

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Monday, November 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.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on October 14th, 2020. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #11, claim 78 thru 82 in the amount of \$2,941.73. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #11, claim 130 thru 151 in the amount of \$31,026.63. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed Thursday, November 26th for the Thanksgiving Holiday, it will reopen on Saturday, November 28th regular hours from 8am till 4pm.
- The Adirondack Appalachian Regional Emergency Medical Services Council sent notice of an application from the City of Johnstown Fire Department to obtain a permanent Certificate of Need to operate their ambulance service.

Public Input:

- None

Public Hearing:

- The Public Hearing for the 2021 Town of Ephratah Preliminary Budget was opened for comment at 6:15pm.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Mr. Devon Percival spoke on property on Valey Road in Rockwood being cleaned up with controlled burns and a transfer of ownership.
- He has been doing property inspections and vehicles are being moved.
- The construction on Bolster Hill Rd is coming along and there are plan reviews for house work on Rte 29 being done.
- Mr. Percival has completed mandatory training for updates on code of 8 hours.
- There is a court date scheduled for Thursday for trash on Old State Rd.

Planning Board:

- They held a meeting special meeting on October 26th to review a sub division issue.
- They reviewed Town Board meeting minutes and Code Enforcement activities.
- Nominations and Elections for 2021 Officers will be held at the next Planning Board meeting scheduled for December 7th, 2020.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser said that DEC had inspected the fuel tanks. Repairs were made by cleaning and painting the tanks.
- Mr. Cretser said they have had issues with the 2013 International truck and he would like to sell it and buy a one-ton truck with a plow. They also put the mower on and did some trim before the bad weather came.
- Mr. Cosselman commented that he had noticed that several different trucks on Rte 29 are going too fast and are not covered.

Resolution 58

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 58 to advertise and go out for bid on the 2013 International truck with Auctions International setting a minimum low bid of \$25,000 reserving the right to reject offers. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Youth:

- The youth commission is supposed to have a meeting the end of November.
- Mr. Cretser said he believes Alex and Michelle may be working on food baskets for the elderly.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger said they are still working on data collection with the Code Enforcement officer.
- The assessor's office will be sending our Senior and Ag value renewals shortly that will be due by March 1, 2021.
- 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.
- Any questions or concerns please call (518) 762-1166.

Supervisor:

- The Supervisor's report and 2021 Preliminary Budget is on file in the Clerk's office.

Historian:

- Historian, June Frasier spoke on genealogy and noted that the Township first started in 1827. In 1837 Montgomery and Fulton County moved the County lines from the Gray Rd to where it is now on Rte 10.

New Business:

- The Town Barn oil burning hanging unit was put in in 1967 and needs to be replace.

Resolution 59

Andrew Chorlton offered Resolution 59 to purchase the hanging unit oil heater with labor via **Wayne Burkedorf's in St. Johnsville** for \$\$6,427.27. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 ayes, carried.

Resolution 60

Eleanor Smith offered Resolution 60 to pay four late bills including The Leader Herald for \$51.58, Noble Ace for \$58.84, Mirabito for \$1,365.39 and F & F for \$1,735.40. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to close the public hearing for the 2021 Town of Ephratah Preliminary Budget. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

- Supervisor Todd Bradt said they had to adjust for the rise in health insurance and 18% increase in retirement but everything else with the Budget was the same since the last meeting.

Resolution 61

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 61 to adopt the 2021 Town of Ephratah Budget. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business

- None at this time.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:53pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah