

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 at the Ephratah Town Hall. Roll call found the following members 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.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on November 9th, 2020. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #12, claim 83 thru 98 in the amount of \$6,766.23. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #12, claim 152 thru 170 in the amount of \$12,256.23. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 ayes, carried.

Public Input:

- Assemblyman Robert Smullen attended the Ephratah Town Board meeting and spoke on the stimulus and shortfalls with the state budget. Mr. Smullen said overall the State revenue is down and they are tightening down on spending and programs they have given money to in the past, due to all the covid expenses. An example was the reduced Chips funds for the Highway Departments to be used for paving roads.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will close early, at 12:00 noon, on Thursday, December 24th for the Christmas Holiday, December 25th.
- The Ephratah Transfer Station will close early, at 12:00 noon, on Thursday, December 31st for New Year's Eve. It will be open on Saturday, December 26th regular hours from 8am till 4pm.
- Beginning January 1st, 2021, electronics will not be accepted at the transfer stations. The Fulton County Landfill has a new County Disposal Policy; all electronic equipment must be brought to the Landfill at 847 Mud Road in Johnstown.
- Judy Townsend sent notice in to the Ephratah Town Board that she will not be extending her Planning Board membership for another seven years, term to end December 31, 2020.
- The Ephratah transfer station permits are on sale at the Clerk's office. The cost is \$10 for the 2 year permit with proof of residency and vehicle registration. Fulton County Solid Waste updated the transfer station rules to be given with the permit.
- Eleanor Smith commented on the metal container stairs to throw away metal debris, saying it was too hard for residents to carry big items up the stairs.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Mr. Devon Percival sent a certified letter to the property on Valley Rd regarding debris. He also said there was a court agreement made with a property on Old State Road and a dumpster was seen there.
- Mr. Percival may need to contact Carver's for running the crusher outside of the 7am APA permitted time. He said people should contact him directly to make out any complaints.
- He has been working with the new code regarding snow barriers and will be attending a zoom meeting.
- He is dealing with a resident on Church Rd dumping debris and blocking the road with a vehicle. He is also addressing these complaints.

Planning Board:

- Judy Townsend has opted not to renew her Planning Board membership. They elected officers for the new year as follows:
Chairman – Bill Simpson; Vice Chairman– Bill Claes; Secretary – Lynn Wood
- The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2021, zoom meeting pending.

Resolution 62

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 62 to acknowledge the new Planning Board member positions, terms to end 12/31/21. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser said they had built a new set of grates.
- Mr. Cretser said the bid for the truck on Auctions International came in too low. They reserved the right to decline and counteroffer of a \$25,000 minimum was set.
- The new heater is in and waiting on Wayne's burner to install and hook up.
- The steel and lumber have been ordered for the front of the building. The windows and doors are in as well.

Youth:

- The youth commission has been shut down due to the Covid restrictions. Mr. Cretser believes that Vicki Frasier and Diane and Cliff Frasier have been collecting donations in the community for approx 15 baskets to be given out.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger said they are holding back on sending out the Ag Value renewals per executive orders from the state. They should be mailed shortly.
- Also, if anyone is turning 65 in the year 2021 and qualifies for the Enhanced Star or Senior exemptions, they too would need to come in and fill out the paperwork before March 1, 2021.
- Ms. Yuenger commented on the number of parcels building without a permit and thinks they should make it so violators are fined daily. She also commented on the blight within the town again. The Code Enforcer is addressing issues.
- Any questions or concerns please call (518) 762-1166.

Supervisor:

- The Supervisor's report is on file in the Clerk's office.

Historian:

- Nothing to report at this time.

New Business:

- The Town Attorney Mr. Albanese looked over approved the Ephratah Fire contract.
- The Town Board will be meeting on January 1st at 9am for the Organization meeting.
- The Town Board members were given a survey from the Police Reform Committee to be completed anonymously.
- Supervisor Bradt and Mr. Cretser will attend a zoom meeting regarding hazardous mitigation and state reporting.

Unfinished Business

- None at this time.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah