

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at the Ephratah Town Hall.

Roll Call found the following people present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
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 - absent

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

George Cosselman made a motion to accept the October 11, 2017 regular meeting minutes. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract # 11, Claim 161 thru 171 in the amount of \$3,137.78. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 5 Ayes, Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #11, Claim 178 thru 197 in the amount of \$16,805.80. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 5 Ayes, Carried.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed Thursday, November 23rd for the Thanksgiving Holiday. They will reopen regular hours, Saturday, November 25th from 8am to 4pm.
- The Fort Plain Library sent a letter in looking for a donation. The councilman declined at this time.

Public Input:

- None.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- The Code Enforcer issued five new permits, two certificates of compliance and one certificate of occupancy. There were also four violation notices sent out.
- Mr. Rackmyre will be out of town November 12 thru the 20th, his complete report is on file in the clerk's office.
- Mr. Rackmyre spoke with the Smith Rd resident about vehicles and debris and granted him a permit to construct a pole barn. He followed up with the resident and advised him about the road right of way.
- Mr. Rackmyre also spoke with the owner of a trailer violation and how to proceed to comply with the Town's Local Law regarding trailers.
- Any questions or concerns please call (518) 568-5140 and leave a message.

Public Hearing:

The public hearing was opened at 6:15pm for the Preliminary 2018 Budget.

Planning Board:

- There has been no activity and no one in attendance this evening.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent, Mr. Cretser said they were inspected by M-Shaw. They received a couple citations and they have been corrected. There may be a small fine associated with that.
- The sand and salt is done. The head gear is on all the trucks. He is planning to put two sanders on tomorrow.
- He received a resignation from one of the town employees and is planning to replace him.
- They have had rave reviews from using the new excavator. Councilman Thomas Miles agreed with a job well done on Tillboro Road.
- Mr. Cretser and his Deputy Duane Galt will be attending a class on November 16th in Salisbury Center. The class is on the new rules and regulations for State, Encon and Soil Conservation for culvert pipes and steams within the townships.

Youth:

- They will still work on the calendar, but they are done for the year. The Sponsor Dinner was held on November 4th at 6pm with a good turnout and was a success.
- They are considering putting a new outhouse on a concrete slab. The councilman suggested getting pricing for a new regular plastic outhouse.

Assessor:

- Ms. Yuenger attended the “Reading and Understanding Deeds” seminar in Oneonta on Oct 27th and found it to be very informative. She may be able to get reimbursement for the town for the cost of the tuition.
- Ms. Yuenger will continue to collect data. She noted a list of 7 parcels that have new construction either done or being worked on in the Northeast part of town that she has no permits for. In another part of town there were two more, one of which is an entire house. She has given the Town Board list and will give the Code Enforcer a copy.
- Exemption renewals will be mailed and need to be turned in by March 1st, 2018.
- Remind anyone turning 65 next year to sign up for the senior exemption and enhanced before March 1st, 2018.

Supervisor:

- Nothing to report.

Historian:

- The Historian is out with an injury. The clerk will be getting a card for people to sign as we all wish her well and a speedy recovery.

New Business:

- The Town received a copy of the Brennan Humane Society Contract for 2018. The Dog Warden and Supervisor looked it over and it is the same as last year.

Resolution 67

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 67 to accept the James A Brennan Humane Society Contract of \$1,500 starting Jan1st

. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, Carried.

- The Town Board will discuss permits with the Code Enforcement Officer. He may need to issue a violation or tickets to people that do not have a building permit. In the beginning of last year the Town Board agreed to waive permit fees but violators that did not get a permit would be automatically fined. Councilman Mr. Charlton thought the first offense would be a \$250 fine, the second offense a \$500 fine and the third offense a \$1,000 fine. The town board will discuss this further with the Code Enforcement Officer David Rackmyre Jr.

Unfinished Business:

- Supervisor Bradt plans to speak with Mr. Ackerbauer regarding a survey for Glenn Blanchard's property donation for cemetery parking.
- There was no public input on the public hearing.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to close the 2018 Preliminary Budget hearing. 2nd by Andrew Charlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 68

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 68 to adopt the 2018 Preliminary Budget. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Thomas Miles made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, Carried. Time: 6:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah