

Village of Germantown
Meeting of the President and Board of Trustees
October 21, 2025

The regular monthly Board meeting of the President and Board of Trustees for the Village of Germantown was held on October 21, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Those present included the following: Village President Duane Ripperda, Village Clerk Dawn Lakenburgs and Trustees: Ken Brauer, Jarod Lohman, Brad Schroeder, Landon Schroeder and Jerald Schroeder were present. Public Works Supt. Steve Mullins and Village Attorney Aaron Epplin were also present. Guests included John & Angie Feldmann, Joe Santel, Colbey Voss and Eleanor Bowen (Central High School student). Trustee Ken Albers and Police Chief Dean Darnall were absent.

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 Brad Schroeder. Motion carried.

Clerk Lakenburgs passed out the minutes from the Zoning Board meeting. John Feldmann began explaining that the Zoning Board denied their request for a Special Use Permit for 200 Sycamore St. owned by their son Thomas Feldman and Abigail Hanna. John and Angie Feldman sold their house and are wanting to live in the business to fill a vacant building and help their son out. A brief discussion followed and Trustee Brad Schroeder made a motion to approve the Special Use permit and allow the property to be used as residential. Trustee Jerald Schroeder seconded the motion. Roll Call vote showed the following Trustees voting "Aye": Brad Schroeder, Jerald Schroeder. The following Trustees voting "Nay": Jarod Lohman, Landon Schroeder, Ken Brauer. Trustee Ken Albers was absent. Motion failed to pass.

A discussion followed regarding the Village granting a temporary Special Use to allow the Feldman's to live there while they try to sell the commercial property. They sold their current house in the hopes of this Special Use going through. Attorney Aaron Epplin said he would have to research if this is something the Village can grant. Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to table this until next month. Trustee Jarod Lohman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Colbey Voss and Joe Santel representing the Germantown Beautification Committee were present to discuss a few things. First off, Village President Duane Ripperda appointed Joe Santel as chairman of the committee and board members, Brienne Kuhn, Lacey Lakenburgs, Melinda Knobloch, Joyce Lucas, Julie Endres and Colbey Voss. Village Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to approve the appointment. Trustee Jerald Schroeder seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Colbey Voss shared a few ideas with the Board. The Community Christmas tree as done in prior years by a couple residents. Village Christmas Light contest with his business V-Fit donating the prize, and a Yard of the Year given out in June. He asked if the Village would do a utility bill credit for the winner and the Board agreed.

Joe Santel asked about a Welcome packet for new residents. Clerk Lakenburgs has an information packet but welcomes input.

Santel also asked about sprucing up the Welcome sign at the park. Trustee Jerald Schroeder, speaking on behalf of the park district, agreed the area could use some improvements.

Village President Duane Ripperda thanked both members for attending and appreciated the input.

Ripperda then said he and Steve Mullins, public works supt., met with IDOT regarding the wedge of property at Sycamore and Hwy 161. Ripperda said IDOT agreed to letting the Village take out the

weeds and replace with landscape rock. This area always grows up in weeds, and this will clean it up. Trustee Jerald Schroeder made a motion to approve the project. Trustee Jarod Lohman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Supt. Steve Mullins gave his report for the month. The street pole refurbishing project is near completion. The poles look great and most of the lamp covers have been cleaned. President Ripperda asked if the maintenance dept could power wash the sidewalk across from Village Hall. Steve will add it to their list. Mullins said the EPA approved the permits to continue with Well 6 & 7. The sidewalk on Main Street has also been completed.

Village Attorney Aaron Epplin spoke on low powered scooters. In August of 2024, the State of Illinois set the laws regarding these types of vehicles. No one under 18 years old can operate a low powered scooter on public property. The Village can make the rules stricter but the Village can not adopt an ordinance legalizing anyone under 18 to drive these scooters. The best thing the Village can do is educate the public on the legality of these scooters and set the fines as a municipal fine and not a state fine. This was tabled until next month.

A brief discussion regarding the trash contract followed. The Village will be entering into a 5year extension of the existing contract. Trustee Jerald Schroeder made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Trustee Ken Brauer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee Jerald Schroeder, chairman of the Finance & Insurance Committee, said the committee met to review employee health insurance. Trustee Landon Schroeder made a motion to renew the insurance from Lowery Benefits Service, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. Trustee Ken Brauer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee Jarod Lohman made a motion to accept the renewal of the general insurance of the Village. Trustee Brad Schroeder seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to adopt 2025-06, *AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR THE VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN, CLINTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF MAY, 2025 AND ENDING ON THE 30TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026*. Trustee Jarod Lohman seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Village will be receiving approximately \$48,000 in property tax revenue this fiscal year.

Trustee Brad Schroeder made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-07, *AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 39-7-2 OF ARTICLE VII, CHAPTER 38 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN, CLINTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS*. Trustee Jerald Schroeder seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Ordinance sets the trash rate at \$23.00 for 5 years.

Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-08, *AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 38-4-4 AND 38-4-14 OF ARTICLE IV, CHAPTER 38 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN, CLINTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS*. Trustee Brad Schroeder seconded the motion. The Ordinance revises the water and sewer rates.

Trustee Brad Schroeder, chairman of the Building & Equipment Committee, said the low bid for the ceiling replacement in the meeting room was Ryan Strake. Trustee Jerald Schroeder made a motion to award the project to Ryan Strake for \$8679.23. Trustee Ken Brauer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee Landon Schroeder said the Street & Sidewalk Committee will meet to discuss a 5yr plan for curbing and sidewalks.

Trustee Ken Brauer, chairman of the Zoning, TIF and Subdivision Committee, said the Committee met to discuss the TIF Application presented by Jacob & Kennedy Brauer. The Brauer's purchased the doctor's office building and will be remodeling and updating the building. The Committee agreed upon a 15%, up to \$20,000, TIF grant. Trustee Brad Schroeder made a motion to approve the grant. Trustee Jerald Schroeder seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Village Attorney Aaron Epplin said he researched drones. The Village can not regulate the use of drones.

Epplin said he contacted the attorney for the owner of the Red Deuce property and he assured him that the property would be maintained.

Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-09, *AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION S24-7-1 THRU 24-7-9 OF ARTICLE VII OF CHAPTER 24 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN, CLINTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS*. Trustee Jerald Schroeder seconded the motion. The ordinance pertains to seized and impounded vehicles.

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

Trustee Ken Brauer then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Jarod Lohman seconded the motion and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.


