

## Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Ephratah Town Hall. Roll call found the following members present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler
Councilman	George Cosselman - absent
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 May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Town Board meeting minutes via Web-Ex. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrew Chorlton. 4 ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #6, in the amount of \$1,560.82. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #6, in the amount of \$9,591.00. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

### **Communications:**

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for the Independence Holiday. They will resume regular hours on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 10am-6pm.
- The Fulton County Solid Waste Recycling Coordinator, Dianne Woske, sent notice that the latex paint exchange at the Landfill has been cancelled for this year. Residents with bad paint can dry it out and then dispose of it in their regular garbage.
- The Supervisor, Todd Bradt mentioned a Scott Clark that had reached out to the town inquiring about using the Town Hall to train for the Census Bureau data collection.

### **Public Input:**

- Supervisor Todd Bradt asked if anyone would like to address the Board. There was no public input at this time.

### **Reports:**

#### Code Enforcement Officer:

- Mr. Devon Percival reported that some of the junk yards were not able to get rid of metal, as the metal companies had been shut down due to the pandemic. The Port of Albany is expected to open Friday.
- Mr. Percival has had a couple people inquiring about permits. Starting on Friday, he will be able to resume in person inspections.
- He informed the board of the adopted NYS Code and will be doing training via the Web.

#### Planning Board:

- Judy Townsend reported that there had been inquiries on Solar Farms in the area. They were looking at property along Old State Rd and or along Rte 29. Supervisor Bradt mentioned the Local Law for the County and Town on Solar Farms not getting the tax breaks.
- Planning Board volunteers helped with the Town clean up. They picked approximately 15 miles of road and plan to continue Clean-up Day in 2021.
- Ms. Townsend said the Planning Board has vacancies for a member and two alternates.

- Dan Richardson suggested considering virtual meetings if the Pandemic goes into fall. Attorney Michael Albanese advised that the governor has currently waved all rules for virtual meetings and wasn't sure how long that lasts.
- Chris Pedro recently came into possession of some old Ephratah Town records from Mrs. Bradshaw's barn. He would like the Historical Society to contact him.

#### Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser spoke on the new truck possibly being available as soon as next week. Tracey Road Equip is going through the truck to inspect and checking all the specs.
- The Highway Department has been working with Frontier and National Grid with repairs and paving the parking lot.
- Mr. Cretser spoke again on the radios that were no longer available. He was looking into other options including working with Midstate and putting a high beam booster at the Ephratah Rec Commission. They have three working radios and would need another license.

#### Youth:

- Alan Cretser said the Ephratah Recreation Commission decided to cancel the Youth Softball for this season. They didn't take monies from sponsors and didn't plan to charge anyone. They are planning to use the shirts they have for the Youth Soccer season starting Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Car Show in August is still planned for Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 5-7pm.
- Mr. Cretser spoke to the Code Enforcer regarding upgrading the septic. Mr. Percival commented it would need a 500gal min holding tank.

#### Assessor:

- Assessor Lynn Yuenger said they did hold open book by phone in May. Ms. Yuenger spoke of Grievance Day on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 that was held from 5-9pm. The Board of Review had considered all grievances and they are now able to file with small claims court if they choose.
- The final tax roll will be filed on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will notify taxpayers in the Leader Herald legal ads.
- The assessor's office will be doing data collection in preparation for the 2021 tentative roll. Ms. Yuenger again commented on the lack of building permits and properties that are in deplorable condition.
- Any questions or concerns please call (518) 762-1166 and Ms. Yuenger will do her best to accommodate.

#### Supervisor:

- Nothing to report at this time.

#### Historian:

- Historian, June Frasier reminded some officials she would like a brief report on Corona Virus to be put in the archives for future generations.
- Ms. Frasier has been doing research on a cemetery she referred to as Duesler Hill in the Ephratah cemetery with stones reported on a property on Tillboro Rd that may have been accepted and or reserved in a deed.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Resolution 46**

Eleanor Smith offered Resolution 46 to approve Cynthia Wesselmann as the Chairperson to the Board of Review as it had been decided on via vote by the BOR members in May 2020 term to expire 9/30/2024. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes, carried.

- The Town Board discussed the Social Media Policy Fulton County had adopted, NYMIR recommended that the Town had something in place. The Board tabled the policy until next month when Attorney Michael Albanese would be drafting a Resolution for the Town. Mr. Michael Albanese said the Town would need to set up an advisory committee and each department being in charge of any social media.

#### **Resolution 47**

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 47 the pay the Fulton County Landfill June 2020 invoice out of the General fund in the amount of \$3,178.17. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

#### **Resolution 48**

Eleanor Smith offered Resolution 48 to adjust the Highway funds to reflect the PAVE NY, CHIPS and Extreme Winter monies when they get the amount and allowing the Highway Department to spend \$230,518. for road repairs and paving. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes, carried.

#### **Unfinished Business**

- The Supervisor reminded the Town Board of the 2019 Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance. Mr. Albanese had advised the Town Board about doing a resolution violating the law.
- An Executive meeting was tabled until next month.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to end the town board meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ivan Duesler. 4 Ayes, carried. Time 6:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann  
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah