

Village of Germantown Hills

Village Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance-** Village President Karl Figg 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	12-15
Karl Figg – President	Present												
Heather Armistead	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paige Patel	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Todd Rice	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	N	N	Y

Also, in attendance:

Chuck Urban, Village Attorney
 Taylor Cascia, Village Attorney
 Eric Hansen, 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. **March 20, 2025, Village Board Meeting**

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the March 20, 2025, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #1.

3. **Public Comment-**Karl Figg opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

Damien Cruse, Stephanie Cruse, Sue Davis, Angie Agatucci, Trish Palacios, Terry Wilmarth, and Melissa Ricketts made public comments.

4. **Current Agenda Items**

- a. **Approval of Business Community Improvement Grants**

The EDC has recommended a Business Community Improvement Grant to Buttermilk Café for \$400 for a pylon panel sign and \$3,218.70 to Mad Macs for a new parking area, painting, cleaning, fencing and a new awning.

A motion was made by Paige Patel to approve a Business Community Improvement Grant for Buttermilk Café for \$400 for a pylon panel sign and \$3,218.70 to Mad Macs for

a new parking area, painting, cleaning, fencing and a new awning. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #2.

Todd Rice noted the improvements will need to be made and paid for before reimbursement is made.

b. Approval of a Resolution Regarding Executive Minutes to Remain Closed, Release of Closed Session Minutes, and Destruction of Audio Tape Recordings

Todd Rice explained that the Village is required by the State to go through this process periodically. He noted there is one set of minutes that has been recommended to be opened, which is June 16, 2022, when the Village acquired the property along Fandel Road for the new park.

Ann Doubet noted the Resolution has three attachments, which include minutes to remain closed, minutes to be released and audio tapes of minutes to be destroyed once the minutes are approved. All the minutes will remain closed as they are either personnel or litigation matters, with one set of minutes to be opened.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve Resolution 2025-002 a Resolution Regarding Executive Minutes to Remain Closed, Release of Closed Session Minutes and Destruction of Audio Tape Recordings. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #3.

c. Approval of the Flock Cameras (License Plate Recognition Cameras)

Elizabeth Cunningham reached out to Jacob Cupples at Worth Township to see if they would be interested in participating in the cost for the flock cameras. They stated they were choosing not to participate right now. Elizabeth talked with Dennis Tipsword on their recommendation of placement of the cameras if the Village would elect to install two of them. They recommended Woodland Knolls at Forrest Drive and Ten Mile Creek Road at Rosemary Lane with both locations being within Village limits. The cost is \$3,000 each per year. Since this is a lease, the company would be responsible for any damage or repairs. Elizabeth asked Dennis about getting a progress report and he said that it was feasible. Dennis had sent an email noting if the board would approve them before April 30th the installation fee of a total of \$1,300 would be waived. The two cameras would be included in next year's budget. There is no obligation to do this for more than a year.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve two Flock Cameras at the recommended locations of Woodland Knolls Drive at Forrest and Ten Mile Creek Road at Rosemary Lane in the amount of \$6,000. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #4.

d. Approval of the 2025 Street Maintenance Bidding Documents

CMT had prepared bidding documents for the 2025 Street Maintenance program.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the 2025 Street Maintenance Bidding Documents. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #5.

Todd Rice recommended there be a meeting on the Townhall Road drainage with the property owner.

Ann Doubet stated there was a meeting this past week with the school, their engineer and the Village. There will be a meeting with everyone including the property owner in May to discuss any concerns.

Nathan Henricks noted at the EDC meeting it was reported that the school is looking at adding additional parking at MTCO Park.

e. Approval to Transfer the Road & Bridge Funds for FY 24-25 to the Street Maintenance Account for Future Road Improvements

Since not all of the funds were used for street maintenance this past year the board wants to keep the road & bridge funds separate for future road improvements.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the transfer of the Road & Bridge Funds of \$81,000 for FY 24-25 to the Street Maintenance Account for Future Road Improvements. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #6

f. Approval of An Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Traffic Regulations (Sign Map)

The sign map has been revised to include the no parking signs along Townhall Road and speed limit signs along Lourdes Road and Townhall Road.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve Ordinance #880 an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Traffic Regulations (Sign Map). The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #7.

g. Approval of the Hiring of a Public Works Maintenance Employee

Nathan Henricks noted the Village had received approximately 20 applications for the open position and conducted interviews. The Personnel Committee recommended the hiring of Kevin (Josh) Searle for the Public Works Maintenance position. He will be able to start on May 5th.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the hiring of Kevin (Josh) Searle as the Public Works Maintenance Worker. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #8.

h. Approval of the Employee Compensation for FY 25-26

Nathan Henricks noted the personnel committee had made a recommendation to the finance committee and the finance committee had made a recommendation to the Village Board on employee compensation for FY 25-26. The recommendation was for a 3.29% aggregate increase. Some other area municipalities were giving a 3% increase for their employment compensation.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the employee compensation for FY 25-26 of a 3.29% aggregate increase. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #9.

i. Approval of the Change Order #2 for the Somerset Multi-Use Path

The change order is due to an increase in the cost for clearing trees.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to Approve Change Order #2 for the Somerset Multi-Use Path. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #10.

j. Approval of the Contractors Pay Application #1 for the Somerset Multi-Use Path

A motion was made by Paige Patel to Approve the Contractors Pay Application #1 for the Somerset Multi-Use Path in the amount of \$76,238.56. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #11.

Todd Rice stated he agrees with the project but he's not in agreement with some of the design.

5. Ongoing Agenda Items

a. Village Board review of the Journal Entry Report-The journal entries are the revenues and transfers entered each month. The monthly journal report (treasurer's report) was presented for review.

6. Presentation of Bills

a. General/Sewer/Audit/Business District/MFT Bills

A motion was made by Paige Patel to approve the general, and sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #12.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Paige Patel had nothing new to report.

b. Streets/Equipment-Todd Rice had nothing new to report.

c. Personnel- Nathan Henricks stated employee reviews are done which is always the goal prior to May 1st.

d. Police-Betsy Cunningham thanked the board for approving the cameras.

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 the Chamber pork chop/vendor event is on May 3rd. The area garage sales are May 1-3.

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

9. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Doubet stated the sewer bills have had a printing issue, but it should be resolved now. A bench, trash receptacle and dog waste station were ordered for Oak Grove Park trail phase 1. We will need to order more benches and trash receptacles but will put them in the next budget. The Oak Grove Park Phase 1 Grant information has been submitted for final reimbursement, so we will be receiving a check for \$173,826.05. Hopefully, we will receive this in May.

Somerset-Rich Breckin reported things are going well and there was no gas leak. GIS Mapping-Rich Breckin reported he is working on it as he can. CMT is doing some updates to the system.

The Village received the invoice for the portion of the sewer expense to extend the sewer to MTCO Park which will be paid in May to the school per the agreement and will be included in next year's budget.

Chris Schmitt is building a building off Rt 116 for his cabinet shop and is getting a cost estimate to extend the water. Once he has something he would like to explore the possibility of a possible cost share as it would be beneficial for the Village to have water to the Village property. Metamora and Creve Coeur are looking at adding on to our Northern Tazewell EZ. They are confirming the amount of area to be added to make sure the existing communities are ok with that.

Active Transportation Plan-At the comprehensive plan committee meeting Tri-County Planning Commission discussed the open house and community survey results. They noted the community has strong support for sidewalks, trails, and connectivity. Tri-County discussed bringing in experts to talk with the committee. At the Tri-County Technical meeting they talked about their call for projects for the FY 2026 Special Transportation Studies funding grant. Since the call for projects has opened, Ann would need a consensus from the board to work on the grant application as the deadline is May 16th. At the May meeting the board would vote on a Resolution to commit local funds if they want to include a contribution. The Village would have to go through the procurement process, but CMT has provided an estimate for the grant. CMT gave the Village a range as the cost will depend on how much extra input and level of engagement the board wants. The Village has the community survey and open house results that will provide some public input. There is no local match but if the Village wants to receive extra points, the Village can include a contribution.

Ann Doubet reported on the CMT engineering updates:

Whispering Oaks Sanitary Sewer CIPP Project – Pre-Final construction documents will be complete May 1st. Advertisement for Bids is planned for May 12th. Bids will be due June 12th and will be presented to the Village Board at the June 19th meeting. Work anticipated to be performed in late fall / early winter.

WWTP No. 1 Tertiary Filter Replacement Project –The engineering design effort has been kicked off with a goal of submitting for IEPA permit October 1, 2025.

MS4 Annual Facility Inspection (Stormwater) – The inspection form is due June 1st.

Whispering Oaks Drainage Study (Engineering Scope Development) – CMT is working to develop a recommended drainage study scope. CMT would recommend a Stormwater Committee meeting to discuss the engineering scope.

Potential Rock Check Dams – CMT is working to develop a preliminary opinion of project costs and the permitting requirements to install rock check dams in the stream along the north boundary of the new Oak Grove Park. These check dams were requested by White Oak Lake.

CMT would recommend a Stormwater Committee meeting to discuss the costs and permitting requirements.

GIS/Canopy Updates – CMT is working on updates to support the Village staff in their inspection/collection efforts.

b. Public Works-Zack Hecht stated they have the new mower, and they have been sweeping the streets. They will be opening the park restroom next week. They are working on manhole inspections, and a new employee has been hired.

c. Village Attorney-Chuck Urban stated they had completed the drainage easement for White Oak Lake so the contractor can have construction access over the lift station property. White Oak Lake is reviewing it.

d. Village President-Karl Figg noted the Somerset project is going well. There has been some speculation that there was a gas leak but there wasn't. An Ameren truck was there because it was close to a gas line. Karl noted there has also been some vandalism with the barrels being moved, which is criminal, because someone could have been hurt.

Karl Figg noted the Village does have low interest EPA loans and there was a general ledger adjustment but there was more money in the bank.

Chuck Urban stated the board needs to go into an executive session.

Approval of closed session pursuant to Section 2(c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss pending or probable or imminent litigation.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to go into closed session at 7:13 p.m. pursuant to Section 2 (c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss pending or probable or imminent litigation. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #13.

A motion was made by Todd Rice to come out of the executive session at 7:29 pm. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #14.

10. Communications to the Board-None

Karl Figg thanked Todd Rice and Paige Patel for their service and appreciated all of their time and effort.

Paige Patel stated it's been fun, and she has learned a lot.

Todd Rice wished Ryan White and Sarah Diesel good luck.

11. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: May 15, 2025-A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #15.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk