that time if there needs to be adjustments they can be made. The proposed timing would be for summer construction.

Damien Cruse stated he is also speaking for Jeff Ricketts. Mr. Ricketts had questioned why it couldn't go on the other side of the road.

Jeff DeGroot noted that once the village sees a recommended plan from the engineer, then meetings will be scheduled the first week of December.

5. Current Agenda Items

a. Discussion on the Classifications of Liquor Licenses with Potential Modification

The chamber is requesting a liquor license for business afterhours, First Friday events, and art and painting events. Janet Velling, Germantown Hills Chamber secretary was in attendance to discuss the Chamber's request for a liquor license. Janet stated the chamber wants to do something fun for the community which would allow people to bring their own beverage for a painting party, along with an afterhours event. Veronica Axelson was on the phone, as she could not attend. Janet noted they won't be selling or serving the alcohol.

Jeff DeGroot stated the concern is who is going to be there enforcing the rules and monitoring the consumption of alcohol with a BYOB license.

Veronica stated the events will be fun events where one or two glasses of wine may be consumed but chamber members and Ruth Inman, who has been doing this for years will be at the events.

Ann Doubet had talked with Blake Mischler about the BYOB being different than the PA license.

Jeff DeGroot asked if the Chamber's attorney could put something together for the board to consider.

Veronica stated he could.

b. Swearing in of the New Village Treasurer

Julia Miller was sworn in as Village Treasurer.

c. 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 Stephanie Chaon to approve the Assistant Bookkeeper/Village Treasurer to be added to the CEFCU Accounts for transactions and the Illinois Fund Accounts. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #2.**

d. Approval of a Business Community Improvement Grant

The EDC has recommended approval of a Business Community Improvement Grant to Blue Margaritas.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the Business Community Improvement Grant to Blue Margaritas in the amount of \$5,000 for two new signs. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #3.**

e. Discussion on the Grinder Preventative Maintenance scheduled for 813 Hickory Creek Court

Rich Brecklin stated the employees have been doing the grind p.m.'s as weather permits. A resident at 813 Hickory Creek Court has refused to have the village do preventative maintenance on their grinder pump. There have been two times where there has been a failure possibly due to the check valve and their basement has flooded. The village needs to be able to check the pump and service it to save the resident from potential failure. The pump shows grease build up. The employee documented the condition of the grinder pump.

Bill Streeter noted the village code shows when the property owner gets a permit that the village has an easement to service and maintain the grinder pump. The village will need to let the homeowner know we have the right to maintain the pump.

f. Discussion and Approval of an agreement between the Village of Germantown Hills and Tri-County Planning Commission to provide services for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve an agreement between the Village of Germantown Hills and Tri-County Planning Commission to provide services for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #4.**

g. Approval of the 2024 Meeting dates for the EDC, Planning Commission and Village Board

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the 2024 meeting dates for the EDC, Planning Commission and Village Board. The motion was seconded by Tome Eckstein. **Motion passed #5.**

h. Approval of the Tax Levy Ordinance for FY 23-24

This was deferred until the December meeting.

i. Approval of the Christmas Bonus for all Village Personnel

Nathan Henricks recommended keeping the Christmas bonuses the same as last year.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the Christmas bonus for all village personnel to be \$350.00 net. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #6.**

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 #7.**

8. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Stephanie Chaon had nothing new to report other than review of the journal entries.

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. IDOT wouldn't approve a right in/right out so the traffic will be forced through Whispering Oaks or the Rt. 116 intersection at Lourdes Road. The village may need to talk to a state representative to help get the right in/right out constructed or a light at the intersection due to safety concerns with the additional traffic.

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

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

e. Parks-Heather Armistead was not in attendance.

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 that BP Amoco did the cleanup at the old automotive property. Stan Adams from Metamora purchased the property to get it cleaned up.

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

10. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Doubet stated we received the fully executed joint funding agreement for preliminary engineering for the RT 116 Pedestrian bridge and trail grant.

Ann updated the board on the Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail grant that the Joint Funding Agreement is being executed. Due to an increase in costs the local participation amount needs to be increased for both Germantown Hills and Metamora. Metamora needs to contribute \$7,000 more, so we will need to attend the Village of Metamora board meeting on Tuesday to make sure it is approved. Metamora has some board members that don't understand and/or don't want to contribute any more money. Jeff DeGroot and Karl Figg will plan on attending.

Later in November there is a Woodford County Special Use public hearing on goats. The board didn't have any comments to send to the county. Ann reported two new Xmas banners are being made and then they will be put up. The village received from Ameren a reimbursement of \$311.20 on the LED lights. The Mars Wars Donation will be on the December agenda for discussion. The Rotary Club received a grant for two benches to be placed at the MTCO playground.

b. Director of Public Works-Rich Brecklin stated the snow equipment is ready. Townhall Road is going to be closed for two weeks for the new sewer line for MTCO Park. There were some issues with the sewer line extension for MTCO Park. Rich is waiting to hear back on the EPA permit.

c. Village Attorney-Bill Streeter explained the paid leave for all workers act that goes into effect with the new law January 1, 2024. The ordinance approval will allow the village to be grandfathered to require at least one day off for all employees that would normally not have any paid time off.

d. Village President-Jeff DeGroot wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

11. Communications to the Board-None

12. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: January 18, 2024-A motion was made by Todd Rice to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. **Motion passed #8.**

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk