

MEETING:	REGULAR MEETING OF THE ETHICS BOARD
DATE AND TIME:	Tuesday, June 24, 2025 5:45 PM
LOCATION:	Germantown Village Hall Board Room N112 W17001 Mequon Road

MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *This meeting has been given public notice in accordance with Section 19.83 and 19.84, Wis. Stats, in such form that will apprise the general public and news media of subject matter that is intended for consideration and action.*

Chairman Aaron Foley called the Ethics Board meeting to order at 5:47 PM.

II. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Aaron Foley, Member Wyatt Wiehr, Member Glenn Gaskill, Member Bill Neureuther

Also Present: Village Clerk Donna Ott, Village Administrator Steve Kreklow, Community Development Director Jeff Retzlaff, Attorney Woodward

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. May 27, 2025 (ACTION)

Motion: Approve as presented

Motioned By: Aaron Foley

Seconded By: Wyatt Wiehr

Yes: Aaron Foley, Wyatt Wiehr, Glenn Gaskill, Bill Neureuther

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried by Voice Vote (Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0)

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Hearing on Complaint of Melanie Smythe. The Ethics Board may convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.85(1)(b) for the purpose of considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person, and the taking of formal action on any such matter; 19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific

persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations; and/or 19.85(1)(a) for the purpose of deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body; and then may reconvene into open session to take such action as deemed appropriate.

Complainant, Melanie Smythe, was sworn in by Village Clerk Ott. Ms. Smythe provided testimony and the Respondent, James Sedgwick, was allowed to ask questions and cross-examine Ms. Smythe.

Subpoenaed witness, Steve Kreklow, was sworn in by Village Clerk Ott and answered questions from Board members, the complainant, and respondent.

Subpoenaed witness, Jeff Retzlaff, was sworn in by Village Clerk Ott and answered questions from Board members, the complainant, and respondent.

Motion: Break for 5 minutes before proceeding

Motioned By: Member Gaskill

Seconded By: Member Foley
The Board returned at 8:16 PM.

Subpoenaed witness, Sara Larson, was sworn in by Village Clerk Ott and answered questions from Board members, the complainant, and respondent. Documents presented by Ms. Larson were allowed to be submitted after Mr. Sedgwick reviewed the documents.

Respondent, James Sedgwick, was sworn in by Village Clerk Ott and provided a statement. He did not provide any witnesses.

Motion: Enter into Closed Session for Deliberation

Motioned By: Member Gaskill

Seconded By: Member Wiehr

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:36 PM and provided the following findings of fact, conclusion of law, and decision:

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Ethics Board FINDS:

1. No evidence was presented that Mr. Sedgwick took any vote on any matter that he had a personal interest.
2. No evidence was presented that the placement of a proposed land exchange between Blackstone Creek, LLC and the Village of Germantown on the agenda for the January 20, 2025 regular meeting of the Village Board of Germantown was the result of any preferential treatment towards Mr. Sedgwick.
3. No evidence was presented that Mr. Sedgwick was given any preferential treatment, instead, the treatment he received was similar to what other swap

and/or development proposals regarding the Blackstone Creek Golf Course received in the past.

4. No evidence was presented that Mr. Sedgwick received anything of value as alleged in the complaint, much less received anything of value in exchange for any official acts.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

On the basis of the foregoing findings of fact, the Ethics Board CONCLUDES that the Respondent, James Sedgwick, committed no violation of Village of Germantown Municipal Code § 1.064 (the Village of Germantown Ethics Code.)

JUDGMENT

The above-referenced complaint is hereby dismissed.

Motion: Adopt the stated findings and dismiss the complaint against James Sadgwick

Motioned By: Glenn Gaskill

Seconded By: Wyatt Wiehr

Yes: Aaron Foley, Wyatt Wiehr, Glenn Gaskill, Bill Neureuther

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried by Roll Call Vote (Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0)

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Foley adjourned the Ethics Board meeting at 9:39 PM.