

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at the Ephratah Town Hall. Roll Call found the following people present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler
Councilman	George Cosselman
Councilman	Thomas Miles
Councilman	Andrew Chorlton (late)
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.

George Cosselman made a motion to accept the May 9, 2018 regular meeting minutes. 2nd by Ivan Duesler 4 Ayes, Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract # 6, Claim 80 thru 98 in the amount of \$10,554.86. 2nd by Thomas Miles 5 Ayes, Carried.

Thomas Miles made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #6, Claim 102 thru 121 in the amount of \$11,303.35. 2nd by George Cosselman 5 Ayes, Carried.

Communications:

- Ephratah Transfer Station hours will not be effected by the July 4th holiday.
- Office of Aging is having a Senior Wellness Picnic at the Concordia Park on August 2nd from 10-3 pm. Tickets are \$8.00.
- Fulton County Latex Paint Exchange is Saturday 7:30-11:30 June, July and August at the Mud Road landfill. This is a free program.

Public Input:

- Kathy Oughton on Tillboro Road complimented the town board on its keeping taxes even and fair for the residents of the town. She also complimented Lyn Yuenger, Assessor. Kathy has served on the Board of Assessment review since 2004. Kathy questioned the new Ephratah land values that were determined by the Assessor for 2018. There are only four properties that are taxed in Ephratah for waterfront property when there are more properties that are waterfront and that they should all be taxed equally. The assessments for views are higher on primary properties and that all with views should also be taxed equally. She also brought to the Board's attention that forest assessments should be made by a forester and open land is being assessed for less than wooded land.
- John Moorehouse, North Road, stood to talk about re-evaluation of property values and wanted to know if this was going to be discussed by the Board.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- The Code Enforcer, Mr. David Rackmyre Jr had 4 new permits, 2 certificates of compliance issued.
- Mr. Rackmyre has been selected as a County Planning Board Member.
- Any questions or concerns please call (518) 568-5140 and leave a message, or cell phone number at (518) 848-2930. His report was submitted and on file.

Planning Board:

- The Planning Board meeting was on June 9th at 6 PM. A quorum was present.
- Code Enforcement Officer reports for March, April and May were reviewed.
- Town Board Meetings reports were reviewed for March, April and May.
- Authorized the updated survey for Kevin and Donna Sweet.
- Reviewed 2018 Community Activity docket:
Town cleanup went well with about 10 miles of road picked up.
The Rec Department Auto Show is Aug. 11 from 11-2pm. The RGL Crafts and Town Yard sale is on the same date from 9-6pm. A suggestion was made for joint advertising under “Ephratah Fun Day” including the Nature Trail and the Go Track as part of the day. Supervisor Bradt thought this was a good idea.
- Fall workshop is still in planning.
- The next meeting will be September 10th at 6 pm. Officer nominations will be discussed at that meeting since elections are held at the December meeting.

Highway:

- The Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser reported that the trucks were inspected with all passing except # 2 which will be sent out.
- The shoulders have been cut and pipes replaced to be ready for blacktop.
- Mr. Cretser said that the mower tractor will be fixed and mowing will be done next week.
- The annual Insurance meeting will be June 19th at 1:30 for safety updates.
- The mining permit is due November 4th. Mr. Cretser is waiting for a reply for DEC on what is needed for the permit. Scott Henze of the County Planning Department is going to be contacted for assistance with maps for this.
- There is an issue on Rockwood Hill with a load of firewood in the roadway. Wood has been pushed out of the way so that people can get through. Effort has been made to contact the owner as this is a town roadway that needs to be kept clear.
- They have an issue with a cab mount that is obsolete and cannot be replaced. The truck can be put back together and used for a short time. The matter is going to be brought up and discussed at budget time. Trucks in the past have been replaced ideally every 4-5 years.
- The mowing tractors are a 1973 and 1974. \$3000 was spent to get them working this year. A new tractor will be \$79,000 with a mower.

Youth:

- Softball starts July 14th at 9am. Not as many children signed up as in the past.
- The car show is August 11th from 11-2pm. Flyers are being handed out for this event.
- The insurance agent will be going to the Recreation Commission as well for a safety inspection.

Assessor:

- Grievance Day was held May 22, 2018 from 5:00 till 9:00pm at the Town Barn. The Board of Review heard 17 complaints and reviewed 8 stipulations with a total reduction of \$27,538.
- They will be collecting data on parcels that are being improved or demolished as the permits come in.
- The Board of Review changes will be entered into the computer next week after they are reviewed by Real Property.

Supervisor:

- Supervisor Todd Bradt met with Bill Van Gorder of Mang and he gave us our lost claims report. The town hasn't had any claims in fifteen years.
- Mr. Bradt also met with Dan Engle about Veterans' graves not being recognized. Next year the town will buy grave side markers instead of flags for those that need to be replaced or recognized.

Historian:

- Ms. Frasier found the right-a-way on imagemate.com for the Dempster Cemetery. The Supervisor now has the option to mark the roadway.
- The Historical Society will be holding a bake sale at the Car Show again.
- The Historical Society is making a WW1 pamphlet.
- A Facebook page has been started with the hopes of getting more information and interest in our area.
- They are working on doing a historical displays at the Town Hall.
- The goal is to have a historical society building down the road with monies raised.
- A grant was received for the Yaunie Mill sign. It will be on Rob May's lawn near where the Yaunie Mill was. The sign should be here August 1st with hopefully, an unveiling, in September.

New Business:

Resolution 47

Thomas Miles offered Resolution 47 to accept the Fulton County Highway contract of \$425/mile with two passes twice a year for the 7.52 miles of county roads. The total of the contract is \$3,196. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes. Carried.

- A report was received from EnCon on the Ephratah Garoga dam reporting that there was more deterioration. EnCon wants a letter back about future repairs.

Unfinished Business:

Glen Blanchard is still waiting on Charles Ackerbauer to finalize the paperwork for property donated to the town for a parking lot beside the Fical Cemetery.

Resolution 48

George Cosselman offered Resolution 48 to sell the old roller for scrap metal. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, Carried. Time: 6:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah