

Village of Germantown
Meeting of the President and Board of Trustees
August 19, 2025

The regular monthly Board meeting of the President and Board of Trustees for the Village of Germantown was held on August 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Those present included the following: Village President Duane Ripperda, Village Clerk Dawn Lakenburgs and Trustees: Ken Albers, Ken Brauer, Jarod Lohman, Landon Schroeder and Jerald Schroeder were present. Trustee Brad Schroeder was absent. Police Chief Dean Darnall, Officer Chase Harrison, Public Works Supt. Steve Mullins and Village Attorney Aaron Epplin were also present. Guests included Joyce Lucas, Mary Kay Sutton, Diane “Mert” Albers, Jackie Boeckmann, Jeanette Robben, Rob & Linda Pullen and Joe Santel.

The minutes of the previous month’s meetings were available for review. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Trustee Ken Brauer, seconded by Trustee Jarod Lohman. Motion carried.

Rob Pullen began the conversation with kids on scooters. He said he nearly hit a boy on a scooter last week and the kids just don’t seem to slow down or follow the rules of the road. He said he understands this is a parental responsibility but the parents aren’t doing anything to stop these kids. He feels the Village needs to address this. Jackie Boeckmann agreed and said since the new sidewalk on Sycamore Street going to the park, the kids are speeding down that new sidewalk fast as well as kids in golf carts. A question on the state law regarding driving was discussed and ultimately determined the legal age in Germantown is 16 with a valid driver’s license. A long discussion ensued on how to control the scooters. The Police Department will continue to stop kids and if they don’t comply, tickets will be issued. Officer Chase Harrison said if someone sees a kid on a scooter/UTV/golf cart to call the police department. If it forwards to the county, if the county has an officer in the area, they will handle it. Do not be afraid to call the police if a Germantown officer is not on duty.

Pullen said he also had concerns regarding the new crosswalks on Hanover Street. Cars do not stop when a pedestrian is present. Unless an officer sees the violation, there is not much that can be done.

On August 11, 2025, an independent contractor opened a fire hydrant causing dirty water through a good portion of town. Supt. Mullins flushed the main lines for the better part of the day before it cleared up. Pullen said because of this, he had to replace his water filter, costing him nearly \$100. Jeanette Robben said she and other she talked to ruined laundry. She asked who pays for this and how do residents know the water is safe to drink. Supt. Steve Mullins explained what manganese is and what it does to the water. He assured her the water was safe. Linda Pullen asked if the town was going to reimburse for the extra water usage and clothing ruined. President Ripperda said this will all be discussed as the meeting progressed.

Jackie Boeckmann said her concern was about yards and people accumulating junk in their yards. Village Attorney Aaron Epplin explained how the Village ordinance works. The police give a warning to the residents to cut their grass, the resident has 14 days to comply, they cut the grass and the whole cycle starts over. The group, overall, feels the Village should “tighten their belts” and start giving fines for these violations. It will get the violators attention.

Joe Santel, representing the GIC, said the group would like to come on as a Village Committee. He asked about volunteer days and Village Attorney Aaron Epplin explained the Village’s liability when doing these things. If a group of people want to volunteer and clean up the town, they are welcome to, it just can’t be part of a Village organized event.

A question on the community sign was next. Last month the Village Board had a few “tweaks” they would like to see done on the design. Mary Kay Sutton asked why the sign design couldn’t stay as the GIC designed. Trustee Landon Schroeder, chairman of the Street & Sidewalk Committee said his committee will meet with the GIC and come up with a compromised solution. With all the work the maintenance department has to complete before winter, this is most likely a spring 2026 project.

Joyce Lucas discussed the holiday lights and the wishes of the GIC committee for this year. She also said the banner project will be tabled for now.

The group left the meeting with President Ripperda thanking them for coming and voicing their concerns.

Village President Duane Ripperda said he had a streetlight request on Wesclin Road. Supt. Mullins will look into the current locations.

A discussion on the wrongful opening of the water hydrant and what/if a punishment will be assigned. After a brief discussion, Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to fine the individual \$500. Trustee Ken Albers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A more in-depth conversation regarding scooters, golf carts and UTV’s followed. It was agreed that the Police Department will pull over all golf carts and UTV’s without current Village stickers. Fines will be issued to violators. Kids on scooters, golf carts/UTV’s will be monitored closely and parents notified and possibly fined if their child doesn’t comply to safety regulations as set out in the Village ordinances.

Properties in Germantown with junk and unsightly yards will receive letters and the Board will follow through with violators.

Clerk Lakenburgs will be sending a community newsletter stating the issues talked about tonight.

Police Chief Dean Darnall asked the Board about an ordinance for towed vehicles which are impounded. A daily fine can be charged for storing the vehicles. Attorney Aaron Epplin will look into this.

Supt. Steve Mullins gave his report. He said the curbing project, that turned out to be quite problematic, was near finished with just some road work and yard work remaining.

The first set of light poles have been painted and replaced on Munster Street. A few of the GIC members cleaned up the old light fixtures and they look nice. A few will need to be replaced but overall the project is shaping up nicely.

Mullins said the EPA rejected the application for Well 6 & 7. HMG is addressing the issued and will reapply soon.

Trustee Jarod Lohman, chairman of the Police & Health Committee, said the committee met with Rhonda Breslin of Republic Services to discuss the Village trash contract. Rhonda proposed a rate and the Committee responded with asking for a lower rate. Republic Services came back with a rate increase of \$2.00 first year then approximately 3.5% thereafter. Trustee Jerald Schroeder accepted the rates as presented and directs Republic Services to move forward with the new contract for approval. Trustee Ken Brauer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee Landon Schroeder, chairman of the Street & Sidewalk Committee discussed a budget for Christmas lighting for the GIC committee. Trustee Jerald Schroeder made a motion to set the budget for \$5000, which includes the \$3,500 donation made by Kohnen Concrete Products earlier this year. Trustee Jarod Lohman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Attorney Aaron Epplin said he will be mailing letters to non-compliant rental owners regarding inspections.

Epplin said the Payton lawsuit should be closed after the Village agreed to settle for \$5000. All fees have been paid.

Epplin asked the Board about the Solar on Earth application he was asked to review. The Board decided against pursuing solar energy at this time.

Epplin will contact Netemeyer Engineering and the Eversgerd family to clarify details on the road dedication and splitting of the property adjacent to the Village. This was tabled until more information could be attained.

Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-05, *AN ORDINANCE CREATING ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 1 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN, CLINTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS*. Trustee Ken Albers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee Jerald Schroeder made a motion to pay all bills as presented. Trustee Ken Albers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee Jerald Schroeder then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ken Albers seconded the motion and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.


