

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, October 9th, 2019 at the Ephratah Town Hall. Roll Call found the following people present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler
Councilman	George Cosselman
Councilman	Andrew Chorlton
Councilwoman	Eleanor Smith
Clerk	Cynthia Wesselmann
Hwy Superintendent	Alan Cretser
Code Enforcement Officer	Devon Percival
Attorney	Michael Albanese

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

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept the September 11th, 2019 regular meeting minutes. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #10, Claim 103 thru 109 in the amount of \$25,014.35. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #10, Claim 173 thru 188 in the amount of \$20,637.22. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, Carried.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2019 for the Columbus Day Holiday. They will be open Tuesday, October 15th from 10am-6pm.
- The Ephratah Transfer Station will also be closed Monday, November 11th for the Veterans Day Holiday and will be open Tuesday, November 12th from 10am-6pm.
- The Fulton County Landfill also sent in notice that the Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Thursday, November 28th for Thanksgiving and will not be open Friday.

Public Input:

- Duane Gallt spoke on updates needed for the Sexual Harassment Policies as he had recently been to the training at the HFM BOCES.
- Lyn Yuenger had spoken as a concerned citizen about the continuing blight within the township and would like to see a few properties addressed.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- There were two new permits issued. Work is being done on a foundation on Rte 29 and AG work on New Turnpike Rd.
- Renewals/Inspecting for Hatch Rd is scheduled for next week.
- Mr. Percival is updating GIS for the Federal Government New Construction Program. 545 entries are completed of the 1836 required.
- We received an updated permit for Carver Construction from the APA on the Carver mining and reclaim plan.
- Four violations were sent out for vehicles and rubbish removal.
- Code Enforcement Officer, Devon Percival can be reached at (518) 928-9360.

Planning Board:

- The next meeting will be held on December 9th, 2019 at 6pm (the Monday before the Town Board meeting).
- Nominations for 2020 Officers will be held as follows:
Chairperson: Judi Townsend, Vice Chair: Bill Simpson, Secretary: Dan Richardson

Highway:

- Superintendent Alan Cretser reported they were exchanging work with the Town of Mohawk and was going well.
- They are picking the paint out for the new truck.
- The other truck still regens every 56 miles even after they had the recommendations done. There is now a class action lawsuit started because of the issues.
- Mr. Cretser recommended adopting the Sexual Harassment Policies at the Organization meeting every year.

Youth:

- The last day of Soccer is this Saturday, October 14th, they will be handing out trophies after. There will also be a soup and sandwich fundraiser from 4-7pm. Adults are \$8 and under 12 is \$4.
- October 27th is the Halloween Party and on the 26th is the Ephratah Recreation Commission Dinner, invitations were sent out.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Ms. Yuenger reported that the IVP will be automatically renewing the Enhanced Senior Exemption.
- Senior Exemptions renewals and Ag and Market Assessments need to apply before March 1st, 2020. Anyone who has the Basic Star and will be turning 65 next year will want to apply for the Enhanced Senior Exemption before March 1st as well.
- The local number for questions regarding the Star Exemption is (518) 457-2036. The Assessor's office will continue to be open on Tuesday evening from 6-8pm and they can be reached at (518) 762-1166.

Supervisor:

- Mr. Bradt spoke on the furnace assessment and they will look at it again next year.

Historian:

- The Historian, Evelyn Frasier reported that five volunteers put the new gate and fence up at the Michael Cemetery and they showed pictures of how nice it had come out. Additional monies and fundraisers will be put towards a gate for the Fical Cemetery.

New Business:

George Cosselman made a motion to set the time and date for Trick or Treating in Ephratah to be Thursday evening on October 31st, 2019 from 5pm thru 8pm. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to set a Public Hearing to opt out of Local Law 3 of 2019 Section 487 NYS Real Property Tax Law Exemptions for Solar Farms Projects to be exempt from tax in Ephratah. The Public Hearing will be held on November 13th at 6:30pm at the Ephratah Town Hall. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 65

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to offer Resolution 65 adopt the 2020 Tentative Budget to become the Preliminary Budget for 2020. Supervisor Bradt stated that it stayed within the 2% cap. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, Carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the 2020 Preliminary Budget for the public to address the Town Board with questions or concerns. The 2020 Preliminary Budget public hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 at 6:15pm at the Ephratah Town Hall. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 66

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 66 to adopt the Brennan Humane Society Contract for 2020. Ephratah is contracted for two dogs at \$1,500/year for 2020. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 67

Andrew Chorlton offered Resolution 67 to pay the Napa statement out of highway account DA5130.4 in the amount of \$861.76 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Councilman Ivan Duesler spoke on a training with the County for attendants at the Stations that deal with Commercial Businesses that may try to use the station to get rid of commercial debris. The Town Board agreed that the County has a procedure in place to enforce the rules.

Unfinished Business

Ivan Duesler made a motion to go into Executive meeting to interview another candidate for the Board of Review. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, Carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to come out of Executive meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 68

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 68 to appoint Kimberly Heroth to be a member of the Board of Review replacing the vacancy of Clifford Duesler; term to expire 9/30/2020. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, Carried. Time: 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah