

Village of Germantown Hills

Village Board Meeting Minutes

July 24, 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
Karl Figg – President	Present									
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ryan White	Present	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Heather Armistead	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sarah Diesel	Present	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y

Also, in attendance:

Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Taylor Cascia, Village Attorney

Abbey Buehler, Village Engineer

Emily Munday, Village Engineer

Zack Hecht, Superintendent of Public Works

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Hearing-Appropriation Ordinance

Karl Figg called the public hearing to order and explained the rules for public comments. Karl noted the Appropriation Ordinance gives the Village the authority to spend funds. The Appropriation Ordinance was published in the local newspaper, posted as required, and was available for public inspection 10 days prior to the public hearing.

The following people spoke at the public hearing:

Angie Agatucci questioned in looking between the budget and appropriation ordinance for the fiscal year that the numbers don't match up. Angie referenced several accounts and their budgeted and appropriated amounts.

Karl Figg explained the appropriation ordinance is the top level of what the Village could spend, and the budget is what we work to. The appropriation ordinance is a legal document on what the Village can spend on that line item. The amount would be a little more than what we

have budgeted in case something unexpected happens. Karl gave the example that the Village has no plans to buy a vehicle this year. If something happens to where the Village would have to, due to an emergency, then the Village has the funds in the appropriation ordinance to cover that but because it wasn't expected the Village wouldn't have it in the budget. Some items are planned purchases, but some are a ceiling level in case of unplanned needs. If a disaster happens then the Village would have to fall back on their reserve funds.

Angie Agatucci asked about the salt funds not being used.

Nathan Henricks explained that we are in an agreement with the State and we can't make any changes to the agreement as we are obligated to purchase a certain amount each year.

Karl Figg noted the Village works to the budget and has a 12-year history of not raising the taxes.

Tom Eckstein explained that some expenditures are split between the general and sewer funds. For example, some of the employees are paid out of the sewer fund and some are paid out of the general fund. This year's appropriation ordinance is not that much different than last year's appropriation ordinance. This is a legal binding document that gives the Village the authority to spend funds. The Village isn't saying we are going to spend all of this money but if something happens and the Village needs to then we have appropriated the money for that. The budget is something the board can change if needed. Tom noted the budget is put together by looking at what we spent last year, what projects we are looking at doing this year and looking at our finances to come up with comfortable numbers.

Nicole Wilson, 514 Mayfair Court questioned why the appropriation ordinance changed three times since the notice was published.

Tom noted that he and Ann Doubet looked at last year's numbers and the proposed projects. There was a finance committee meeting last week where some adjustments were made to the budget. The board can make adjustments up until the board votes to approve the ordinance.

Nicole Wilson questioned the spending limit authority amount versus the estimate of revenues and appropriation ordinance numbers. The budget showed a deficit previously but now it shows funds coming from a reserve account.

Tom Eckstein noted that if you take the estimate of revenues and the fund balances of the accounts there are sufficient funds to cover the appropriated amounts. If the Village spends every dollar appropriated the Village would still have money available.

Nicole Wilson questioned why the finance committee didn't review the appropriation ordinance.

Tom Eckstein noted the finance committee makes a recommendation to the board on the budget and the public hearing is in front of the Village board and the Village board approves the appropriation ordinance.

Alex Jackson asked what changed the spending limit in the appropriation ordinance.

Tom Eckstein noted a lot of what was discussed at the finance committee meeting and the proposed projects were factors. They also looked at the line items to see what could be modified and where the numbers were last year.

Betsy Cunningham noted one of the projects wasn't included due to timing.

Karl noted there were multiple line items that were adjusted.

Ann Doubet went through the main adjusted line items. The Village needs to keep enough on the line items to protect the Village.

Mike Hinrichsen, 601 Mayfair Ct, stated this has been a good discussion. Mike had looked at his tax records and the Village has reduced the amount they ask for from the residents by 2%. Mike noted ten years ago the Village didn't have much in their accounts and now they have 4 million. Mike noted other entities in the community and their tax numbers being down. Mike stated there is something going on good in Germantown Hills. Mike noted we should be talking to the people where the tax rates are up because that's where money is being spent.

Melissa Ricketts, Somerset asked how much money that has been budgeted that wasn't spent that went into the general funds that was saved last year.

Ann Doubet provided the general fund actual ending balance that went into the operating fund.

Chris Wheatley asked about the initial appropriated amounts being considered when it was close to what the Village has in projected revenues and the garbage contract amount being adjusted since it is a fixed amount. He also asked about the finance committee and Village board.

Karl Figg noted the finance committee is made up of five board members. The finance committee would make a recommendation to the Village Board and then the board would vote on it.

Ann Doubet stated the garbage rate will go up in October and if something would happen unexpectedly our expenses could go up without our control as we have had people contaminate our landscape dumpster in the past, which would cost the Village \$2,000 each time it happens.

Tom Eckstein noted the first draft of the appropriation ordinance is where we started with all of the projects and after the finance committee discussed it some of the numbers were adjusted from there.

Kitty Cullett asked about provisions in the Illinois Municipal Code in regard to a supplement appropriation ordinance for the Somerset Grant exceeding 5%.

Karl Figg noted the 5% is in regard to the tax levy and not associated with budget or appropriation ordinance. The grant was used for a part of the Somerset project but the grant didn't limit us on how much was spent.

John Meister asked about the grant estimate of revenue and a question about the Village being on a cash or accrual basis.

Ann Doubet noted the auditor is working on the audit currently and they make the accrual adjustments. Ann stated the estimate of revenues is put together on the cash basis of what the Village is expected to receive.

Melissa Ricketts asked if the Village hasn't appropriated enough money is it a big issue to get it raised.

Karl Figg stated there are significant steps the Village would have to go through in order to make changes. The steps are different in the event of a natural disaster versus needing to make changes due to unforeseen circumstances that would cause an overage on a line item.

Sue Davis asked about the grants that were noted.

Ann Doubet stated those grants were the grants the Village was already awarded that the Village is expecting to receive funds from this year. Ann explained how each grant is being administered.

The public hearing was closed.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Preceding Meeting and their Amendments

a. June 26, 2025, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve June 26, 2025, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #1.

4. Public Comment

Chris Wheatley, Melissa Ricketts, Nicole Wilson, Angie Agatucci, and Kitty Cullett made public comments.

5. Current Agenda Items

a. Approval of the Annual Appropriation Ordinance and Estimate of Revenues for FY 25-26

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve Ordinance #882 the Annual Appropriation Ordinance and Estimate of Revenues for FY 25-26. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #2.

b. Approval of the Budget for FY 25-26

The finance committee had recommended approval of the FY 25-26 budget. Several line items of the budget were discussed.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the budget for FY 25-26. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #3.

c. Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Regarding Regulating Committee and Trustee Positions

Karl Figg noted this is to formalize what the Village is currently doing as vice chairpersons are not being designated on the committees.

A motion was made Heather Armistead to approve Ordinance #883 an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Regarding

Regulating Committee and Trustee Positions. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #4.

d. Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Regarding Open Burning Requirements

Karl Figg stated the intent of the burn ordinance is for residents to burn landscape waste generated on the resident's property. Several complaints have been received about a resident bringing in trailer loads of landscape waste from properties outside of the Village. The police were called and were unable to do anything about it because the code didn't prohibit it.

Sarah Diesel stated she burns landscape for her neighbor and others do it in the subdivision as well. She noted concern that this would be considered a violation as the ordinance currently reads. The board discussed and recommended additional language be added to allow for adjacent properties to burn. This was tabled for the moment and acted on later in the meeting.

e. Approval of the Expansion of the Northern Tazewell Enterprise Zone

Ann Doubet explained that Metamora and Creve Coeur have requested to be a part of the Northern Tazewell Enterprise Zone. The members currently include Germantown Hills, Washington, East Peoria and Tazewell County. All members have discussed the expansion and are supportive.

Ann Doubet explained the benefits of the enterprise zone for capital improvements.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the Expansion of the Northern Tazewell Enterprise Zone. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #5.

f. Approval of Change Order #5 for the Somerset Multi-Use Path

Emily Munday from CMT explained the change order is to add straw blankets to help with erosion control. The contractor will be putting down new soil, reseed, and installing straw blankets. The contractor is fixing the washed-out soil from a heavy rainstorm at their cost, but the change order would be just for the straw blankets.

Ryan White asked what they were going to reseed it with in order for the homeowner to maintain it.

Emily stated it is an IDOT standard turf lawn seed mix that can be mowed. The grades were dictated per the plan and to stay within the existing right of way.

Betsy Cunningham noted if we get another huge rain and don't do anything the seed will not be protected, and it will need to be redone again. The straw blanket will prevent erosion.

Ryan White stated he knows it has to be done but he has to vote no.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve Change Order #5 for the Somerset Multi-Use Path in the amount of \$2156.00. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #6.

Approval of an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Regarding Open Burning Requirements

Chuck Urban had revised the proposed ordinance based on the discussion in order to accommodate adjacent properties to include the following language: Burning of any landscape waste not originating from the property where the burning occurs is strictly prohibited, unless said waste is from an immediately adjacent property.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve Ordinance #884 an Ordinance Amending the Germantown Hills Village Code, Village of Germantown Hills, Regarding Open Burning Requirements. 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 for review.

6. Presentation of Bills

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

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the general, sewer and audit bills. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #8.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Tom Eckstein reminded the board to review the journal entry report (treasurer's report).

b. Streets/Equipment-Nathan Henricks had nothing new to report.

c. Personnel- Betsy Cunningham reported the new public works employee had started.

d. Police-Ryan White stated he was going to get an estimate for the radar signs. Ann Doubet had reported that the radar signs on Rt. 116 will not be replaced by IDOT, as parts are getting where they aren't available anymore. IDOT is requiring municipalities to fund and maintain radar signs along Rt. 116 but a highway permit to install will be required.

e. Parks-Heather Armistead noted she would be having a committee meeting to discuss the easement between the two Oak Grove Parks along with signage for the new park.

f. Sewer-Betsy Cunningham stated the Village had to get a new meter for some required EPA testing.

g. Storm Water-Sarah Diesel stated there was a storm water committee meeting today but there wasn't a recommendation from the committee.

h. Economic Development Council- Ann Doubet stated a complaint was made against the Kaufman Center questioning whether they meet the parking requirements. A letter has been sent to Dr. Kaufman asking for some information and explaining next steps.

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

9. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer/Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Doubet noted the Village received the grant funding for the Oak Grove Park Phase 2 for the trail, restroom, small dog park and flashing crosswalk.

Somerset update-Ann stated that Rich reported that the contractor is starting on Monday to do Mr. Cruse's area. Mr. Cruse will need to be out of the driveway for at least ten days, weather permitting, for the work to be completed. Otto Baum is working with the landscapers to come back out.

b. Public Works-Zack Hecht stated they have been making shoulder repairs and have started patching the roads. They had rented a machine, but it was broken, and they couldn't get another one. He doesn't have a date for the chip and seal work to start yet. He had to get a new part for the broom on the sweeper, and he is getting a new parking lot light for JR White Park. CMT is going to come out and look at the Oak Grove Park easement connection.

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

d. Village President-Karl Figg stated the Michael's Run for Life went well and Angie Brown thanked the Village for all of their support and that the Village staff was great to work with.

10. Communications to the Board-Ann Doubet read a thank you letter from Kiwanis on the Boys of Fall donation last year.

11. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: August 21, 2025-A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #9.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk