

**Village of Germantown Hills**  
**Village Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance-** Todd Rice, Village President Pro-Tem 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	Absent											
Heather Armistead	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
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

Scott DeSplinter, Village Engineer  
 Zack Hecht, Public Works

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Preceding Meeting and their Amendments**  
**a. November 21, 2024, Village Board Meeting**  
 A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve November 21, 2024, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #1.
- 3. Public Comment-** Todd Rice stated the village code had been changed so that now the two sections for public comments have been combined to be one time up to five minutes, so that it is less confusing.

Randy Perau and Kitty Cullett made some public comments.

**4. Current Agenda Items**

**a. Presentation-Heart of Illinois CEO Program**

Pat Hamper and John Keigher were in attendance to discuss the Heart of Illinois CEO Program.

Pat Hamper stated that the Heart of Illinois CEO is a program that teaches Juniors and Seniors about business and life. By the end of the year, the students will have started their own small business in the community and show it off at a trade show.

John Keigher noted they are starting a class at MTHS. It is a one-year program that is 2 credit hours. Fieldcrest High School, Lowpoint Washburn High School and Metamora High School have committed to participating. John noted the program is free to the school and students. The investors fund it but there are many ways to get involved including being an investor, mentor, host site, business visit site or a guest speaker. John noted it is a community wide program, and it is important to reinvest in our community.

Todd Rice stated he feels it is important to invest in the kids in your community as then they come back. Todd noted there won't be any board action tonight but there will be more discussion at the January meeting.

#### **b. Presentation-Mars/Wars Robotics**

Nathan Evans is a senior from the MTHS robotics team. He explained how they have to design a robot from scratch and make the robot, to compete with other teams. He stated they have a lot of great mentors to teach and help with the skills needed. He noted when he started, he didn't know anything and now he can design and construct a robot.

Kate Shoff stated they also do a lot of community outreach to help inspire the younger students to be creative. Mars Cars is where they modify a car for a child that is disabled to meet their needs and interest. She explained all the ways they are involved in the community helping and mentoring others.

Cole Hunt is an alumnus that is a mentor. He noted in 2025 they are going to expand to two teams and field two robots. He thanked the board for their support over the last several years

Heather Armistead noted she is an engineering manager and when she interviews students that have done this, they have a leg up on those that haven't. She recommends this as a great way to invest in our youth.

Elizabeth Cunningham, being around students over the years can see the excitement of the students in these programs.

Todd Rice noted this would be on the next agenda to look at all requests.

#### **c. Approval of the Tax Levy Ordinance for FY 24-25**

Todd Rice noted over the last eleven years there has been no tax increase by the village. In the Courier he saw that the fire district, school and MTHS all had truth in taxation hearings.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve Ordinance #877 the Tax Levy Ordinance for FY 24-25. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #2.

#### **d. Approval of the 2025 Meeting dates for the EDC, Planning Commission and Village Board**

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the 2025 Meeting dates for the EDC, Planning Commission and Village Board. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #3.

**e. Approval of a General Ledger Adjustment to the General Fund Account for Start Fiscal Year 24-25**

Paige Patel stated we have talked to the auditor and the bank funds are all accounted for and balanced. A general ledger post needs to be done to the software program on the computer in order to balance the general ledger with the bank for start fiscal year 24-25.

A motion was made by Paige Patel to approve the general ledger adjustment to the General Fund account for Start Fiscal Year 24-25 in the amount of \$22,559.22. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #4.

**f. Approval of the Engineering Agreement for the Construction Phase Services for the Somerset Multi Use Path**

Scott DeSplinter explained the scope of work for the engineering construction phase services. This agreement will be on time and materials with an upper limit of \$48,000.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the engineering agreement for the construction phase services for the Somerset Multi-Use Path. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #5.

Todd Rice stated he was voting no but it had nothing to do with the engineering company or the costs.

**g. Approval of the General Engineering Agreement**

Todd Rice noted this is the general engineering agreement renewal.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the General Engineering Agreement. 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 Heather Armistead to approve the general, and sewer 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.

**b. Streets/Equipment-**Todd Rice stated the guys have done a good job on the snowplowing. Todd will be talking with Zack about the possibility of purchasing a new mower for this next year.

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

**d. Police-**Betsy Cunningham had nothing new to report.

**e. Parks**-Heather Armistead stated the new path looks amazing. She recommended getting a park sign at the entrance. Ann will get an estimate.

There isn't any word yet on the two grants at this time. Once we find out about the Oak Grove Park phase 2 grant, we will look into a boulder sign acknowledging the grant funding for the projects.

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

**g. Storm Water**-Tom Eckstein will be scheduling a meeting.

**h. Economic Development Council**-. Ann Doubet noted Mad Macs was supposed to close at the end of the year, but someone has purchased it.

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

## **10. Reports of Officers**

**a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator**-Ann Doubet stated the comprehensive plan committee met, and the open house will be at the fire department on February 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:00 p.m. Light food is going to be served.

Germantown Hills Fire Department Santa & Grinch parade will be on Sunday at noon.

**b. Public Works**-Zack Hecht stated with the colder weather they have been working on maintenance of the trucks and equipment. The new push camera was delivered today so they are going to go out and try it out. The motherhouse sewer is up and running. They will be going out tomorrow to look at the system.

Todd Rice explained that the Motherhouse WWTP was failing so they asked to hook on to the village's sewer system.

Zack stated they walked the new park and it looks good. The new employee is doing a great job on the snowplowing.

**c. Village Attorney**-Bill Streeter thanked the board as it has been a pleasure working with everyone and serving the village.

Todd Rice stated he has been with Bill the whole time he has been here, and it has been a pleasure working with him. He has been a great asset to the village. Todd noted the village appreciates everything he has done for the village and wishes him well.

**d. Village President**-Karl Figg was not in attendance.

## **11. Communications to the Board**-None

**12. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: January 16, 2025**-A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #8.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk