

Village of Germantown Hills
Village Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 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	N	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	Present	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Heather Armistead	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sarah Diesel	Present	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

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

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve March 19, 2026, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead.

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

- 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.

Autumn Jones from the Woodford County Farm Bureau was in attendance to introduce herself. She wanted to thank the Village for passing the Woodford County Resolution in support of Agriculture, as it is the largest industry in Woodford County.

4. Current Agenda Items

a. Discussion and Approval of the Engineering Agreement for the Easement Connection between the New Oak Grove Park along Fandel Road and the Original Oak Grove Park off Sunset Lane

Emily Munday, from CMT explained that this engineering agreement is for the easement connection to connect the two Oak Grove Parks. The alignment shows the easement connection from the Oak Grove Park trail in Phase 1 to the parking lot in the Oak Grove Park off Sunset Lane. The bids will be opened in July in time for the board's July board meeting.

Heather Armistead noted the Village secured the easement with the property owner some time ago, as this was needed as kids and residents were cutting through in order to access the parks.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the Engineering Agreement for the Easement Connection between the New Oak Grove Park along Fandel Road and the Original Oak Grove Park off Sunset Lane. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #2.

b. Discussion and Approval of the Engineering Agreement for the Shared-Use Path from Arbor Vitae to MTCO Park

Karl Figg explained that at the EDC meeting Adam Brumbaugh, the Superintendent, had noted the difficulty of getting students to the new MTCO Park and questioned if that section of the trail from Arbor Vitae to MTCO Park could be built sooner. This would help if there was a hard surface from the crosswalk sidewalk at Arbor Vitae to the parking lot at MTCO Park. There has been a preliminary discussion with a couple of school representatives on the possibility of a shared participation in the project costs.

Emily Munday explained this section of the trail that would connect to the parking lot at MTCO Park. CMT has been coordinating with Terra Engineering on the trail and pedestrian bridge projects, as a portion of the Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail is included in the pedestrian bridge project. Emily stated they will prepare the bid documents and design. We will need to go through the IDOT permitting process, so this could take several months. The estimated cost for construction is approximately \$120,000 and the engineering cost is \$45,000. The asphalt trail will be built in the IDOT right-of-way.

Karl Figg noted this trail connection will be used by the school and the community.

Ryan White asked if guard rails are needed with it being close to Rt 116. He thinks the Village should talk to the school to confirm their participation and address any safety issues.

Emily Munday noted the trail will be on the back side of the ditch separated from the roadway and following IDOT design criteria has not identified a need for guard rails. Once IDOT goes through their permitting process the permit could indicate any needed improvements.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the Engineering Agreement for the Shared-Use Path from Arbor Vitae to MTCO Park. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #3.

Heather Armistead noted this will be in next year's budget.

c. Discussion and Approval of Contractor Pay Request #1 for the Whispering Oaks Sewer Lining Project

Betsy Cunningham stated that Abbey with CMT had recommended the pay request #1 for the Whispering Oaks sewer lining project. There were some punch list items, but they have since been completed.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the Contractor Pay Request #1 for the Whispering Oaks Sewer Lining Project in the amount of \$371,238.93. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #4.

A 10% retainage is normally held until everything is completed. The 10% retainage will be paid as a part of the final pay request at the next meeting.

Sarah Diesel stated more communication was needed, as she wasn't aware when they came to her house to do the lining.

Zack Hecht stated the Village put out the general notices of the work, but it was up to the contractor to let the residents know of the schedule for each individual house. If changes were made it was the contractor's responsibility. Zack noted there are some areas in Whispering Oaks that are unique and oddly set up as to the location of the sewer.

d. Discussion and Approval of the Village of Germantown Hills Comprehensive Plan

Karl Figg stated the Comprehensive Plan is to be updated every 5-10 years if needed. The comprehensive plan sets the vision for a community and what a community is working towards. The Planning Commission had a public hearing and recommended approval at their meeting on Monday.

Ann Doubet noted a community would want to update it around five years if there had been a lot of changes and accomplishments noted in the plan but normally will wait approximately ten years. The Village has been working on the plan since November of 2024. At the Planning Commission's meeting, board members complimented the plan as being a great document with data, demographics and useful information about the Village of Germantown Hills and the community.

Karl Figg stated the comprehensive plan committee has had several public meetings over the year and half, along with an open house event, a survey and public comment period. Karl noted that a comprehensive plan is a key part of grant applications.

Sarah Diesel asked how many surveys were completed.

Karl Figg indicated that Tri-County Planning Commission had stated the Village had received great participation in the survey from the community, more so than other communities.

Betsy Cunningham stated typically what's in the comprehensive plan are recommendations for a community.

Heather Armistead noted the recommendations in the plan will still come to the Village board for action or implementation.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the Village of Germantown Hills Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #5.

Sarah Diesel stated she didn't have a physical copy of the plan at the meeting tonight.

The board reiterated the Village has been working with Tri-County Planning Commission since November of 2024. There have been public committee meetings, surveys, an open house and a public comment period that was open for 30 days.

Nathan Henricks stated that the current comprehensive plan is on the Village's website.

Heather Armistead noted the new comprehensive plan would not be put on the website until it is approved

e. Approval of a Resolution in Support of the Illinois America250 Commemoration

Karl Figg stated the Resolution is in support of the Illinois America250 Commemoration.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve Resolution #2026-01 a Resolution in Support of the Illinois America250 Commemoration. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #6.

f. Discussion and Approval of the Annual Donation to the GH Educational Foundation Annual Event

The donation request is the GH Educational Foundation Annual golf event. There are different levels of sponsorship. The Village has normally done the lowest level of sponsorship.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the Annual Donation to the GH Educational Foundation Annual Event in the amount of \$200. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #7.

g. Discussion and Approval of the Video Recording of the Board Meetings

Karl Figg noted the Village has been streaming the board meetings on Zoom. He had mentioned at the meeting last month for the board to think about whether or not they want to have the board meetings recorded.

Ann Doubet stated Julia Miller had checked the procedure of recording the meetings. The recordings could be uploaded to a YouTube channel with a link on the Village's website. Local records noted the record retention on video recordings would be 30 days with a rolling records disposal.

Ryan White asked if the Village needed to purchase a better camera.

Ann Doubet noted there haven't been any issues, so she didn't think that was needed.

Heather Armistead asked Ryan if this meets what he wants.

Ryan stated it did.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the Video Recording of the Board Meetings and to retain video recordings thirty (30) days after date of meeting, then dispose of them. The motion was seconded by Ryan White. Motion passed #8.

Betsy Cunningham stated she agrees with the recording of the meetings but disagrees on the principle that people keep moving the goal post as to what they want and she doesn't think this is the end of this issue.

Karl Figg noted personally this makes a good extension to the next step, since legally the minutes aren't immediately available.

h. Discussion and Approval of the use of Business District Funds for the Germantown Crossing Shopping Center Driveway Access

Ann Doubet explained the request from the property owner on the use of business district funds to pave the driveway access in the Germantown Crossing shopping center. The property owner provided information and an estimated cost. The request is for reimbursement of \$10,800.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the use of Business District Funds for the Germantown Crossing Shopping Center Driveway Access in the amount of \$10,800. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #9.

Sarah Diesel had asked about an application process.

Heather Armistead noted it could be set up similar to the grant process.

Ann Doubet stated something could be put together. There are only a few property owners that would be eligible to apply. The property owners in the shopping center are looking to do some ditch repairs, painting and drainage improvements.

Zack Hecht explained the ditch and erosion concerns the property owner has. He noted it isn't that the Village can't do the work it is finding the time.

The Village attorney will check to confirm business district funds can be used to reimburse the property owner on the ditch repair when the Village owns the ditches.

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 Nathan Henricks to approve the general and sewer bills. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #10.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Tom Eckstein reviewed the fund balances. The general fund balance is currently approximately \$2.4 million; sewer funds are approximately \$2 million; sewer reserves are \$391,000 and the MFT is over \$300,000. Total is approximately \$5.1 million.

Heather Armistead had some account line-item questions on the budget to date that didn't look correct. Ann Doubet will check on some line-item balances and Heather's questions.

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

c. Personnel- Betsy Cunningham stated employee reviews will be done soon.

d. Police-Ryan White had nothing new to report.

Betsy Cunningham noted there have been some e-bike complaints.

Nathan Henricks noted there are some new regulations on e-bikes for 2027.

e. Parks-Heather Armistead stated she had met with Zack, Rich and Ann on the metal arch sign and potential location. In looking at the site plan, it was decided it would be too tight to put the sign over the driveway in so we are looking to put it in the middle on the other side of the parking lot and work on a concept to incorporate a seating area similar to Veterans Park. This will allow the phase 2 trail to be constructed as designed.

f. Sewer-Betsy Cunningham noted they are working through the steps on the WWTP tertiary filter project. Zack Hecht stated they are putting the plans together and will start looking at funding and the permit.

g. Storm Water-Sarah Diesel stated she had received an update that Abbey from CMT is working on the easement plat for the detention basin.

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

The Tri-County Planning Commission did a call for projects for the transportation alternatives funding. This is for the next engineering and easement phase for the GH to Metamora Trail. The Community Project Funding grant was not awarded for the GH to Metamora Trail project. The ITEP grant opens up August 1st. They increased the maximum funding per project to \$5M and up to \$1.25M of State matching assistance. We will need to see if Metamora will be ready to apply. Ann noted she will be attending a conference with an individual meeting with IDOT in order to ask questions about the grant opportunity. There was an Oak Grove Park Phase 2 development meeting. The project will be bid in July.

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: Update-Woods of Germantown Hills Subdivision-CMT reviewed all the testing reports Austin Engineering sent over and had no concerns with the sanitary or roadway reports. Therefore, the only remaining item would be for the letter of credit to hold funds for the sidewalk construction.

A new park rules sign was put up at J.R. White Park. The audit is starting in May.

c. Public Works-Zack Hecht noted they started working on storm sewer inspections, there was a backup on Rosemary with all the rain and a buildup of dirt and leaves. Hoerr was out cleaning some other areas for the Village. The restroom is open at the park. The Anna Peplowski signs are up on Rt 116. IDOT approved the crosswalk sidewalk at Rt. 116 and Ten Mile Creek Road so the project can go out for bids. They made one change to the curbing which added some cost.

Betsy Cunningham asked about the solicitation on Rt. 116.

Ann Doubet noted every time that happens the Village gets several complaints and concerns about safety. The attorney is looking at the solicitation permit.

Zack Hecht noted they had a grinder pump that had a leak outside the tank that they had to repair.

d. Village Attorney-Taylor Cascia had nothing new to report.

e. Village President-Karl Figg encouraged the Village Board when they communicate to use the Village provided emails. Karl noted the Village has received a number of FOIA requests from company's sending out mass requests. There is legislation being worked on to help the small communities with these requests.

Karl Figg noted there was a FOIA request regarding personal emails from board members where two members didn't comply but two did. Two trustees refused to allow our legal counsel to see their emails and refused other alternatives the attorney offered to confirm they were being transparent with their email which puts the Village at risk. Since the Village has access to Village emails information can be verified. Personal devices cannot be, so this is why only Village emails should be used. We want to be transparent, so the board should only use Village provided emails which can be verified if needed.

10. Communications to the Board-GPEDC sent a thank you note for the annual contribution of support to the region.

11. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: May 21, 2026-A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #11.

Ann Doubet
Village Clerk