

VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2012

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Wolter.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Wolter, Trustees Baum, Daniels, Ewert, Hughes, Kaminski, Werderman, Vanderheiden, and Zabel. Also present Administrator Schornack, Finance Director Kim Rath, DPW Director Dan Ludwig, Engineer Brionne Bischke, Jim Driver, Jay Olszewski, Tim Zimmerman, Parks & Rec Director Brett Altergott, Police Chief Pete Hoell, Fire Chief Gary Pollpeter, Librarian Roberta Olson and Clerk Goeckner.
- III. **2013 BUDGET WRAP-UP :**
 - A. **2013 Budget Review**

Finance Director Kim Rath – Currently at a levy increase of 2% over last year. Trustee Zabel had submitted questions on line items which each department responded to. Waiting for assessed value to finalize numbers. Equalized value had a 4% decrease which is hard to make up for.

MOTION (Kaminski/Baum) to remove smart board. Discussion of smart board and intern. Kaminski and Baum withdraw motion.

Director Rath suggested dental insurance reserves are strong right now. Reduce the budget amount to \$65,000. **MOTION (Zabel/Kaminski) to reduce dental plan line item by \$15,000, motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion: Requested budget vs. proposed levy. Additional revenues. Trailer for moving smaller mowers and equipment for efficiency purposes. Reducing borrowing, website, use toward current budget. President Wolter – Department heads are here to answer questions directly. Director Rath – Publication will go to the paper by October 18th.

MOTION (Werderman/Baum) to consider agenda item #IV at this time, all in favor, motion carried.
- IV. **DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING FIRE DEPARTMENT 2013 BUDGET REQUEST FOR FULLTIME FIREFIGHTERS/EMT'S:**

Trustee Werderman - Discussion at a Fire Dept meeting regarding the attached memo to hire 18 fulltime Firefighter/EMT's. Chief Pollpeter stated they have lost 50 employees since 1992, persons trained who went to other communities. Have tried recruiting and only one person responded recently. Village of Grafton going to referendum to become a municipal department. It is the recommendation of our officers to dissolve the dive team and remove all the expenditures for that. The amount of training and expense outweighs the volume of calls. Rath – can reduce the budget by \$8,500 and increase revenues by \$5,000 minimum for sale of existing equipment. This will bring you below zero.

Matt Karpinski – Fire Department – Discussion of current operations, shifts and staffing process. Typically paid on call staff of 23 but not purely POC. Only paid when they get called. Restrictions when on call. Response time for EMT is 6 minutes, fire calls around 12 minutes. Trustee Daniels – giving up every other

weekend. POC's now married with families, slowly losing them since 2001. 2006 we came before the board with projection to be in this spot by now. Difficult to get people to dedicate to the time and training. Discussion of call numbers, population and age. Comparables in the State. Germantown ranks 5th based on 2010 census numbers. Second lowest in fulltime on front line staff, 5th in assessed value and population. Difficult to hire 18 people – cost estimated between \$185.04 and \$208.17 per home per year on median home value. Need to go to referendum. Trustee Werderman – Discussion: ISO rating, marketing campaign, annual cost to taxpayers for fire protection. Director Rath – cost of another \$1,000,000 over the \$10,000,000 this year. Discussion: current needs for POC and stresses, who to apply for new positions, cost of \$100,000 per employee for fulltime, consider 2 FT for now, current citizens knowledge of small number of people protecting the Village for fire and emergency calls. Consideration to add 18 fulltime for 2014 due to timing of referendum for Spring Election and preparation for start. Trustee Werderman – could use revenue surplus to nip away at issue and consider part time or a couple of fulltime. Already 25% over budget by 3rd quarter for overtime. Just an indicator short of people. If you want 18 and only 18 then that is what you need to tell us. Discussion of increase of call volume, problem with weekends, Industrial Park growth. Part time with benefits is \$60,000 and doesn't include uniforms and training. 18 fulltime are nearly \$2 million. President Wolter asked what they were looking for tonight. Chief Pollpeter responded to take it to referendum for the year 2014. **MOTION (Hughes/Daniels) take dive team out of the budget and allow them to go to referendum for a 2014 time frame.** Discussion of cost total for Firefighter/EMT and comparable communities and actual pay for firefighters, part time shifts etc. Trustee Kaminski – I need more information and another meeting. Point of order, request to separate the two items in the motion. **MOTION (Kaminski/Hughes) to separate the two items and remove the dive team line items of \$8,500 from expenses and add \$5,000 to revenues.** Discussion of dive team. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.** Discussion of referendum and time frame. **MOTION (Vanderheiden/Kaminski) to postpone this discussion for a meeting of the Committee of the Whole for further information.** Discussion of referendum requirements, marketing etc. More facts needed and then schedule a meeting. President Wolter called for the vote. Clerk Goeckner stated the other motion had not been voted on previously. President Wolter stated the motions had been split and this was now a motion to postpone. **8 in favor, 1 opposed (Werderman), motion carried.**

III. Item 'A' – 2013 Budget review continued:

Director Rath – with removal of dive team you are at .5% under the levy, less than a 0% levy increase. **MOTION (Zabel) to remove the mini-excavator from capital borrowing.** Discussion on mini-excavator. President Wolter called for a second. No second. **Motion fails for lack of a second.** Discussion of borrowing for capital items. Items can be reviewed again when the borrowing comes before the board. Discussion of new parks trailer vs. using dive team trailer. Could not be refurbished for this use. **MOTION (Werderman) to add \$250,000 to the Fire Department labor.** Director Rath – you wouldn't be able to do that because it would put you over the levy that is allowed. If you find the money this year, you will have to find it next year. Trustee Werderman – it would

just be a tighter budget next year. Rath – there are no increases in this budget in any department. Maximum levy can be \$183,000 higher, but you are paying for it. **MOTION (Werderman/Daniels) to add \$175,000 into the Fire Department budget for personnel with that plan ultimately being approved by Public Safety and Village Board.** Discussion of needs, timing, surplus funds. Trustee Kaminski – cannot hire people now with surplus funds and no way to pay for them in the future. Discussion of TIF funds and closing timelines, debt service, tax levy and cutting future spending. **3 in favor (Ewert, Daniels, Werderman), 7 opposed, motion fails.**

Discussion of sewer utility projects. **MOTION (Zabel) to cut interceptor project to \$450,000.** President Wolter called for a second. No second. **Motion fails for lack of a second.** No other items from 2013 budget review, employees present for questions are dismissed.

MOTION (Kaminski/Baum) to accept budget as is. Discussion. Levy \$10,558,918 with general fund of \$8,689,638 and Debt Service \$1,869,280 and 0.5% less than the 2012 levy. **8 in favor, one opposed (Zabel), motion carried.**

B. Other budget considerations including 2012 Surplus Revenues

Director Rath – Projected numbers indicate roughly \$197,000 in higher revenues than budgeted for 2012. If we do nothing they go to unreserved. Discussion was to use them for: 2013 capital offset, fund new webpage vendor, 2012 employee bonus/increase. Use approximately 1% for increase in 2013 wages, about \$72,000. We have employees who have not had increases for 4 years.

Discussion of bank for retirement payouts, priorities, use for capital borrowing outside of general fund items, bonuses, website cost. **MOTION (Kaminski/Hughes) to set aside \$30,000 for new Village website, all in favor, motion carried.**

MOTION (Hughes/Daniels) to set aside \$20,000 for bonuses for 2012. 6 in favor, 3 opposed (Baum, Ewert, Zabel), motion carried.

MOTION (Werderman/Ewert) to fund the items under capital totaling \$72,000 from 2012 surplus based on Finance Director Rath's suggestion.

MOTION (Kaminski/Hughes) to amend that motion and pull the asphalt roller at \$20,000 out of that list. Trustee Kaminski – pulling it because it was not a priority for Highway Superintendent and I would rather see it go to the zero turn mowers he needs. Discussion. **7 in favor, 2 opposed (Baum/Ewert), motion to amend carried.** Discussion – it is not off list, just out of suggestion for \$72,000. **MOTION (Daniels/Kaminski) to take \$15,000 from reserves and purchase a thermal imaging camera now.** Purchase with reserve – put \$15,000 back so total is now \$67,000.

Trustees Vanderheiden and Ewert left at 8:10 p.m.

Discussion of approval of capital items to be borrowed for, surplus. Director Rath – You have approved the full budget so this is technically approved and the departments will assume these are passed, but you can always change it when you go to do the borrowing. If you earmark it on this list they can go buy it now. Discussion of amendment. **5 in favor, 2 opposed (Baum, Zabel) motion to amend carried.** Discussion – borrowing done in 2013. Original motion now at \$67,000. **5 in favor, 2 opposed (Baum, Zabel), motion carried.**

Discussion: borrowing, surplus funds used, purchase orders to come forward in January, capital list.

MOTION (Wolter/Kaminski) to remove the smart board, all in favor, motion carried.

MOTION (Baum/Kaminski) to remove the 2nd thermal imaging camera, 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Werderman), motion carried.

MOTION (Kaminski/Daniels) to remove park lights at Weidenbach for \$25,000. Discussion: fountain for park, park use, Fireman's Park playground.

MOTION (Hughes/Baum) to remove \$50,000 for Fireman's Park playground. Discussion of safety. 1 in favor (Hughes), 6 opposed, motion fails.

MOTION (Baum/Kaminski) remove forceful entry trainer for Fire Department. Discussion of tool. 2 in favor (Baum, Wolter), 5 opposed, motion fails.

MOTION (Kaminski/Wolter) to take \$30,000 for two zero turn mowers from surplus. Discussion. Kaminski and Wolter withdraw the motion.

Going forward with this budget for publication.

V. There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Barbara K. D. Goeckner, MMC WCPC
Village Clerk