

Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes

May 15, 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 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| Karl Figg – President | Present | | |
| Heather Armistead | Present | Y | |
| Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham | Present | Y | |
| Nathan Henricks | Present | Y | |
| Tom Eckstein | Present | Y | |
| Paige Patel | Present | Y | |
| Todd Rice | Present | Y | |

Also, in attendance:

Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Taylor Cascia, 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. April 17, 2025, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Todd Rice to approve the April 17, 2025, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. Motion passed #1.

- 3. Board Comments-**Karl Figg stated he appreciated Todd and Paige’s hard work and service to the community. The other trustees thanked Todd and Paige for their dedication to the Village and stated they would be missed.

Todd Rice thanked everyone and stated to the new board members to hear the facts before making a decision and that a lot of things that have been shared are not true. He advised them to look at the history to make sure they understand as they will see things differently as a board member but to also have fun. Paige Patel agreed with Todd.

| Village President/Trustees | Roll Call | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 - 16 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Karl Figg – President | Present | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Nathan Henricks | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | P | P | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Tom Eckstein | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Ryan White | Present | - | N | N | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y |
| Heather Armistead | Present | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Sarah Diesel | Present | - | N | N | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y |

4. Convening of the New Village Board Members

5. Administering the Oath of Office for Village President, Karl Figg and Village Trustees, Elizabeth Cunningham, Sarah Diesel, and Ryan White

The Village President and Village Trustees were sworn in.

6. Public Comment

Randy Perau, Damien Cruse, Todd Rice, Melissa Ricketts, Angie Agatucci and Kitty Cullett all made public comments.

7. Current Agenda Items

a. Approval of the Village President Appointments for Village Clerk and Village Treasurer

Village President Karl Figg made the appointment of Ann Doubet as Village Clerk and Julia Miller as Village Treasurer.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the appointment of Ann Doubet as Village Clerk. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #2.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the appointment of Julia Miller as Village Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #3.

b. Approval of the Appointment of the Village's Legal Counsel

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the appointment of Hasselberg Grebe Snodgrass Urban & Wentworth by its attorney Charles J. Urban as the Village's legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #4.

c. Village President Committee Appointments

Village President, Karl Figg made the committee appointments for all committees.

d. Approval of a Planning Commission Appointment to Fill a Vacancy

Karl Figg made the appointment of Paige Patel to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the appointment of Paige Patel to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #5.

e. Approval of Change Order #3 with a Deduction on Contract Price for the Somerset Multi-Use Path

Emily Munday from CMT explained the change order and noted that it was a deduction in the cost on the Somerset project.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve Change Order #3 with a deduction on contract price for the Somerset Multi-Use Path. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #6.

f. Approval of the Contractors Pay Application #2 for the Somerset Multi-Use Path

The contractor had submitted pay request #2 for work that had been completed. The engineer recommended approval.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the Contractors Pay Application #2 for the Somerset Multi-Use Path. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #7.

g. Approval of the Apparent Low Bidder for the 2025 Street Maintenance Program

Emily Munday from CMT noted no bids were received on the street maintenance work. The project will be rebid in June.

h. Approval of the Temporary Access Easement Agreement Between the Village of Germantown Hills and White Oak Lake Association

A temporary easement is needed so that White Oak Lake can use the Village's property off of Bittersweet Avenue to access the lake to do their drainage work.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the Temporary Access Easement Agreement Between the Village of Germantown Hills and White Oak Lake Association. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #8.

i. Discussion and Approval of the Electrical Aggregation and Administrative Village Accounts Energy Supply

Nathan Henricks explained with the electrical aggregation you won't know the rates ahead of time and that the Village just received the rates today. You need to see Ameren's rates to know what you are up against.

Nathan explained the Village administrative accounts rates.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the Administrative Village Accounts for energy supply with the recommended day ahead average index at \$.06157. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #9.

Nathan noted very few municipalities are lower than Ameren's rates.

Nathan explained the residential rates. Nathan noted the Village of Germantown has been successful in saving the Village residents 4.5 million over the last five years. This current rate will save Village residents approximately \$278,833. The recommendation is \$.10532. Ameren Summer Rate will be \$0.12547 kWh with Small Commercial rate at \$ 0.1458 kWh.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the electrical aggregation at the recommended rate of \$.10532. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #10.

Nathan noted the letters that go out are automatically generated. Village residents can opt out if they choose but otherwise, they don't have to do anything.

j. Approval to Change the June EDC and Village Board Meeting Date

Due to the next proposed Village Board meeting being a holiday the meeting date needs to be changed.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to change the June EDC and Village Board meeting date to June 26, 2025. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #11.

k. Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Regular Meetings of the Village Board

The Village code wasn't previously changed to reflect the change on what day the Village board meets each month, so this will formalize what is already being done.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve Ordinance #881 an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Illinois Regarding Regular Meetings of the Village Board. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #12.

l. Approval of a Resolution in Support of and Approving Participation by the Village of Germantown Hills in the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission FY 2026 Special Transportation Studies Project

Heather Armistead explained that results from the Comprehensive Plan Open House and survey show strong support for sidewalks and connectivity within the community. Heather noted as part of the comprehensive plan process the committee will be hearing from experts and one of the presentations is on an active transportation plan. This grant opportunity will provide an active transportation plan for the Village. The board discussed.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve Resolution #2025-03 a Resolution in Support of and Approving Participation by the Village of Germantown Hills in the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission FY 26 Special Transportation Studies Project in requesting \$50,000 with a local contribution of \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #13.

Ann Doubet asked if the board would still support doing the project with less funding and the board agreed.

m. Approval of the Michael's Run for Life and GH Educational Foundation Contributions

The Village usually provides portable toilets and a dumpster for the Michael's Run for Life event at Germantown Crossing and a contribution towards the GH Educational Foundation Outing.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the Michael's Run for Life providing the portable toilets, dumpster and a \$200 donation to the GH Educational Foundation Outing as previously donated. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #14.

8. 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.

9. Presentation of Bills

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

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the general, sewer and audit bills. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #15.

10. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Tom Eckstein reminded the board to review the journal entry report (treasurer's report). He noted he would like to schedule a finance committee meeting to discuss the budget. The budget to date, estimate of revenues and monthly balances were presented for review.

b. Streets/Equipment-Nathan Henricks will schedule some time to talk with staff and get an update and understanding of the street issues and processes.

c. Personnel- Betsy Cunningham reported she will be meeting with the employees. The reviews have already been completed for this year.

d. Police-Ryan White stated he assumed Captain Wright is the point of contact. Karl stated he is and has been very good to work with.

Betsy Cunningham noted the flock system company had reached out to see if a permit was needed. No permit is needed so the cameras should be installed soon.

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

f. Sewer-Betsy Cunningham will be getting with staff to learn more about the sewer system.

g. Storm Water-Sarah Diesel had nothing new to report.

h. Economic Development Council- Ann Doubet noted there was a Chamber meeting today with MABA. They are going to start scheduling Coffee with a cop in June. The fall garage

sale will be in September. The Chamber gave an update on all of the upcoming events for the year.

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

12. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Doubet stated CMT has information on the Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail so we will need to meet to discuss the findings. We will need to meet with Metamora to discuss and will need to invoice Metamora for their portion of the engineering. The trail is to be built in the right of way. In talking with Metamora, when a grant becomes available Germantown Hills would submit a grant for the Village portion and Metamora would submit a grant for their portion of the trail. This goes along with the intergovernmental agreement as our agreed upon boundary line between the two communities of Hickory Point Road.

Heather Armistead noted this will make the trail from Germantown Hills to Metamora shovel ready for construction funding. Ann stated that it is correct but the portion of the trail from Germantown Hills to the McClugage Bridge was a feasibility study only.

Oak Grove Park phase one grant has been closed out so we should be getting our final reimbursement soon. In the new budget we will want to add some more benches and a trash receptacle for the park. We need to discuss signage for the park along with getting the marker designation for the grant funding. Locally they didn't have any large enough stones.

By September 1st the Village will need to have a return-to-work program.

b. Public Works-Zack Hecht stated they have a new employee. Treyton Parker will be at the wastewater school in June. A bench, trash receptacle and dog waste station were installed at Oak Grove Park. Coventry Farm lift station has both pumps back in now. Both pumps have been rebuilt. The Whispering Oaks sewer lining bid opening will be on June 12th. The Evergreen homeowners, School Representatives and engineers from Terra and CMT met to discuss the drainage along Townhall Road and MTCO Park. CMT and Terra are working on a game plan.

Karl Figg noted the Village is hiring for summer help to do the mowing, but they need to be at least 18 years old.

Ann noted we have a couple of names of potential applicants for summer help.

Rich Breckin reported the storm sewer is in on Somerset and it was backfilled with flowable fill. Rich updated the board on the construction schedule and stated they are on schedule as long as the weather holds up.

Heather Armistead asked about the gas leak on Somerset.

Karl Figg noted Germantown Hills Fire Department and Ameren responded. Karl read the report from the Fire Department which stated: GHFD dispatched for a residential natural gas service line that was struck during construction digging. Engine 1604 and Medic 1 responded. WoodCom advised that Ameren gave an ETA of less than 60 minutes when arriving on scene. Gas line was struck out at the street over 50 feet away from the residence. LEL was checked

with 4 gas meter and was a 0 during scene time. Ameren arrived on scene in approximately 20-25 minutes and advised they would clamp the line and FD personnel were on standby until line was clamped and gas leak stopped. Gas line was clamped and secured stopping the leak by Ameren gas technicians and they advised GHFD personnel that they were ok and GHFD could clear the scene. Scene was turned over to Ameren to make repairs to gas line.

Rich Brecklin stated he was on scene and went to the house and got no answer, so he called the homeowner. We are on schedule, and it is planned for 75-day substantial completion depending on weather.

Betsy Cunningham noted the break was out at the street, not at the house.

Nathan Henricks asked Rich with his experience how that works with a break.

Rich Brecklin stated the gas would dissipate into the air.

Nathan Henricks noted the meter read zero at the site of the break. Rich stated that it is correct.

c. Village Attorney-Chuck Urban stated the offer was conveyed through the attorneys on the FOIA litigation and he is awaiting their response.

d. Village President-Karl Figg had nothing more to share.

13. Communications to the Board-None

14. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: June 26, 2025-A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #16.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk