

Town of German Flatts Board Meeting
Public Hearing Preliminary 2025 Budget
66 E. Main Street, Mohawk, New York 13407
October 29, 2024

Present: Peter Rovazzi, Supervisor
Jack Fitzer, Deputy Supervisor
Penny Watkins, Councilwoman
Mike Stone, Councilman
Justin Dibble, Councilman
Carmen Newtown, Highway Superintendent
David Moynihan, Dog Control
Rich Sweeney, Codes
Karl Manne, Town Attorney
Pam Jones, Town Clerk
Absent: Scott Hendrix, Councilman
Public: 6 attended, see sign-in sheet

MEETING called to order by Rovazzi at 5:30 at the Town Community Center. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone to approve the September 25, 2024 minutes. Carried.

MOTION by Dibble, seconded by Stone to approve the October 2, 2024 minutes. Watkins abstained. Carried.

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Dibble to approve the October 7, 2024 minutes. Watkins abstained. Carried

FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Rovazzi to approve the Town Clerk's September 2024 report for \$796.50. Carried.

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Watkins to approve Judge Engert's September 2024 report for \$1,074.00. Dibble abstained. Carried.

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Watkins to approve Judge Stone's September 2024 report for \$10,223.00. Dibble abstained. Carried.

TREASURER'S report to be approved next month. (new CPA returned report late)

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BILLS

MOTION by Dibble, seconded by Stone to pay GFIM bill for \$771.90. Carried.

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Watkins to pay bills as audited. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

HAYLOR FRER & COON – Becky Perkins gave presentation on 2025 insurance. Humana increased across the board (Medicare Plan), Excellus increased 5%, Dental 3% Town will have an open enrollment, employees will need to make changes between November 1, 2024 – November 15, 2024.

MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR VILLAGE OF ILION – Mayor Stephens of Ilion attended to discuss dog control in Ilion, said DCO was being paid by the Village and Town for the same job. The DCO will only be responsible for stray dogs and per article 7 section 117 of the Agriculture and Market Law Duties and Responsibilities. Village of Ilion will pay Town \$2000.00 per year towards DCO's salary. Town will respond with an official notice.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025 BUDGET

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone at 6:05 to open Public Hearing. Carried.
One resident questioned the 5% increase in salaries.

MOTION by Dibble, seconded by Watkins at 6:07 to close Public Hearing. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone to adopt the 2025 budget. Ayes 4 – Nays 0.
Carried.

WHEREAS this board has met at the time and place as specified in the Legal Notice of a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard:

Therefore be it resolved that this Town Board does hereby adopt such Preliminary Budget pursuant to Section 109 of the Town Law as changed, altered and revised as the Annual Budget of this Town of German Flatts for this Fiscal year beginning on the first day of January 2025 and that such 2025 budget as adopted be entered in the minutes of the Town Board, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk prepare duplicate copies of said budget adopted pursuant of Section subd. 2 of the Town Law and deliver one copy to the Supervisor of the Town to be presented to the County Board of Legislators of this County.

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OTHER REPORTS

HIGHWAY – Dale Johnson resignation of fulltime employee at HEO and Deputy Highway Superintendent as of October 15, 2024. Johnson will be an At Will employee as of October 16, 2024 as MEO at a pay rate of \$21.54 per hour.

Mark Walts appointed Deputy Highway Superintendent as of November 1, 2024.

Tyler Coolidge position changed from MEO to HEO as of October 23, 2024.

Bell Hill Road paving done for the season, falling short of doing the whole road. Will finish in the spring of 2025.

Newtown will sell old tires on Auction International. Newtown informed the board that the 1958 snowblower sold over 1 ½ years ago was never picked up, would like to put this back on Auction International. Board was good with this.

CODES – Sweeney reported 22 permits issued. Certified letter mailed to Brian Fleming returned, Sweeney mailed out another letter by regular mail. Other 2 cases are in court. Sweeney informed board he has visited the solar project several times.

DOG CONTROL – Moynihan informed the board that Ilion has many dog calls which are not reflected on his Town's report because he puts it on the Ilion report. There are many dog calls in Ilion every week from strays, to dog bites to dog abuse, sometimes in not so good neighborhoods. Moynihan stated the Ilion police are very helpful.

HUMANE SOCIETY INVOICE – The Town received a bill for \$2,585.98 for a dog left tied to front door of shelter. Attorney Manne informed Board article 26 of the Agriculture & Markets Law state HCHS should invoice known owner for charges accrued. If not paid, then HCHS must take said owner to court. Attorney Manne will send letter to HCHS.

MOTION by Dibble, seconded by Stone at 6:50 to enter into executive session with Newtown for personnel discussion. Carried.

MOTION by Dibble, seconded by Stone at 7:05 to exit executive session. Carried.

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Dibble to increase Dog Control Officer's salary by \$2000.00 effected January 1, 2025. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone to approve Highway employee, per hand book, paternity leave, effected on October 30, 2024.

SUPERVISOR/CLERK

TRASH DAY REPORT – There were 212 permits handed out, with 107 permits used. Collected \$383.00 in tire revenue and \$180.38 for metal.

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JCAP RESOLUTION APPROVAL –
MOTION by Stone, seconded by Watkins to resubmit JCAP grant resolution. Carried.

MOTION by Watkins, seconded by Stone to approve Haylor Fryer & Coon renewed as
Town's insurance Company. Carried.

IT consultant Keeler, cleaned out old computers, then Rovazzi took them to Utica,
where there was an electronic drop off site for disposal.

Next meeting is on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 5:00pm.

MOTION by Stone, seconded by Dibble to adjourn at 7:25. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Jones, Town Clerk
Town of German Flatts