

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, October 14th, 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 - absent

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 September 9th, 2020. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #10, claim 66 thru 77 in the amount of \$6,243.61. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #10, claim 111 thru 129 in the amount of \$27,500.35. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- Veteran's Day on November 11th will not affect the Ephratah Transfer Station. It will be closed for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday on Thursday, November 26th. The station will reopen on Saturday, November 28th regular hours from 8am till 4pm.

Public Input:

- None

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Mr. Devon Percival is working with the DEC on trash and cars to assist removal.
- He has two property split surveys and a property inspection he is also working on.
- Mr. Percival completed mandatory training for the updated codes.
- He discussed various repairs, a new building on New Turnpike and various debris removals with the Town Board.

Planning Board:

- They held a meeting on September 14th meeting at 6pm, at the Town Hall.
- They reviewed Town Board meeting minutes and Code Enforcement activities.
- The Planning Board approved two Sub-Division applications with Variance requests.
- Town Clean-up Day is planned for the second Saturday in May 2021.
- Chairperson, Judy Townsend read a statement on the debris and the negative impacts on the community.
- 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 the new truck issues were resolved.
- He said the old screen plant shook apart and they are using the used one they had purchased from Stratford.
- They have completed the CPR/First Aid Training and spoke on putting a new turnaround with the property owner's permission.

Youth:

- The youth commission is shut down at this time.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lynn Yuenger informed the board of the small claims' postponement and the building permit issued.
- Her office had two corrections that were resolved and is working with Daniel Miracle from ORPS on the equalization tax rates for 2021
- Any questions or concerns please call (518) 762-1166.

Supervisor:

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

Historian:

- Historian, June Frasier has given records to Eleanor Smith for the Ephratah Cemetery where the Gray, Empie, Shaver and older Getmans are buried in the old part.
- She is working with Ms. Peterson, a sister of Mrs. Lyons who lived on the old Duesler farm on Tillboro Rd. They are planning to meet and look at old photos Ms. Peterson found cleaning out the house.
- Ms. Frasier found information on the moving of the stones in the Gray and Empie files. The oldest John Empie was moved from the Reformed Church Cemetery and his wife Nance from the Sone Arabia Lutheran Church.

New Business:

Resolution 53

Eleanor Smith offered Resolution 53 to reappoint Kimberly Heroth as a member to the Board of Review with a 5-year term to expire 9/30/2025. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Resolution 54

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 54 to approve the contract with the James Brennan Humane Society for \$1,500/year for 2021. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Resolution 55

George Cosselman made a motion to accept Resolution 55 to pay the Historical Society membership dues of \$25.00/year. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

- The Town Board reviewed the Tentative Budget at the meeting held on September 23th at 6pm. Supervisor Todd Bradt said they would be raising the budget 1.56% that is the 2% tax cap; as several things went up in price and are going up.

Resolution 56

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 56 to move the 2021 Tentative budget to become the 2021 Preliminary Budget. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 ayes, carried.

- Due to the Veterans Day Holiday on Wednesday, November 11th, the Town Board agreed to move the next Town Board meeting to Monday, November 9th, 2020 at 6pm at the Ephratah Town Hall.

Resolution 57

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 57 to hold a Public Hearing for the 2021 Preliminary Budget at the next Town Board meeting on Monday, November 6th, 2020 at 6:15pm; Notice to be published in the Leader Herald. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business

- None at this time.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to end the town board meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:44pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah