

Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026, 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		
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	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y		
Heather Armistead	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Sarah Diesel	Present	N	A	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y		

Also, in attendance:
 Chuck Urban, Village Attorney
 Taylor Casia, 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**

a. December 11, 2025, Village Board Meeting

Ryan White stated he thought the minutes were the best minutes he’s seen and that someone had put a lot of time and effort into that but insists there needs to be a transcription of the meeting.

Karl Figg passed out a packet of information to the trustees about what the Open Meetings Act requires in the minutes and what other local municipalities are doing. Karl asked everyone to read through it, and it would be discussed later. Karl noted the information gives some data rather than everyone going off history or feelings, but states what is required or what other municipalities are doing as examples.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve December 11, 2025, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #1.

b. December 17, 2025, Special Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve December 17, 2025, Special Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #2.

- 3. Public Comment**-Karl Figg stated for public comments to please 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. Karl noted to restrict remarks to matters relevant to the governance of the Village and avoid repetitious statements. This is an opportunity for public comments and not discussion. Each speaker will be able to speak once for up to 5 minutes.

There were no public comments.

4. Current Agenda Items

a. Discussion and Approval of the Charitable Donations for Fiscal Year 25-26

Karl Figg stated the board was going to discuss the charitable donations for FY 25-26.

Tom Eckstein updated the board on the charitable donations that have been approved so far this year. These include:

- The CEO Program, to which the Village committed \$1,000 annually for three years. This will mark the Village's second year of support.
- Providing a garbage dumpster and portable toilets each year for Michael's Run for Life.
- A donation to the St. Mary's event.

The total contributions to date amount to \$1,800. The Village will receive an invoice for the \$1,000 CEO Program donation this month. Additionally, the Village has typically provided MarsWars with a \$2,000 donation

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve a \$2,000 donation to MarsWars. The motion was seconded by Ryan White. Motion passed #3.

b. Discussion and Approval of the Business Community Improvement Grants

Karl Figg noted the EDC had made a recommendation for the approval of two Business Community Improvement Grant requests.

Britney Durst, owner of Stronger Every Day, has made a request for her building improvements in the amount of \$1,575.00 reimbursement.

Veronica Axelson, owner of Micharl's Italian Feast, stated she is asking for approval for a grant for next fiscal year so that she can order two doors now because of a long lead time to get them ordered and constructed. Her request is for a \$5,000 reimbursement.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve a Business Community Improvement Grant for Britney Durst, Stronger Every Day, for the building improvements in the amount of \$1,575.00 for this year and for Veronica Axelson, Michael's Italian Feast for two doors in the amount of \$5,000.00 for next fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #4.

c. Village President Appointment

The Village President appointed Adam Brumbaugh, Superintendent of Germantown Hills School District to the EDC and ESDA committees. Adam is replacing Dan Mair on these two committees.

d. Discussion on Lot 309-A-Detention Basin Conveyance

Karl Figg explained that the detention basin was erroneously deeded to the school during the development of Coventry Farm, when it should have been transferred to the Village instead. The school is now willing to convey the property to the Village, as it was always intended for the Village to handle its maintenance.

Chuck Urban recommended that prior to accepting the property from the school, the Village should at it's own cost obtain a title search and assuming no issues, obtain title insurance as would be usual for any real estate transaction.

Zack Hecht commented that he believes the Village has the capability to perform any necessary cleanout of the detention basin area.

The Village will also need to verify the existence of an adequate easement providing access to the property.

5. Ongoing Agenda Items

- a. None

6. Presentation of Bills

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

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

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the general bills. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #5.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #6.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Tom Eckstein reminded the board to review the journal entry report (Treasurer's Report). Tom reported on the current account balances. The general fund balance is currently approximately \$2.5 million; sewer funds are approximately \$1.9 million; sewer reserves are \$391,000 and the MFT is just under \$300,000. Total is approximately \$5.1 million.

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

c. Personnel- Betsy Cunningham had nothing new to report.

d. Police-Ryan White stated we would be looking at dates to schedule a committee meeting.

e. Parks-Heather Armistead was not in attendance.

- f. **Sewer**-Betsy Cunningham noted Hoerr is planning on being in Germantown Hills in February to do the sewer lining project and there was a small leak at the lift station on Combs Cove.

Zack Hecht stated that the small leak at the Combs Cove lift station has been fixed.

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

- h. **Economic Development Council**-Karl Figg stated he had appointed Adam Brumbaugh to serve on the EDC. Karl Figg reported that he had met with the president of the Caterpillar Trail Public Water District board. They discussed several potential areas where the Water District and the Village could collaborate more effectively on shared initiatives.

Ann Doubet informed the board that the Germantown Hills Fire Department will begin conducting fire inspections for all businesses in Germantown Hills. Additionally, Dr. Kaufman is reopening the Monte Cristo Room and is in the process of completing the liquor license application, as a license remains available. Paul Herzog is selling his building located off Jubilee Lane.

Karl Figg and Ann Doubet will attend a preliminary meeting with Tri-County Planning Commission to discuss the Active Transportation Plan.

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

9. Reports of Officers

- a. **Zoning Officer**-Nothing new to report.

- b. **Village Clerk/Village Administrator**-Ann Doubet noted the Comprehensive plan committee met. There will be a draft document to look at along with a public comment period and then the will go to the Planning Commission and the Village Board for approval. The Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for May 18th and 20th on your normal garbage day.

There has been some vandalism at J.R. White Park. A resident called and asked about the possibility of more lights and a potential fence at the park. The Village is looking into a camera by the concession stand but there may be more needs. Ann discussed with Heather Armistead, park chairman about having a safety assessment done at the parks to see what other things might be needed. There's a Village resident that is willing to do the assessment for the Village.

Ryan White and Ann Doubet attended a meeting coordinated by the Woodford County Sheriff's Office to get a communication line going between the sheriff's office and the Townships and Municipalities within the county.

The Ameren Franchise Agreement expires in February 2026 which Chuck Urban is checking on the specifics of the agreement.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has recently finalized its Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. In response, Tri-County is establishing a Regional Transportation Safety Committee responsible for carrying out the recommendations and monitoring progress toward reducing fatalities and serious injuries on roadways. They have invited Ann Doubet to serve as a member of this committee.

c. Public Works-Zack Hecht noted CMT is putting together an estimated cost for the roadwork and are finalizing the sidewalk at the crosswalk at Rt. 116 and Ten Mile Creek Road. This will be sent to IDOT for review.

d. Village Attorney-Chuck Urban stated the Ameren Franchise agreement will renew every year so there isn't anything we need to do. The Village would want to look at this mid-year.

e. Village President-Karl Figg had nothing more to report.

Elizabeth Cunningham indicated that information had been distributed to the board members about board minutes for their review. She requested that the board discuss the minutes at the next meeting, given the ongoing challenges with some members approving them. She added that if the votes on approval remain the same, she would appreciate having it noted that the issue was discussed.

Karl Figg mentioned that board members had received materials outlining the legal requirements for what must be included in board minutes, along with sample agendas and minutes from other communities for reference.

10. Communications to the Board-None

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

Chuck Urban noted the board would go into executive session but there would not be any action after the executive session other than adjournment of the regular meeting.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to go into executive session at 6:58 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 Ryan White. Motion passed #7.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to come out of executive session at 7:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #8.

12. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: February 19, 2026-A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #9.

Ann Doubet
Village Clerk