

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at the Ephratah Town Hall.

Roll Call found the following people present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt - absent
Deputy Supervisor	Ivan Duesler
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 Deputy Supervisor Ivan Duesler.

George Cosselman made a motion to accept the July 12, 2017 regular meeting minutes. 2nd by Thomas Miles, 4 Ayes. Carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract # 8, Claim 121 thru 132 in the amount of \$2,517.06. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Thomas Miles made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #8, Claim 109 thru 135 in the amount of \$164,482.08. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes. Carried.

Communications:

- The NYS Ag & Markets sent in the Municipal Shelter Inspection Report for the Brennan Memorial HS and it was satisfactory. They also sent notice that the Dog Control Officer Inspection Report for Daniel Robinson was also satisfactory.
- The liability insurance rates have gone up approx \$2,000 for adding the dump truck and new excavator.

Public Input:

- Carolyn Honeywell had heard comments around town and was wondering why the town wide garage sales was done in July instead of August. She said that they would like it in August and people think it would do better. The Town Board commented that Daniel Robinson had set it up to coincide with the RGL Craft Fair as they have done in the past.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Nine new permits were issued.
- Tow Certificates of compliance were issued.
- One ticket was served and a court date set.
- Mr Miles said that they need to get in touch with Mr Rackmyre to address the the Rockwood Store stuff all around.
- Report submitted and on file.

Planning Board:

- They will be meeting again on Monday September 11th, 2017 at 6pm at the Ephratah Town Hall.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent, Mr. Cretser stated that the blacktop has been done and that they are finishing up the shoulders.
- Mr. Cretser also stated that they are almost done mowing on the side of the roads. They would like to be screening gravel for a couple more weeks, and then start sand.

Youth:

- The last day of softball is on August 9th. The trophies are all set.
- 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.
- The insurance company was in and made some suggestions for sign corrections.
- Soccer starts September 9th at 10am. The coaches are all set and shirts are all ordered.

Assessor:

- The Final 2017 Equalization Rate for the Town of Ephratah has been set by the State at 74%.
- The Assessor Lyn Yuenger said the value of vacant land in the town has caused the town rate to drop since sale prices on vacant land have gone up quite a lot in the last few years. She said that she is unable to raise the assessments on vacant land without raising all other assessments as well. Attorney Albanese agreed and said it would have to be an entire re-evaluation of the assessments and that didn't go well the last time that was proposed with the town people. They stated that down the road this may eventually go to a County wide assessment.
- Ms Yuenger is collecting data on properties in the town and will continue to collect as she receives the permits.
- The County has rolled over to 2018 and she is now able to process all sales including splits and mergers.
- She will attend the seminar in Watertown and hopes to speak with Dave Briggs concerning the vacant land assessments.
- Two assessments were changed by the Board of Review and notice was sent to the land owners.

Supervisor:

- Deputy Ivan Duesler is filling in while Supervisor Bradt is out of town.

Historian:

- The Historian Ms Frasier stated that it has been quite this month. She is still trying to help a woman from Ohio with the Jennings' history.

New Business:

Andy made a motion to set a Public Hearing for claims to be put in writing for "Notice of Highway Defects". The public hearing will be set for September 13th at 6:30pm at the Ephratah Town Hall. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, Carried.

Resolution 57

George Cosselman offered Resolution 57 to pay the Fulton County DSW invoice in the amount of \$3,321.13

2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes, Carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes, Carried. Time: 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah