

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 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 - Absent

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

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept the February 12, 2020 regular meeting minutes. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes Carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #3, Claim 26 thru 37 in the amount of \$6,121.36. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes Carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #3, Claim 34 thru 44 in the amount of \$7,556.13. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, Carried.

Communications:

- Royal Mountain Inn, Inc. sent the board a copy of the renewal for their liquor license.

Public Input:

- Dave Bogardus came and spoke on the 2020 Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution. They were seeking the town's support of the amendment on file in the clerk's office.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Mr. Percival spoke to the board on a few items. A building permit was issued for a remodel on Rte. 10.
- Mr. Percival sent the in Federal forms for the code enforcer report and is now waiting on some Energy forms. The advance in-service training is set for 2020. The new NY code books are online.
- He attended Blight Training at FMCC.
- He will be meeting with a Hart Road property owner .
- There was a Notice of Blight sent to 4625 Rte. 29.
- There was an inquiry on a camper trailer being put on Shaut property
- Mr. Percival is going to check into properties with more than one unregistered vehicle. (only 1 unregistered vehicle is allowed on property in the Town of Ephratah)
- He will also be consulting with the town attorney concerning an unsafe property.

Planning Board:

- President Judy Townsend spoke saying it was a short meeting in March 12, 2020. The next meeting is planned for June 8th, 2020 at 6pm.
- Inquiries have been made regarding property in Lasselsville because of well drilling and surveying. The Planning Board has no information at this time.
- Town cleanup is scheduled for the 2nd Saturday in May, May 10th. All are volunteers are welcome. They will be meeting at the town hall at 9am and will provide supplies.
- They had a moment of silence for Nicki Weaver who was a current Planning Board member that had recently passed away suddenly; she will be missed.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent reported that they had been working on removing old trees and the brush hog has been put on the excavator.
- Mr. Cretser spoke on sheet rock and garbage dumped on Hart Road and Mud Road.
- He would like to go out for bid for blacktop next month for one mile on Mud Road; the Smith Road from the top down; and the town barn parking lot. Call Alan Cretser at the Town Barn for the bid specs at (518) 762-1251.
- NYMIR inspected the building and had a write up on the disconnect switch on the truck.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to go out to Bid for blacktop (see the bid spec) due April 7th at the Clerk's office by 8pm. The bid will be opened at the next meeting scheduled for April 8th at 6:15. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton, 5 Ayes, Carried.

Youth:

- Mr. Alan Cretser reported that the youth Easter party is on April 4th at 2pm.
- They are working on softball and soccer teams, and recruiting youth.
- A First Aid kit was purchased for the Ephratah Rec Commission.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger said all exemptions renewals have been received and entered into the computer. The Tentative Roll is being prepared and the change of assessment notices will be mailed to the property owners.
- The assessor's office attended the Blight seminar held at FMCC
- Ms. Yuenger said while doing data collection on properties (with permits) they identified many properties that have new improvements that have not been assessed because we were unaware of their existence; these property owners did not obtain permits. Failure to obtain permits creates a scenario where improved properties are not reassessed and allows those homeowners to pay less than their fair share. This shifts the tax burden to those homeowners who properly apply for permits. Should we consider a new approach and penalty structure for those homeowners who do not comply?

Supervisor:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Historian:

- The Historian, June Frasier, and Abby Cretser are working every weekend filing and getting the records in order.
- Ms. Frasier has turned over financial records (she acquired through her sister) to the Scotch Bush Free Methodist Church dated from 1895-1916 for their records.

New Business:

- The Town Board will be tabling the 2020 Town of Ephratah State of New York Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution until they have conferred with the Town Attorney.

Unfinished Business

- None

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, Carried. Time: 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah