

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held 6 PM February 8, 2012 at the Ephratah Town Hall.
Roll Call found the following people present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler
Councilman	George Cosselman-- Absent
Councilman	Thomas Miles
Councilman	Andrew Chorlton
Clerk	Eleanor Smith
Hwy Superintendent	James Berry
Code Enforcement Officer	David Rackmyre, Jr
Attorney	Michael Albanese

The meeting was opened with Salute to the Flag led by Supervisor Todd Bradt.

Supervisor Bradt welcomed the two following Johnstown High School boys from the P.I.G.S. program: Andrew Duesler and Douglas Chambers.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept the minutes from January 11, 2012 Regular meeting. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract 2, Claim # 16 thru 37 for the amount of \$ 10,497.69. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Thomas Miles made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract 2, Claim # 15 thru 34 for the amount of \$ 11,492.66. 2nd by Andy Chorlton. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Communication: The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed for Presidents' Day on February 20, 2012 and open on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Municipal and private haulers are no longer allowed to dispose of electronics, mixed with garbage, in the landfill.

Public Input: None

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer: Report submitted for review.

- No new permits issued.
- A company, requesting not to be named at this time, are in the final stages of planning to erect a tower up on East Road.

Planning Board: Report submitted for review.

- Received a letter from Glen Blanchard requesting to be considered for an alternate on the Planning Board. The Planning Board recommend the Town Board approves the recommendation.
- The Planning Board requested the members' names be added to the web page and the web address be placed on the information sign outside.
- An invitation to Greg Charron to give an informal presentation on hydro-fracking will be given.

Highway Superintendent: Cutting brush, CHIPS amount increased some, and Jim is asking permission to go out for bids for blacktopping.

Resolution 43

Thomas Miles offered Resolution 43 to advertise for bids on blacktopping roads. Bids must be labeled on outside of sealed envelope “Blacktop Bids” and received by the Town Clerk no later than 8 P.M. on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 3782 State Hwy 10, St Johnsville, NY 13452.

All bids will be opened on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 6:15 P.M. The board reserves the right to reject all or any bids. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Youth: The Easter Party will be held on March 31, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. at the recreation site. Al Cretser is coordinating their activities so as not to conflict with the Rod & Gun Club and the Ephratah Volunteer Fire Dept.

Assessors: Report submitted for review.

Supervisor: Report submitted for review.

Historian: Evelyn Frasier is working on the history of Lassellsville church.

New Business:

Resolution 44

Thomas Miles offered Resolution 44 accepting Glen Blanchard, 385 Fical Road, St Johnsville, NY 13452, as the second alternate on the Planning Board. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Resolution 45

Submitted by: Ivan Duesler

Seconded by: Andrew Chorlton

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Carried

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FULTON COUNTY
TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM TO PERFORM A
MUNICIPAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE EFFICIENCY STUDY**

Whereas, Fulton County is proposing to submit a grant application under the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program to perform a Municipal Highway Maintenance Efficiency Study, and

WHEREAS, the proposed study would involve having an engineering firm evaluate how roads and bridges are maintained by the County and each of its municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the intent of the study would be to have the engineering firm assess if there is a more efficient less expensive method of maintaining roads and bridges throughout the County, and

WHEREAS, Fulton County has already issued a Request for Proposals and received cost proposals from engineering firms to perform this study, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of preparing the study is \$100,000.00, with the State Grant paying 90 percent of said cost, and

WHEREAS, Fulton County has included funds into its 2012 budget to cover the 10% local share cost, with no cost to local governments to perform said study; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Ephratah hereby authorizes Fulton County to submit a grant application under the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program to perform a Municipal Highway Maintenance Efficiency Study that will include an analysis of the roads and bridges currently maintained throughout the Town of Ephratah, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Town Highway Superintendent, Planning Director, County Superintendent of Highways and Facilities, Administrative Officer/Clerk of the Board, all Chief-elected officers in each municipality in Fulton County, and to each and every other person, institution or agency who will further the purport of this Resolution.

Supervisor Bradt has received new “street lights out” form to report to National Grid.

In March, 2012 the Board will audit the two Judges and the Clerk’s books at the end of the meeting.

The Village of St. Johnsville sent a letter of concern on behalf of St Johnsville and Canajoharie to Ephratah Town Board asking the Board to review the matter of Hydrofracking as soon as possible. They are concerned with any introduction of “hydrofracking” in the Town of Ephratah could seriously jeopardize its potable public water supply.

Resolution 46

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 46 authorizing Town of Ephratah to enter into a Planning Service Agreement with Fulton County Planning Department, whereby the Town of Ephratah would commit to spend up to \$1,000 to pay for Planning Service that may be needed during the 2012 year. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Recreational Handbook was received from Mang Insurance. The book did not serve it’s purpose. The need is to describe any coverage, if any, when children or participants of the recreational organization travel to & from an event. The matter has been tabled until next month and until further information can be gathered.

Resolution 47

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 47 authorizing Jim Berry to enter into an Agreement for Expenditure of Town Highway Funds, in the sum of \$190,404.53 for general repairs upon 42.36 miles of town highways. 2nd by Andy Chorlton. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Unfinished Business:

Resolution 48

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 48 authorizing the delegate for the AOTSNY to vote **YES** on all Proposed 2012 Legislative Resolutions. The Resolutions are as follows:

1. Preserve and Strengthen Home Rule
2. Mandate Relief
3. Publication of Legal Notices
4. Road Preservation Securities and Road Use Agreements
5. Preserve Land Use Authority for Natural Gas Drilling
6. Funding Local Costs Associated with Gas Extraction
7. Requesting Meaningful Participation in the Siting of Major Power Generation Facilities
8. Reform Real Property Tax System
9. Highway, Bridge and Transportation Funding
10. Elimination of the Requirement to Collect State Animal Population Control Surcharge
11. Fund the Local FEMA Cost Share
12. Authority to Charge Gross Receipts Taxes on Utility Bills
13. Surcharges to Fund Justice Courts and Town Prosecutors
14. Preserve Dedicated Funds for Local Purposes

2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes. Carried. Time: 6:35 P.M.

Eleanor Smith, Clerk