

**Village of Germantown
Meeting of the President and Board of Trustees
September 19, 2017**

The regular monthly Board meeting of the President and Board of Trustees for the Village of Germantown was held on September 19, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. Those present included the following: Village President Duane Ripperda, Clerk Dawn Lakenburg, and Trustees: Ken Albers, Mike Albers, Ken Brauer, Fred Lucas, Jerald Schroeder and Roger Rickhoff. Supt. Steve Mullins, Police Chief Jeff Wuebbles and Village Attorney Aaron Epplin were also present. Guests included: Josh Haar, Donald Eversgerd, Larry Eversgerd, Dale Beckmann, Kevin Schroeder, Tom Eversgerd, Joyce Lucas, Jeff & Teresa Wessel.

Trustee Roger Rickhoff made a motion to dispense with the reading of the previous month's minutes. Trustee Michael Albers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Josh Haar, representing a majority of the group, asked a few questions regarding ordinances in town.

- Why is the Village prohibiting electric fences? The Village has always prohibited electric fences in residential areas. The code change is to update the Zoning code to match the Village Ordinance Codes.
- Would like to see more "Slow-Children Playing" signs and stop signs enforced. Trustee Michael Albers said the Police will continue to patrol and Trustee Fred Lucas indicated the Police Department needs to address stop sign violators. He said he noticed that people don't even attempt to stop. Trustee Jerald Schroeder suggested checking into an electronic speed sign similar to Breese and Albers. Chief Wuebbles will check into that.
- Major crosswalks – why aren't they lit? This was tabled.
- Haar asked if the Village could request stop arms at the railroad crossings at Prairie and Green Streets. The Village will send a letter to Southern Railroad.
- Haar also asked if the Village could install more speed limit signs. The Street & Alley Committee will discuss these suggestions and report back to the board.
- Haar asked if the Village could do "roll-overs" on water bills. IE-if a resident doesn't use the minimum usage this month, the remaining could roll-over to next month. The Village software system does not have that capability.

Kevin Schroeder said he feels the Residents should be more informed of what's going on in the Village. The Board informed him that a new website is underway to keep the public more informed of what the Village is doing. President Ripperda said that is why all meetings are open to the public. Anyone can attend any meeting and be informed. It is also the resident's responsibility to be proactive and ask questions.

Haar also said there should be policy regarding where utility poles are moved for curbing and sidewalks. Mullins said each case is different and done on a case-by-case basis.

Dale Beckmann asked for the Police to do more patrolling and running radar early in the morning. He lives along Hanover Street and notices so many vehicles speeding. The Board agreed this was a good idea.

Tom Eversgerd asked the Board what the plan is for the Dugan property on Sycamore St. Attorney Aaron Epplin replied that the Village filed suit for unsafe and dangerous buildings. The case will be set for hearing before a judge. Epplin will keep the Board posted.

Eversgerd also asked if the Village was widening Sycamore Street east to Hanover Street. President Ripperda said, for now, just the area up to the end of Mike/Debbie Jansen property. Jansen's donated property to the Village to widen the area near the intersection of Munster and Sycamore and will concentrate on that area this year.

Kevin Schroeder started a discussion on having tractors in town and parked in yards. He said "everyone here wants the town to look like a subdivision". Schroeder said he has lived here 20+ years and no one ever complained about his yard. If you don't like what I have, don't move next to me. President Ripperda said we have to treat everyone alike. No one wants every home in Germantown to have 2 tractors sitting in their yards. Schroeder said the Village is forcing people out of town. Trustee Jerald Schroeder said "collectively, we have to look at the whole town". These rules aren't created for one person; they are created for the good of the whole town. Schroeder asked why these issues are now being brought up. Chief Wuebbles said things get brought to his attention, the board discusses and decide as a Board what to enact in an ordinance.

Teresa Wessel asked the Board if they were working on hiring additional police officers. Two years ago she was stuck by a hypodermic needle someone put in her garage. She went through extensive testing and vaccinations since the dna was never traced to anyone. The Board assured her they are working on increasing the police department.

President Ripperda thanked the guests for coming and he appreciates their concerns.

Chief Wuebbles gave his report for the month. Wuebbles said there were no incidents during the Spassfest.

Trustee Michael Albers, chairman of the Police & Health Department said the committee will be reviewing the health insurance renewal for the employees. He will report back next month with a recommendation to the Board.

Trustee Albers said the Police & Health Committee met to discuss hiring a second full-time police officer. The annual cost will be \$61,000-\$68,000. The part-time officers will remain. Trustee M. Albers said the department is missing the continuity between the day and evening officers. The Finance & Insurance Committee will meet to discuss the financial capabilities of the Village to take on a large annual expenditure. This was tabled until next month.

Supt Steve Mullins gave his report next. Since last month's meeting, the maintenance Department completed the following: road prep, oiling; Drive In Rd work; construction, clean up, seeding, etc.; float work for parade; storm inlet repairs; equipment repairs, maintenance; STP maintenance; mowing; water plant chem feed repairs; well maintenance and install water service to new home.

Mullins said Drive-In Road is complete. Kassen Excavating did a great job and the cost came in under the estimate at \$222,637.00.

Trustee Fred Lucas, chairman of the Building & Equipment Fund, said the new dump pick-up truck will be in at Jansen Chevrolet next week. Lucas will make arrangements to have the Village decal put on the truck.

Lucas also said the Committee met to discuss some upgrades to the Village Hall. He gave the Board the minutes from the meeting for everyone to review. The Committee will meet again to discuss further.

Trustee Ken Albers, Water & Sewer Committee Chairman, said the committee met to discuss cleaning the water tower. After discussing a couple different options, Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to hire Water Tower Clean & Coat Co. to clean the tower for \$3400. Trustee Fred Lucas seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Trustee Ken Brauer presented the Board with a Resolution approving TIF funds to pay for a significant portion of the Drive In Road Project. Trustee Brauer made a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-06, *A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING FUNDS FOR THE DRIVE-IN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.* Trustee Michael Albers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Attorney Aaron Eplin presented the Board with an Ordinance approving trash rates. Trustee Ken Brauer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-08, *AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 38-7-2 OF ARTICLE VII, CHAPTER 38 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN, CLINTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.* Trustee Roger Rickhoff seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Clerk Lakenburges presented a letter addressed to the Clinton County Health Department on behalf of the Village approving a private sewer system for Neil & Emily Kohnen. President Ripperda signed the letter.

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

Trustee Fred Lucas then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Jerald Schroeder seconded the motion and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned, 9:30 pm.



Dawn Lakenburges, Village Clerk

