

Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance-** Karl Figg 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 - 18
Karl Figg – President	Present											
Heather Armistead	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Paige Patel	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Todd Rice	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y			

Also, in attendance:

Bill Streeter, Village Attorney
 Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Zack Hecht, Public Works

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes Approval

a. October 17, 2024, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Paige Patel to approve October 17, 2024, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #1.

- 3. Public Comments on Any Action Item on the Agenda-** Karl Figg explained the rules for the public comment period as this will not be a question-and-answer period, but each person may speak up to two times for a total of five minutes. There were no public comments.

- 4. Public Comments on Any Non-Action Items-**Karl Figg noted the same rules apply for the public comment period on any non-action item.

Randy Perau made some public comments for the board to consider.

5. Current Agenda Items

a. Presentation on the Metamora Pool Improvements Requesting Support

Chelsea Corwin, a resident of Germantown Hills, board member on the Metamora Area Swim Team and a part of the committee formed to raise awareness and funds for the improvements to the Metamora Pool was in attendance to discuss the Metamora Pool. Chelsea explained that the Metamora Pool has been servicing the local communities for over 60 years. The pool is operated and managed as a service for the Metamora Park District. Currently the Metamora Pool is in good operating shape but needs some repairs to allow it to continue to service the communities for the next 7-15 years. Chelsea explained approximately 65 Germantown families in 2024 joined other students from MTHS District to compete as a part of one team. She noted last year 80 Germantown Hills children received swimming lessons through the Metamora pool and the pool provides economic opportunities to local teens by offering summer employment as lifeguards.

Chelsea explained that the pool is in need of a new liquid chlorination system that is estimated to cost approximately \$30,000. The current system is broken and too old to repair. She is asking the village to consider helping in some way. They are trying to raise \$100,000 by the summer and so far, they have raised \$20,000.

Todd Rice asked what Metamora's plan was, as had heard there are plans for an indoor pool. Todd noted that it's hard to justify this to our tax base. Todd questioned if there was a way to give Germantown Hills residents the in-district rate for the pool.

Chelsea noted she would have to check with the park district to see if there could be some type of partnership or collaboration.

Karl Figg stated the board would take the request into consideration, as they have other requests coming before the board.

b. Appointment of Comprehensive Plan Committee Members

Karl Figg made the appointments of Justin Krager, Katie Rohman and Nicole Wilson to the comprehensive plan committee.

c. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Woodford County Circuit Clerk, Woodford County Sheriff Matt Smith, Eureka Police Chief Alex Collinge, Metamora Police Chief Brad Redman, El Paso Police Chief Joe Montemurro and the Mayors/Presidents of Minonk, Roanoke, Germantown Hills, Spring Bay, Bayview Gardens, Kappa, Deer Creek and Washburn, Illinois.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Woodford County Circuit Clerk, Woodford County Sheriff Matt Smith, Eureka Police Chief Alex Collinge, Metamora Police Chief Brad Redman, El Paso Police Chief Joe Montemurro and the Mayors/Presidents of Minonk, Roanoke, Germantown Hills, Spring Bay, Bayview Gardens, Kappa, Deer Creek and Washburn, Illinois. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #2

d. Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Public Comment at Village Meetings

Karl Figg noted the ordinance revises the public comment period to one time per person instead of two, which will lessen the confusion during the meetings.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve Ordinance #875 an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Public Comment at Village Meetings. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #3.

Bill Streeter indicated that at the end of the year he would be retiring, so next month will be his last meeting. Chuck Urban will be the main contact but there will be two other attorneys that will be assisting with village business. They are Kevin Day and Taylor Cascia.

e. Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Signs

Bill Streeter explained the changes that were needed to the sign ordinance in order to make the Village's restrictions on political signs in residential areas more enforceable, from a constitutional perspective. The new ordinance maintains the same restrictions for political signs. In its current state, political speech, generally, cannot be more restricted than commercial speech. The ordinance reduces the permissible size of construction signs on R-1 residential lots to the same size as political signs.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve Ordinance #876 an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Signs. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #4.

f. Approval of the Purchase of a Sewer Push Camera

Zack Hecht noted the screen on the push camera stopped working and the manufacturer stated that because of the age there are no parts for it. Zack stated they are trying to replace what we have, and they use it approximately 2-3 times a month to check for blockages and to check manholes. He checked with G.A. Rich, and they will charge \$250 an hour to come out with their camera. The cost for a new one is \$13,285.00.

The board discussed whether updated features are needed and if the camera would work with the new GIS system.

Zack had checked on the additional cost and had another quote that was for around \$13,500.

A motion was made by Paige Patel to approve the purchase of a push camera in the amount of \$13,285.00. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #5.

g. Approval of an Adjustment to the General Fund Account for Start Fiscal Year 24-25

Ann Doubet explained at the end of the fiscal year after the audit was complete there was an adjustment that needed to be made in order to balance the general ledger. The auditor had recommended the board approve the adjustment by motion. The board discussed. Ann noted she would look back and see if any additional information could be found before the board takes action.

h. Discussion and Approval of an Employee Christmas

Nathan Henricks noted the board has discussed the employee Christmas bonus at this time of year and he is proposing the same as last year.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve an employee Christmas bonus of \$350 net for each employee. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #6.

6. Ongoing Agenda Items

a. Village Board review of the Journal Entry Report-The journal entries are the 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 Paige Patel to approve the general, sewer, audit and business district bills. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #7.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-The journal report was presented for review. Paige Patel had nothing new to report. Ann Doubet stated we would be working on the tax levy.

b. Streets/Equipment-Todd Rice stated Randy Perau had brought up a good point about getting the message out to make sure homeowners light poles are in working condition in order to keep the subdivisions lit up at night.

c. Personnel-Nathan Henricks will be scheduling a meeting.

d. Police-Betsy Cunningham 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 at the Chamber meeting there were updates on the Trunk or Treat and the Community Prayer Breakfast events that went well. The Monte Cristo Room is closing. The space will be available if anyone knows of anyone. The Chamber is encouraging businesses to put up white lights.

Ann met with a representative from Metamora and Discover Peoria to discuss the next steps on what their organization will do and what they will need from us.

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

10. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Doubet stated that with some of the EPA loans, fund transfers have been required over the years. One of the loans only has 4 payments left and will be done in 2026. The transfers have been made each month but do not need to continue, as there are enough funds in the accounts to make the payments, which is a requirement of the loan. The balance of the difference is going to be transferred to the

operating account, so in October the sewer operating account balance will go up by approximately \$148,721.97.

The IDNR Grant requires posting of the funds used for the project. The village could get a boulder for Oak Grove Park that is the same size we used at J.R. White Park. The cost is approximately \$1400-1600. We might want a larger one to be placed between the two sections of the trail, especially if we receive the second grant. Ann noted she would be going to look to see what size options they have and will report back.

The White Oak Lake siltation team sent the village information about the siltation concerns. The village engineer is checking on this issue and we will have a stormwater meeting to discuss if needed. The cameras at the sewer plant are being installed.

b. Public Works-Zack Hecht stated the plows and trucks have been checked. Zack noted Oak Grove Park, and the sewer plant #2 work are almost done. Tobin is doing the work on Townhall Road to fix the ditch for the school project. The employees have been sweeping the streets. Zack stated a new electrical motor on the blower at plant 1 needed to be replaced. They have started to enter some information into the GIS system.

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

d. Village President-Karl Figg had nothing new to report.

11. Communications to the Board-None

12. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: December 19,2024-A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #8.

Ann Doubet
Village Clerk