

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, March 13th, 2019 at the Ephratah Town Hall. Roll Call found the following people present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler
Councilman	George Cosselman
Councilman	Thomas Miles - absent
Councilman	Andrew Chorlton
Clerk	Cynthia Wesselmann
Hwy Superintendent	Alan Cretser
Code Enforcement Officer	Devon Percival
Attorney	Michael Albanese – absent

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

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept the February 13th, 2019 regular meeting minutes. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #3, Claim 24 thru 36 in the amount of \$4,702.00. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes Carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #3, Claim 36 thru 56 in the amount of \$30,419.39. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes, Carried.

Communications:

- Evelyn Frasier submitted the 2018 Historian annual report, and is on file.
- The Ephratah judge, the Honorable Dominic Arena, agreed to be assigned to the Stratford Town Court for 2019; term to end 12/31/19; unless sooner terminated by Administrative Order.

Public Input:

- Lyn Yuenger spoke stating she had heard that Stewart's was considering putting a store in the Rockwood area. She thought the Ephratah Town Board should consider drafting a letter to Stewart's from the Town Board sighting the community would welcome them and that there is in fact a need for gas and essentials if they are still considering the area. The Town Board does intend to draft a letter.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Code Enforcement Officer Devon Percival has submitted the Building Standards and Codes report for the year 2018 to NY State and is on file in the Clerk's office. Mr. Percival said that there had been 45 building permits, 3 certificates of occupancy and 2 building inspected. He also submitted the same kind of report to the US Census Bureau for the Federal Government.
- Mr. Percival is working with the Assessor Lyn Yuenger to get permits in order.
- He has an appointment Saturday to do an inspection on the English Road.
- He has been getting several calls and will be doing property maintenance at the ERC.
- Any questions or concerns Mr. Percival can be reached at (518)928-9360.

Planning Board:

- They had their meeting on Monday night, March 11th; a quorum was present.
- They would like the Town Board to reappoint Bill Simpson to the Planning Board, term to expire December 31st, 2025.

- Ephratah Clean up day will take place on Saturday, May 4th, 2019. They would like to see more participates to help clean up the roads. They plan to meet at the Town Hall at 9am and go till approx. 11:30am. They will be providing supplies.
- The Fall Workshop on Reverse Mortgages will take place at the Town Hall, the date is to be announced.
- An inquiry was made as to whether a four-way stop can be set up at the intersection of Wohlgemuth and Tillboro Roads. They felt that the lack of visibility in the one direction could be a safety issue.

Highway:

- The Highway Superintendent, Alan Cretser, reported that they have been trying to get caught up. Mr. Cretser said they had also plowed County Routes 119 & 140 approximately 70 times over the winter months wearing on the trucks. He would like the Supervisor Todd Bradt to talk to the County about the bringing up the price of plowing and sanding the roads and the mowing.
- Mr. Cretser said the town employee Steve had done a nice job on the flatbed of the Ford truck. He also told the Town Board of an issue he has been having with the new truck now down to H.L. Gage. The aftercooler is leaking and they think when it regens every 25 miles it is not getting hot enough and not burning out the filters. That part has been ordered and on record. They said it still should be covered under the warranty.
- Mr. Cretser attended Advocacy Day with others to hear potential upcoming representatives. It was brought to his attention that employees would need to be trained as certified operators in order to dig ditches. Mr. Cretser will try to combine a training class with the County Highway Department.
- Mr. Cretser said next month he would like to go out to bid for blacktop. He plans to get pricing on paving Kringsbush Road from the town line to Route 29 and four tenths of a mile on Tillboro Rd of a base. Then go back up to Bolster Hill to the town line and continue on Bolster Hill until we run out of blacktop. He noted that Hansen would be grinding and paving from Rte 10, the Montgomery Line, to Rte 29. They are working on doing Rte 67 from the town of Johnstown line to Route 10, but they don't know if that will be done.

George Cosselman made a motion to go out to bid for blacktop. The bids would be need to be submitted on or before April 9th, the evening before the board meeting. The bid will be advertised in the Leader Herald and available at the clerk's office. All bids will be opened at 6:15pm on April 10th at the Town Board meeting, at the Ephratah Town Hall. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 4 Ayes, carried.

Youth:

- Kalub Blackwell is finishing up his Boy Scout project at the ERC. Mr. Cretser commented several times what an excellent job he has done.
- The Ephratah Recreation Commission will be having an Easter Party with the Easter Bunny on April 13th at 2pm, all are welcome. There will be an egg hunt divided up by age groups.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Ms. Yuenger reported they have completed the Enhanced Star IVP required and now the Office of Real Property Tax Services will report the parcels that are eligible.
- They have entered all the renewals for the Ag, Forest, and non-profits exemptions. They also have had numerous new Veteran applications this year.
- Ms. Yuenger has met with the Code Enforcer, Devon Percival, to go over existing and new permits. She also plans to attend a class in April for 3 credit hours.

Supervisor:

- Nothing to report.

Public Hearing: The public hearing for Local Law 1 of 2019 entitled “Tax Collector as Appointed Position was opened at 6:15pm.

Historian:

- The Historian, Ms. Frasier, has been working with family members of the Fical Cemetery and wanted it noted that there are grave sites by the stone wall fence. “That seems to be the popular place they buried people without markers.”
- Ms. Frasier and her Deputy, Abby Cretser have been working on collecting old town pictures. Ms. Frasier will be writing a story about Green Street history that can be seen on the 1868 & 1905 maps available for sale at the clerk’s office. She also noted that the Ephratah Proper area was not by the store but down towards Saltsman’s Hotel, going the other way. They have also ordered more cups to sell for their fund raiser.
- Ms. Frasier mentioned the Historical Society has chosen this to be The Year of the Glove honoring past glove makers in the area. The state conference in October will be held in Albany this year.
- Deputy Historian Abby Cretser asked the Town Board for permission to put a new fence up around the Michael Cemetery; as the Town has ownership of all of the abandon cemeteries. She also asked permission to send out a letter for donations hoping to raise money for maintenance of others as well.

New Business:

- GAVAC sent in a letter requesting the town’s support for a certificate of need, taking over the area that the Fulton County Ambulance Service provided for Ephratah.

Resolution 44

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 44 to support GAVAC with their intentions of taking over the area that Fulton County Ambulance Service was providing for Ephratah; as there is a need and a matter of public safety. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, Carried.

Resolution 45

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 45 to allow the Ephratah Historical Society to send out a letter to fund raise for the cemeteries. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes, Carried.

- Supervisor Todd Bradt got in touch with Tom Wind regarding a NYSIRTA grant. The proposal states that National Grid would own the telephone poles and the costs for the LED lighting would reduce the overall street lighting costs throughout the year. This was based on 102 street lights; the actual light count may be less.

Resolution 46

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 46 to accept the National Grid contract for the LED lighting. National Grid would still own and maintain the lights. It would cost the Town \$4,366.00 for the LED lights. National Grid will be applying for the NYSIRTA grant on Ephratah’s behalf receiving \$5,115.00 as an Efficiency Grant reducing the cost with a possible rebate from the grant. The LED lighting would reduce the rate to \$95.42 per year, per light. The actual light count may be less as well. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, Carried.

Resolution 47

Andrew Chorlton offered Resolution 47 to reappoint William Simpson to the Planning Board with a seven-year term to expire 12/31/2025. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 4 Ayes, Carried.

Resolution 48

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 48 to reappoint Alan Cretser to the Ephratah Recreation Commission, with a five-year term to expire 12/31/2023. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, Carried.

- The Adirondack Park Agency sent in a letter looking for support to expand the trails and miles within the Adirondacks. There is talk of a plan to put a gate on the west end of Fical to keep larger vehicles out and putting a port a potty by the Rockwood pull off camp sites.

Resolution 49

Andrew Chorlton offered Resolution 49 to support the Adirondack Park Agency with expanding the trails and miles within the Adirondack Park. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 4 Ayes, Carried.

Unfinished Business

Resolution 50

Andrew Chorlton offered Resolution 50 to adopt Local Law 1 of 2019 as follows:

**RESOLUTION 50 AUTHORIZING ADOPTION BY
EPHRATAH TOWN BOARD
OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2019 entitled**

[“Tax Collector As Appointed Position”](#)

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ephratah has determined to abolish the position of Elected Tax Collector, who is an elected official of the Town of Ephratah; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ephratah has determined that the position of Tax Collector shall be a position appointed by the Town Board,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ephratah hereby adopts said Local Law No. 1 of 2019 entitled “Tax Collector as Appointed Position,” a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and she hereby is directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and in the Local Law Book of the Town of Ephratah, and to give due notice of the adoption of said local law to the Secretary of the State of New York.

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

Introduced:

Approved:

	ABSENT	AYE	NAY
Supervisor Todd Bradt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilman Thomas Miles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilman Andrew Chorlton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilman George Cosselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilman Ivan Duesler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tax Collector As Appointed Position.

Local Law Number 1 of 2019

The Tax Collector of the Town of Ephratah shall become an appointed position, which said Tax Collector shall be appointed by the Town Board of the Town of Ephratah commencing in November of 2019 and for each future term thereafter.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 4 Ayes, Carried. Time: 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah