

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at the Ephratah Town Hall.

Roll Call found the following people present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler - absent
Councilman	George Cosselman
Councilman	Thomas Miles
Councilman	Andrew Chorlton
Clerk	Cynthia Wesselmann
Hwy Superintendent	Alan Cretser
Code Enforcement Officer	David Rackmyre, Jr - absent
Attorney	Michael Albanese

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

Thomas Miles made a motion to accept the June 14, 2017 regular meeting minutes. 2nd by George Cosselman, 4 Ayes. Carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract # 7, Claim 105 thru 120 in the amount of \$6,994.85. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes. Carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #7, Claim 82 thru 108 in the amount of \$11,565.32. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Communications:

- The Public Service Commission sent out letters regarding National Grid is looking to raise their rates. There are places and times listed of the public hearings to attend if anyone needs that information.
- The Town received a card from the family of Deborah Hofmann for the flowers.
- A reminder to residents they can call 736-5504 and make an appointment for the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day on August 12th from 7am until 12 noon. The program is free for Fulton County residents.

Public Input:

- None

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Eight new permits were issued.
- Four Certificates of compliance were issued.
- Mr. Rackmyre also had several code related calls and inspections.

Planning Board:

- They had a special meeting on June 26th for Mr. & Mrs Glen Blanchard's variance request. The Planning Board granted the trailer and land variance request with the conditions of a survey and transfer of land.
- The Planning Board made a recommendation that the Town Board approve the exemption of 0-2 lot divisions from the Sub Division Regulations. They also recommended that these divisions still go through the Planning Board on a short form for basic Town Code approval and a copy also go to the Assessor.
- Judy Townsend reminded everyone about the Town Wide Sale being held on July 29th at the RGL Volunteer Fire Department and the Auto Show at the ERC on August 12th.

Thomas Miles made a motion to set a Public Hearing to modify the Sub-Division Regulations to read land owners that do a simple spit (0-2) lot divisions could get an approval on a short from the Planning Board and the Assessor would get a copy. The Public Hearing will be held on September 13th, 2017 at 6:15pm at the Ephratah Town Hall. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes, Carried.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent, Alan Cretser said they have been mowing on the side of the roads and screening gravel in the pit.
- Hansen Aggregates has put our roads on standby with the blacktop due to the weather conditions,
- The Wheeled Excavator will be in tomorrow or Monday morning.

Resolution 55

George Cosselman offered resolution 55 to take out a bond for \$80,000 through NBT Bank for the wheeled excavator. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes, carried.

Youth:

- The first day of softball is on Saturday, July 15th at 9am and everything is all set. After that they will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6pm.
- The Car Show is set for August 12th from 11am till 2pm. There are baskets to be raffled off and the Historical Society will be having a bake sale.

Assessor:

- The Final Tax role for 2017 has been printed and certified with a copy in the Town Clerk's office to view.
- Lyn is collecting data with new permits and sales.

Supervisor:

- Todd met with Bill VanGorder and discussed the new insurance policy for the Town for the upcoming year. They did increase the bond on a couple of employees, increased a couple of the bonds for the trucks and took one off.

Historian:

- The Deputy Historian Abby Cretser finished an inventory and got some things organized up stairs with the Highway's (aka Dad's) help with shelves.
- They ordered new boxes from Gaylord Archives to get better organized.
- They will be having a Bake Sale at the Car Show on August 12th at the Ephratah Rec Comm.

New Business:

- The Town Board discussed the road conditions on Route 29 with the ridges and pot holes. They are concerned about vehicle damages and the possibility of it causing an accident.

Resolution 56

George Cosselman offered Resolution 56 to send Notice to the NYS DOT regarding Route 29. The Town of Ephratah Board is putting them on notice that on State Route 29 from County Highway 119 to Rte 10A the road is unsafe and that they could be held liable for any damages. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes, Carried.

- NIMIR sent out an Anti-Harassment Policy. Attorney Albanese said there is a procedure; you fill out a complaint form.

Unfinished Business:

- Attorney Michael Albanese discussed with Supervisor Todd Bradt that there needs to be a survey affidavit filled with Glen Blanchard's property donation so there is a record of the marks. A survey would be a good idea.
- The County did drop the County Wide Assessment Plan under Shared Services but will consider hiring the County for assessments down the road if it is needed. The first public Hearing is July 31st and August 8th Bradt believes.

Public Input:

- Mrs. Weaver is having a problem with the neighbor. The Town Board suggested calling the Sheriff for a car parked on the road and calling DEC for garbage in the creek. She would like the Code Enforcer to look in to it further with tickets for the junk and debris.
- Mr. Jack Keppler pointed out the State should be held liable for vehicle damages and repairs for the road conditions on Route 29. Attorney Michael Albanese said taxpayers could go to the Court of Claims to try to recover from injuries or damages.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes, Carried. Time: 6:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah