

Village of Germantown Hills Village Board Meeting Minutes July 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 6:01p.m.

Village President/Trustees	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Karl Figg – President	Present												
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Ryan White	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y		
Heather Armistead	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Sarah Diesel	Present	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y		

Also, in attendance:

Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Taylor Casia, Village Attorney

Zack Hecht, Superintendent of Public Works

Emily Munday, CMT Engineer

Karl Figg asked for there to be a moment of silence for Senator Lindsey Graham along with a resident from Metamora, Tommy Casey.

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.Public Hearing-Annual Appropriation Ordinance FY26-27

Karl Figg opened the public hearing on the Appropriation Ordinance. There were no public comments, so the hearing was closed.

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

a. June 18, 2026, Village Board Meeting

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve June 18, 2026, Village Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Karl Figg asked if there was any discussion. Roll call was taken. Motion passed #1.

4. 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.

5. Current Agenda Items

a. Discussion and Approval of the Apparent Low Bidder for the Sidewalk Improvements (Crosswalk at IL Route 116 & Ten Mile Creek Rd)

Emily Munday stated the Village received four bids for this project. ICCI was the lowest bidder, with the bid coming in well below the engineer's estimated cost. Emily doesn't have the timeline yet but figured the bid was lower due to multiple projects. CMT has no objection to the award of the contract.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve the Apparent Low Bidder of the Sidewalk Improvements (Crosswalk at IL Route 116 & Ten Mile Creek Rd) to ICCI for \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Ryan White. Motion passed #2.

Elizabeth Cunningham asked if we could find out from the contractor what the difference was in the bid, being that low compared to all the other bids received.

Emily Munday will check on this.

b. Discussion and Approval of the Apparent Low Bidder for Oak Grove Park Phase 2

Emily Munday noted the low bid was considerably higher than the engineer's estimate. Emily explained the challenge of estimating the project with the different parts. The apparent low, responsible bidder difference appears reasonable given the complexity of the project. This project is partially funded by an IDNR grant. CMT has no objection to the award of the project.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to Approve the Apparent Low Bidder for the Oak Grove Park Phase 2 project to ICCI in the amount of \$475,450.94. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #3.

Sarah Diesel stated she does not think there is a need for a restroom because everyone lives so close.

The Board discussed the possibility of modifying the project scope and if doing so would jeopardize the Village's grant funding. Emily Munday explained that any changes to the project scope would require the Village to rebid the project because it was bid as a single project rather than as separate components. The Board also discussed the need for water and electrical service at the park to support the dog park and lighting improvements. It was further noted that, similar to the restroom at J.R. White Park, the new restroom would not be open year-round due to the additional costs.

Ann Doubet noted that a restroom is an important amenity, as residents frequently inquire about the restroom at J.R. White Park and would likely want one at the new park as well. She also noted that the restroom is partially funded through an IDNR grant and would most likely not be able to be removed from the project.

c. Discussion and Approval of the Apparent Low Bidder for the Connection Trail for Oak Grove Parks

Emily Munday explained that this project would be a connection between the old Oak Grove Park to the new Oak Grove Park. The Village only received one bid. The bid was slightly above the engineer's estimate but within a reasonable percentage difference that CMT has no objection to the award of the contract to Tazewell County Asphalt.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to Approve the Apparent Low Bidder for the Connection Trail for Oak Grove Parks to Tazewell County Asphalt in the amount of \$46,985.00. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #4.

Nathan Henricks inquired about maintenance of the asphalt on the first phase of the trail.

Zack Hecht stated that some cracks had been filled and noted that he and Rich Brecklin have discussed incorporating additional design improvements in future phases to help address the issue.

Emily Munday noted that a design change has already been incorporated into the next phase of the asphalt trail and is expected to improve its performance.

d. Discussion and Approval of the Engineering Agreement Supplement for Oak Grove Park Phase 2

Emily Munday discussed the supplement engineering agreement. There are two pieces to the change. One is for design and bidding services that included talking with Zack Hecht and Rich Brecklin on cost saving measures and making some design changes for the utility services. The second piece is for the construction phase engineering. Rich Brecklin will be out taking care of the day-to-day coordination. Emily noted the potholing of the lines confirmed there wouldn't be any conflicts with the utilities.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the Engineering Agreement Supplement for the Oak Grove Park Phase 2, in the amount of \$44,000. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #5.

e. Approval of the Annual Appropriation Ordinance and Estimate of Revenues for FY 26-27

Tom Eckstein noted the finance committee had reviewed and discussed the Appropriation Ordinance for FY26-27 at two finance committee meetings held on June 25th and July 16th. Tom stated the appropriation ordinance is similar to last year's numbers with a couple of changes due to the proposed projects for this year. Tom stated that the finance committee had recommended approval of the appropriation ordinance to the Village board.

Karl Figg explained the purpose of the Appropriation Ordinance and that it is a statute that authorizes the Village spending authority and caps the spending limits.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to Approve Ordinance #888 the Annual Appropriation Ordinance and Estimate of Revenues for FY 26-27. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks.

Karl Figg asked if there was any discussion.

Ryan White noted he knows a lot of work went into it, but he doesn't know how to argue for a 75% increase in appropriations vs the budget and before he votes he wanted to express why he is voting no.

Sarah Diesel stated she needed more time to review everything, as she didn't have time between yesterday and today.

Motion passed #6.

Ann Doubet noted the budget changed slightly due to the project bids that the Village just received, and these were sent to the board prior to the meeting. The line items are elevated slightly from the budget in order to give yourself room in case of changes throughout the year. Any proposed project needs to be included in the numbers for the new year to give you the legal spending authority.

Ryan White also noted the appropriation ordinance has been amended in the past.

Ann Doubet stated the Village hasn't amended the ordinance in the past, and the Village wouldn't want the numbers to be too low as you would be amending the ordinance all of the time.

Karl Figg noted the way he looks at it is that you don't know what could happen throughout the year, so you need to put a cushion on some of the line items in order to accommodate the unexpected.

f. Approval of the Employee Compensation for FY 26-27

Elizabeth Cunningham stated the personnel committee had made a recommendation to the finance committee with a recommendation to the Village Board on employee compensation. The recommendation is for an overall average increase in wages of 3.56% with a total compensation increase of 5.83%, which is above the national average. This would be retro back to May 1st.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to Approve the Employee Compensation for FY 26-27 with an overall average increase of 3.56% retro back to May 1st. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein.

Karl Figg asked if there were any questions.

Ryan White stated there were no questions, but he wished it could be more, as everyone has worked so hard.

Motion passed #7.

g. Approval of the Budget for FY 26-27

Tom Eckstein stated the budget was discussed at the two recent finance committee meetings with information provided at both meetings. Two recommended changes were made along with the finance committee discussing adding an operating fund transfer to show the balanced budget. Tom noted that the board did this last year showing approximately \$222,000 that would potentially be needed from the general fund but even with the Village purchasing the library property, only \$86,000 was needed at the end of the fiscal year from the general fund. The finance committee recommended approval of the budget to the Village board and recommended putting in a general fund line item operating fund transfer to balance the budget for this FY 26-27.

Heather Armistead explained that for the MTCO Park project we currently haven't set aside any funds for construction of the trail but have left the funds in the budget for engineering. Since the total cost went up, the Village will need to discuss the project with the school district to see if they can participate in helping with the project costs.

Elizabeth Cunningham stated she likes that a separate line item for the legal work on FOIA's has been added to the budget to track the Village's costs.

Sarah Diesel stated she likes that the projects have been separated out with individual line items.

Ryan White stated only because he didn't have time, that he was going to vote no.

A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to approve the Budget for FY 26-27. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #8.

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, sewer and audit bills. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #9.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Finance-Tom Eckstein reviewed the fund balances and reminded the board to review the treasurer's report/journal entry report. He will be scheduling a finance committee meeting to discuss the internal control policy.

b. Streets/Equipment-Nathan Henricks noted the streets look good.

c. Personnel-Betsy Cunningham stated she had met the summer employee and that she and Karl would be meeting with the employees to share their employment compensation for the new fiscal year.

d. Police-Ryan White noted he would be scheduling a police committee meeting to talk about E-bikes once the ordinance is ready.

Chuck Urban stated the new law is on the governor's desk waiting for a signature.

Ryan White stated once school starts the SRO partnering with OSF is planning on doing some education with the students on E-bike safety. The board discussed the possibility of doing some type of certification or color-coding tag on the E-bikes so that it shows the type of scooter or E-bike that is being used.

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

f. Sewer-Betsy Cunningham stated there was a lift station repair on Fandel Road that Zack Hecht will report on.

g. Storm Water-Sarah Diesel stated Zack Hecht received two options from CMT for easement access to the retention pond off Fandel Road. Sarah noted she hadn't reviewed the information much, but it will depend on what the school would approve.

Karl Figg stated he had walked the two proposed routes and thinks the one on the outfield will be a better route to get a truck in when needed. The board discussed.

h. Economic Development Council-Ann Doubet noted there wasn't a chamber meeting this month. The Germantown Hills Community cleanup day is the week of September 21st on Village residents' normal garbage day, which is after the Chamber's fall garage sales. The Village always tries to schedule it right after the spring pork chop and vendor sale in May, but GFL always has a conflict, so the Village has to bump it to the next available week.

Metamora and Creve Coeur are going to be added to our enterprise zone, so the communities are looking at amendments to the agreement in relation to the inclusion of unincorporated areas in a participating municipality's EZ Component, as well as allowing for including residential improvements where applicable.

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

9. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer-A Woodford County public hearing notice was sent out to the board for review in case there were any concerns. There have recently been several complaints between residents about fencing and parking on the street, creating safety concerns. Ann Doubet stated the post office sent a notice that they aren't going to allow brick mailboxes and if so, the Village may need to revise the Village code. Ann will confirm the information.

Nathan Henricks stated he would schedule a street meeting to discuss the parking concerns with school starting soon and the safety concerns that have been raised by Village residents.

b. Village Clerk/Village Administrator-Ann Doubet noted the Village has received a total of 34 FOIA's so far this year with 25 of them being from one organization. Ann reached out to Brad Cole with IML, and he recommended the Village get a hold of the state legislators to voice the concerns. He also shared that the proposals for FOIA reform are supposed to be addressed at the fall session.

Heather Armistead asked about the turnout at the Active Transportation Plan open house after she left the event.

Nathan Henricks noted the turnout wasn't bad and that a Tri-County Planning representative stated Germantown Hills participation has been more active than the bigger municipalities.

c. Superintendent of Public Works-Zack Hecht provided the following report:

- Lift station discharge line repair went well.
- A blower went out at the plant that is being repaired. The Village has a backup.
- Grinder pump's will start soon.
- The chip and seal work will be starting soon, once the paperwork is in order. The overlay was completed a couple of weeks ago.
- They put rock down along the edges of the shoulders where needed.
- The Eagle Scout completed the picnic tables and they put them at each park.
- They will be sweeping the streets after the chip and seal work is completed.

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

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

10. Communications to the Board-None

11. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: August 20, 2026.-A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Motion passed #10.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk