

Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes

March 19, 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	Y										
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Tom Eckstein	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Ryan White	Present	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y				
Heather Armistead	Absent	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Sarah Diesel	Present	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y				

Also, in attendance:
 Chuck Urban, Village Attorney
 Taylor Casia, Village Attorney
 Zack Hecht, Superintendent of Public Works
 Abbey Munday, CMT Engineer

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Preceding Meeting and their Amendments**
a. February 19, 2026, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve February 19, 2026, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks.

Karl Figg asked if there was any discussion. Roll call was taken. Motion passed #1.

Heather Armistead arrived at 6:01 p.m.

- 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 use of Business Development District Funds for the Germantown Crossing Improvements (Garbage Cans, Benches & Landscaping Improvements)

Karl Figg explained that the Germantown Crossing is a Business District that the Village gets an extra 1% in sales tax in order to fund improvements within the Business Development District. The shopping strip property owner has asked if benches, garbage cans and landscaping improvements could be funded with the Business District funds.

The Village attorney has confirmed the improvements are eligible. The Village in the past has utilized the funds for public improvements so this would be the first private property owner request within the Business District. All requests to use these funds would come to the Village board. Ann stated the shopping center property owners were planning on making more improvements this spring.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the use of Business Development District Funds for the Germantown Crossing Improvements (Garbage cans, Benches, & Landscaping Improvements). The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #2.

b. Discussion and Approval for the Submission for Transportation Alternatives Grant Funds for the Engineering/Easements for the Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail along Rt. 116

Karl Figg explained that the Tri-County Planning Commission will be opening up a grant application for Transportation Alternative funds in the spring. Ann Doubet had sent the details of the grant and funding to the board for review. The grant would be for 80% funding of the engineering and 50% funding for the easements if needed, for the Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail. The Village of Metamora is also in agreement in pursuing grant funding for this portion of the project.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the submission for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Funds for the Engineering/Easements for the Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail along Rt. 116. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #3.

Heather Armistead complimented Ann Doubet on doing an amazing job of getting grants for the community and taxpayers.

Ryan White asked if there has been any information shared.

Karl Figg explained the details of the trail. Board members noted information has been provided at meetings and the open house.

Sarah Diesel questioned if this is normal to do this step first.

Ann Doubet stated this step is crucial to getting the project shovel ready for any grant opportunities.

Karl reiterated that this improves our scoring to have projects ready for construction. At some point we will need to coordinate with Metamora on submitting an ITEP grant to fund the Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail. Each community would be responsible for their portion, but we would have to do it at the same time.

c. Discussion and Approval of the Engineering Agreement for the GH School Lot 309-A-Detention Basin Survey (Property located between Coventry Farm Subdivision and the School's Bus Barn)

The title search has been completed. Karl Figg explained originally it wasn't supposed to be deeded to the school and that it was supposed to go to the Village for future maintenance. The engineering agreement will be to survey the lot and put together an access easement plat for the maintenance of the detention area. The Village currently has a utility easement for access but the Village may need more area to complete the detention area maintenance.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the engineering agreement for the GH School Lot 309-A Detention Basin Survey. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #4.

Heather Armistead asked if the school would be paying a portion of the cost.

Chuck Urban noted that this can be a part of the conversation once we know all of the details.

Ryan White asked what the benefit to the Village is.

Betsy Cunningham stated this was brought up in the White Oak Lake siltation discussions.

Zack Hecht explained he doesn't think the area will be a big problem as the Village just needs to be able to get in, dig it out, and reshape the detention area.

Abbey from CMT stated the area is losing storage and if it doesn't get cleaned out in order to work properly then it could be a problem in the future.

The first step is to identify the location of the easement. The engineering agreement identifies the scope of services.

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.

Hoerr Construction repaired the culvert under Fandel Road while they were in the Village doing the sewer lining work. Zack Hecht stated the Village would be in worse shape if the repair wasn't done and they were trying to avoid closing the road.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the general bills. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #5.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #6.

Karl Figg noted he attends a Mayor's Association meeting with other area Mayors and a monthly board meeting with the Tri-County Planning Commission. He asked the attendees at both meetings how they pay their bills and all of them stated they pay contracted services and utility bills like the Village does, which is consistent and common practice with other municipalities in Illinois. This has been the process for the Village 30+ years.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Tom Eckstein was not in attendance. The general fund balance is currently approximately \$2.3 million; sewer funds are approximately \$2 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 stated Ann Doubet had attended a Rural and Economic Development Conference.

d. Police-Ryan White stated there have been complaints about running a stop sign and speeding in Whispering Oaks. The board discussed where the radar sign should be.

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

f. Sewer-Betsy Cunningham noted there was a repair on the Coventry Farm lift station. They are going to look at the lift stations to monitor any future needs.

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

h. Economic Development Council-Ann Doubet updated the board on the following:

The following items were reported at the recent Chamber meeting:

- Scholarships: The Chamber is currently accepting applications for two \$500 scholarships to be awarded to graduating seniors.
- Spring Fling / Pork Chop Event: The Chamber's annual Pork Chop Cook Out and Vendor Show is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2026. This event will coincide with the community-wide garage sales running from Thursday, April 30 through Saturday, May 2, 2026.
- Easter Egg Hunt: The Chamber is partnering with the Germantown Hills Fire Department and Christ Church to host a community, Easter Egg Hunt.

Karl Figg stated the Chamber event is a good opportunity for members to get involved and interact with the Community.

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 following:

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will meet Tuesday to review public comments and the remaining schedule. The draft plan will proceed to the Planning Commission and Village Board in April for approval.

The Economic Development Committee continues its review of the Active Transportation Plan with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

The Village's FOIA email has been set up and is posted on the website.

The Village has received some complaints and concerns about the e-bikes and electric scooters. Illinois is looking to update their regulations. Ann provided some information to the board the state has put together. The Village may want to look at putting some regulations in place as well.

c. Public Works-Zack Hecht noted the Whispering Oaks sewer lining project is completed. The Coventry Farm lift station discharge pipe was repaired. They are looking at starting a program to look at different lift station repairs. The Village had the salt delivered as required per the agreement with the State. We are working on employee reviews. A boy scout wants to do a project at the park, possibly a bench in Oak Grove Park.

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

e. Village President-Karl Figg reminded the board to not contact the attorney or the engineers but to go through Ann, Zack or himself to facilitate the information in order to be fiscally responsible.

Karl Figg had met with the Tuckaway manager. They would like to get the newsletter in order to send it out to the trailer park residents, since they don't receive individual bills.

Karl Figg asked the board to be thinking about the possibility of recording the zoom meetings as it will be discussed at the next meeting.

10. Communications to the Board-None

11. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: April 16, 2026-A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #7.

Ann Doubet
Village Clerk