

Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes

October 16, 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
Karl Figg – President	Present											
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham	Present	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
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ryan White	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heather Armistead	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sarah Diesel	Present	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y

Also, in attendance:
Chuck Urban, Village Attorney
Taylor Cascia, Village Attorney
Zack Hecht, Superintendent of Public Works

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Preceding Meeting and their Amendments September 18, 2025, Village Board Meeting**

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve September 18, 2025, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #1.

- 3. Public Comment-**Karl Figg stated for public comments to direct their comments to the Village board and not to people in the audience. All comments should be addressed to the board and there should be no personal attacks, and the board will refrain from responding. This is an opportunity for public comments and not discussion. Each speaker will be able to speak once for up to 5 minutes.

Kathy Schierer asked what funds were used to pay for the small stop signs that were put up by the new sidewalk.

Jeff Dale received a copy of an email that went out to some residents in the Village from two of the Village trustees (Sarah Diesel & Ryan White) and addressed some of the items within the letter.

4. Current Agenda Items

a. Approval of Business Community Improvement Grants and an Extension of a Previously Approved Grant Request

Karl Figg stated the Village sets aside typically \$10,000 for Business Community Improvement Grants to help businesses make façade improvements. The Village reimburses up to half of the amount to a maximum of \$5,000.

Greg Harman explained the proposed improvements that he is planning on making to his building. The total cost is over \$50,000. The EDC had recommended a Business Community Improvement Grant to Greg Harman, State Farm for \$5,000

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve a Business Community Improvement Grant to Greg Harman, State Farm for \$5,000 for the building improvements. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #2.

Veronica Axelson, Michael's Italian Feast is requesting a Business Community Improvement Grant to replace a Frozen Spoon sign that has faded. The total cost is \$920.13. The EDC had recommended a Business Community Improvement Grant to Veronica Axelson, Michael's Italian Feast for \$460.07.

Heather Armistead asked if Michael's Italian Feast could make another grant application since they didn't need anything more at this time. The committee discussed the policy which states one grant, per applicant, per building per calendar year. EDC had discussed the possibility of letting the funds build up for other opportunities if they aren't used and possibly cap the amount each year. If there are more requests the board will need to discuss and make a determination.

Heather Armistead noted the budget is a prediction that can change if needed.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve a Business Community Improvement Grant to Veronica Axelson, Michael's Italian Feast for \$460.07 for the replacement of a sign. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #3.

Buttermilk Café had not used their grant that was approved in April 2025 before the end of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to extend the Business Community Improvement Grant for another 6 months for Buttermilk Café. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #4.

b. Approval of Changing the Village Board and EDC November and December Meeting Dates

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve changing the Village Board and EDC meetings to November 13th and December 11th. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #5.

c. Approval of a Resolution Approving a Return-To-Work Program Policy (Required by the Insurance Company)

The personnel committee recommended approval of a return-to work program policy that is required by the Village's insurance company.

Heather Armistead noted this is something that the Village has been doing but this will formalize the process.

Sarah Diesel asked why this only addresses the public works department.

Elizabeth Cunningham stated the public works department has physical jobs, but this policy is for all employees.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve Resolution #2025-05 a Resolution Approving a Return-to-Work Program. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. The motion passed #6.

d. Discussion on the Discover Peoria Agreement

The Village of Germantown Hills and the Village of Metamora had an agreement with Discover Peoria. Each community paid \$2,500 for the year with the agreement being up at the end of October. The Village of Metamora is not going to extend the Discover Peoria Agreement. Both communities have discussed the possibility of looking at ideas to collaborate on promoting each community. The Village didn't have enough events going on to justify continuing the agreement.

Heather Armistead suggested using the \$2,500 for marketing and having EDC look at ideas to promote our community.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to not extend the Discover Peoria Agreement. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #7.

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 to the board for review.

6. Presentation of Bills

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

Karl asked if there were any questions about the general bills.

Tom Eckstein noted this is the time of year the insurance premium is paid. The general insurance-\$28,197.18, workman's compensation-\$11,696.88 and the IML dues-\$450.00 are paid when we receive the bill in order to save the Village 1%.

The audit bill includes the annual treasurers report that is due this month.

Tom noted the general insurance covers auto liability, comprehensive general liability, portable equipment, auto physical damage and property. The liability portion of the bill will be moved to that line item as to be within the budget.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the general bills. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #8.

Sarah Diesel asked how it is normally handled with the audit being over budget.

Ann Doubet noted that normally we leave it, as there will be other line items that will be under budget.

Karl asked if there were any questions on the sewer bills.

Heather Armistead asked about the Hydro-Kinetics bill. This was for training on the new lift station.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #9.

Karl Figg asked if there were any questions on the audit bill.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the audit bill. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #10.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Tom Eckstein reminded the board to review the journal entry report (treasurer's report). Tom stated we are still waiting for the grant reimbursement of \$670,000 and we are hoping to receive it once the government opens back up. Tom reported the general fund balance is currently approximately \$1.8 million, sewer fund is approximately \$1.8 million; sewer reserves are \$391,000 and the MFT is \$241,000.

b. Streets/Equipment-Nathan Henricks stated there was a street committee meeting to discuss the crosswalk landing at Rt. 116 and Ten Mile Creek Road. The engineer will send the plan to IDOT for approval.

Nathan noted pedestrian stop signs were installed on the Somerset path for the children's safety due to a resident's comment and concern of kids going too fast off the path into the street and not stopping. If needed the Village will add pedestrian stop signs to other areas within the community.

c. Personnel-Betsy Cunningham noted Zack Hecht will represent the Village in the Germantown Hills Chamber Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 25th. Ann Doubet was able to participate with the Rotary in the parade. Betsy noted it is appreciated that we are able to have Village representations at community events.

Betsy Cunningham stated she was approached about a letter that had been sent out to some Village residents by two Village Trustees. Betsy stated this letter was only given to certain residents, and she is concerned that the information sent out isn't totally accurate. Betsy explained different aspects of the letter. Betsy gave her thoughts on the board minutes and the opportunity for board members to review and provide comments. Betsy noted the amount of bills referenced in the letter was not accurate and the letter failed to specify the amount of the bills that were approved for payment after board approval. Betsy clarified that some of the bills approved for payment at the meetings have already been paid because they are for required payments such as utilities. Betsy noted there's also a complaint that only two people are seeing the bills that are being paid, when in fact there are many individuals reviewing and

seeing the expenses and finances on a regular basis. Betsy stated the narrative that is being stated is that something nefarious is happening and it's not. Betsy commented on the audit budget and that when you ask questions of the auditor that it costs money. Betsy doesn't understand why the board can't move forward and be willing to have discussions and ask questions at the meeting. Betsy noted the board may not always agree but a discussion may help with understanding and consensus. Betsy would like the board to have discussions at the meetings so that when these questions come up the trustees have all given their input. Betsy asked Sarah Diesel if they could discuss the letter now

Sarah Diesel stated she wasn't going to discuss it because she has a headache.

Nathan Henricks, Tom Eckstein or Heather Armistead stated they didn't get the letter.

Karl Figg noted the board meeting is the place where we should have these types of discussions.

d. Police-Ryan White was not in attendance.

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

f. Sewer-Betsy Cunningham had nothing new to report.

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

Ann Doubet noted she had asked Justin Krager, the School Board President if the school board had discussed the detention lot. He said they would be, as they don't have any plans for cleaning it out.

h. Economic Development Council-. Ann Doubet stated the farmer's market is done and it was a great success. Thanks to Julia Miller and Betsy Cunningham for helping out this season. They library is looking at selling some of their lots. The Comprehensive Plan Committee will be having two committee meetings with topical experts that will be set up as virtual meetings in October and November. Karl Figg signed the grant agreement for the Oak Grove Park Phase 2 project that will be constructed next year. The Planning Commission is going to start discussing potential zoning code revisions.

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

9. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Doubet noted at the street Meeting a question came up about adding a flashing light at a pedestrian crossing and Kailey from CMT stated it is not allowed. Map boundary changes were sent to CMT to make so that the GIS can be corrected. The boundaries have been confirmed with the Township. A request was sent to IDOT for two special signs to be put up at each end of the Village for Anna Peplowski.

b. Public Works-Zack Hecht stated staff has been working on grinder pump pms. Usually, they try to do at least 50 a year. They have completed around 35. They have been doing training with the new employee. The Village passed the DMR Quality Assurance EPA testing. They did an asphalt patch on Lawndale Court that was needed since a tree had been

removed. All of the striping has been done on the streets. The plows are ready, and the salt spreaders have been checked. They have been doing some street sweeping. The work that White Oak lake was doing has been completed. Zack got an estimate to fix the culvert on Fandel Road because the Village can't do it ourselves. Hoerr is going to be here doing some lining so they will be able to repair this area as well, as the road has a dip in it and is getting worse. Someone bent the bench at the park, so it was removed and Colten Smith was able to repair it.

Heather Armistead asked about the shoulders on Somerset.

Zack Hecht stated they would be putting rock in.

Heather Armistead asked about GIS.

Zack noted Rich Brecklin has been adding to the GIS system.

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

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

10. Communications to the Board

Karl Figg read a thank you note from GPEDC and the St. Mary's School.

11. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: November 13, 2025-A motion was made by Heather Armistead to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham Motion passed #11.

Ann Doubet
Village Clerk