Village of Germantown Hills

Village Board Meeting Minutes

October 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 6:01p.m.

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

Also, in attendance:
Chuck Urban, Village Attorney
Taylor Cascia, 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. September 17, 2026, Village Board Meeting
A motion was made by Heather Armistead to approve September 17, 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.

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. Approval of the Village of Germantown Hills Active Transportation Plan

Adam Crutcher, from Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, was in attendance to present the Germantown Hills Active Transportation Plan. Adam explained that Tri-County has been working with Village staff and the Economic Development Committee since the spring to develop a plan focused primarily on improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure throughout the Village.

Adam reviewed the public engagement efforts conducted during the planning process, which included participation at the Chamber's Spring Fling, Farmers Market, a school event, a community survey, and a public comment period. He noted that the feedback demonstrated overwhelming public support for improved walking and bicycling infrastructure, with only 11 comments expressing opposition.

Adam explained that the approximately 50-page plan includes maps and tables identifying proposed sidewalk improvements and their priority levels, with Holland Road identified as one of the highest priorities. A prioritization matrix was developed to help evaluate and rank potential sidewalk projects. The plan also includes traffic calming options and is intended to serve as a guide for determining future infrastructure improvements and supporting grant funding applications.

Adam noted that the Economic Development Committee recommended approval of the plan with the addition of the Germantown Hills to Metamora Multi-Use Path.

Heather Armistead stated that she appreciated the priority rankings and the identification of different traffic stress levels. She questioned whether the traffic calming measures identified in the plan were recommended for specific locations.

Adam explained that the measures were not assigned to individual roadways because each location has different characteristics and would require further evaluation.

Heather also raised concerns regarding areas with traffic accidents, particularly near Casey's, and questioned if improvements were considered.

Adam stated that Tri-County had discussed potential options with IDOT but noted that any changes would need to consider traffic flow and avoid creating backups due to the proximity to Illinois Route 116. A roundabout had been explored for the area several years ago.

A motion was made by Tom Eckstein to approve the Germantown Hills Active Transportation Plan as amended and recommended by EDC. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Karl Figg asked if there was any discussion. Roll call was taken. Motion passed #2.

b. Approval of the Temporary Access Easement Agreement Between the Village of Germantown Hills and White Oak Lake Association

Zack Hecht explained that the White Oak Lake Association had completed repairs to two siltation areas last year and had requested a permanent easement across Village property for future access. Zack noted that the Village preferred granting a temporary access easement rather than a permanent easement so the Village could be informed of when access was needed and the specific work being performed. He also noted that other potential access points to the siltation areas exist through privately owned residential properties.

Village Attorney Chuck Urban explained that the temporary access easement agreement includes provisions to help protect the Village from liability in the event of damage resulting from the Association's use of the property.

A motion was made by Ryan White to approve the Temporary Access Easement Agreement between the Village of Germantown Hills and White Oak Lake Association. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Karl Figg asked if there was any discussion. Roll call was taken. Motion passed #3.

c. Approval of the Oak Grove Park Phase 2 Construction Engineering Amendment
Heather Armistead explained that when improvements at Oak Grove Park were initially being planned, Rich Brecklin was available to provide construction oversight. However, the engineering phase of the project began later than originally anticipated, and Rich is now nearing the end of his available hours. Heather noted that while construction engineering services were included in the original agreement with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT), additional engineering support will be needed once Rich is no longer available, as certain responsibilities they will need to handle.

Heather explained that the additional engineering services may not be needed to the full extent outlined in the proposed agreement. CMT will coordinate closely with Zack to determine when engineering support is necessary and when Village staff can oversee the work. With the contractor beginning construction, the hope is that a significant portion of the work can be completed while Rich Brecklin is still available.

Zack Hecht provided the Board with an update on the progress of the path construction.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve the Oak Grove Park Phase 2 Construction Engineering Amendment. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Karl Figg asked if there was any discussion. Roll call was taken. Motion passed #4.

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.

Tom Eckstein reported that the Illinois Municipal Risk Management invoice, totaling $41,340.96, needs to be paid before the next meeting in order for the Village to receive the discounted rate. He explained that the invoice includes general liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and the annual membership dues.

Heather Armistead questioned the purchase of a metal detector. Zack Hecht explained that Public Works uses the equipment to locate various items, including property pins, and noted that the previous metal detector was more than 30 years old.

A motion was made by Heather Armistead to pay the general and sewer monthly bills as amended. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Cunningham. Karl Figg asked if there was any discussion. Roll call was taken. Motion passed #5.

Following the motion, Betsy Cunningham noted that the documents Sarah Diesel had requested two months earlier were included in the Board packet, which were distributed to the board on Tuesday. Betsy questioned Sarah as to whether the absence of that information prior to receiving the packet was the reason she had voted against approving the bills.

Sarah Diesel stated she was not going to answer Betsy's questions.

7. Reports of Standing Committees
a. Finance-Tom Eckstein reviewed the Village's fund balances and reminded the Board to review the Treasurer's Report and Journal Entry Report. The loan reserve accounts were transferred to the sewer operating account as the loan has been paid off. Tom noted the total funds for all accounts is over 5 million. Tom stated we are working on the levy.

b. Streets/Equipment-Nathan Henricks was not in attendance.

c. Personnel-Betsy Cunningham reported that Village employees had been working at the park to clean up messes left by individuals. She noted that a security camera would be installed soon.

d. Police-Ryan White reported that he had spoken with the School Resource Officer (SRO) regarding e-bike safety. However, scheduling conflicts with OSF have delayed arrangements for a presentation. Ryan explained that OSF focuses on educating students about potential injuries associated with e-bike use.

Ryan also reported that he had spoken with Captain Marc Wright, who indicated he would be available to attend a Police Committee meeting to discuss a proposed golf cart ordinance. A committee meeting will be scheduled to review the proposed ordinance. Ann Doubet will forward the draft ordinance to Ryan White and Captain Wright for their review.

Karl Figg noted that several residents had expressed support for adopting a golf cart ordinance.

e. Parks-Heather Armistead asked whether signage was posted at the park notifying visitors of the security camera. Zack Hecht confirmed that signage was in place.

f. Sewer-Betsy Cunningham reported that a grinder pump had recently been repaired that required some additional effort that Zack Hecht will report on.

g. Storm Water-Sarah Diesel reported that the recent issues have been the temporary easement request from White Oak Lake, along with the Village employees conducting culvert inspections.

h. Economic Development Council-Ann Doubet reported the following:
- The Village Farmers Market has concluded for the season. We may want to look at different ideas to market the event even more next year with possible different signage.
- The Economic Development Committee reviewed a proposed Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance and Permit Application.

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

9. Reports of Officers

a. Zoning Officer

b. Village Clerk/Village Administrator- Ann Doubet reported the following:
- One of the security cameras at Village Hall was replaced under warranty. The camera at the park is expected to be installed soon.
- The Village Christmas Party is scheduled for December 6th at 6:00 p.m.

- Landscape waste pickups are scheduled for the weeks of November 2nd and November 16th.
- A question was raised regarding electronic waste disposal requirements. Ann confirmed with GFL that the Village's contract does not limit the number of electronic waste items residents may drop off at the Morton facility.
- Ann updated the Village's draft golf cart ordinance for consideration should the Village Board decide to pursue adopting regulations.
- Ann informed the school district that IDOT is requiring the removal of the existing driveway serving the vacant lot adjacent to MTCO Park, as the residence previously located on the property has been removed. Ann will check with IDOT on what degree of removal they are requiring.
- Terra Engineering continues to work on the engineering and design of the proposed pedestrian bridge. Ann reported that Terra has been seeking clarification from IDOT regarding design requirements over the past couple of months. IDOT has now indicated that the bridge must be designed as a multi-use bridge to accommodate students who both walk and bicycle to school. This will require revisions to the current design. Terra is working on providing an estimated cost for the necessary engineering changes. Ann noted that the initial grant funding allocated for engineering has almost been used in full.

c. Superintendent of Public Works- Zack Hecht reported that staff are continuing inspections of crossroad culverts and have identified another culvert that will need to be lined. He also reported on a grinder pump repair at a residence that had been vacant for several years. The repair involved a clogged pressure line, which is an issue the Village has not previously encountered. Staff are also continuing work on grinder pump maintenance as time allows.

Karl Figg asked for an update on the Village's GIS information. Zack Hecht stated that grinder pump information is being entered into the system, and Rich Brecklin has also been adding valve information. Information related to the sewer plant, lift stations, and culverts is also being incorporated into the GIS system.

Zack Hecht reported that staff are working on street sweeping. While they have recently been able to obtain replacement parts for the street sweeper, parts availability continues to be a concern, and the Village may need to consider other options in the future. Zack noted that he is still waiting to determine whether the street line painting will be completed, although Village employees have completed some striping themselves.

Staff are also inspecting and preparing the snowplow and salt equipment for the upcoming winter season. Zack provided an update on sewer lining work planned for a couple of additional areas.

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

e. Village President- Karl Figg stated he would be out of town for the next meeting, so Nathan Henricks would be running the board meeting.

10. Communications to the Board-None

11. Adjournment-Next regular meeting: November 12, 2026.-A motion was made by Ryan White to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Roll call was taken. Motion passed #6.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk