

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 at the Ephratah Town Hall. Roll call found the following members present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler - absent
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.

George Cosselman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on January 12th, 2022. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #2 claim 73 thru 86 in the amount of \$7,258.90. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #2, claim 51 thru 72 in the amount of \$39,823.64. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, February 21st, 2022 for the President's Day holiday day. It will be open on Tuesday, February 22nd from 10am thru 6pm.
- The Royal Mountain Inn Provided a 30-Day Advanced Notice to the Town Board of their intentions of renewing their Liquor License for the Family Restaurant and Bar. It is located at 4993 State Hwy 29 and the owner is Theresa Lynn Sarantopoulos.
- The Historian, Evelyn Frasier, has submitted the Historian's Annual Report for 2021.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Code Enforcement, Devon Percival said there is remodeling at 419 Co Rte 119 going well. He also noted that Sickler has a remodeling permit.
- Mr. Percival is working on compiling his annual report.
- He also touched base on the new updated guidance on Cannabis and gifting is no longer an option. Mr. Percival spoke on and supports a local business Cannabis Cabin and says that Mr. Polenski plans to obtain further permits. The permits will be very restrictive and heavily regulated, but Mr. Polenski plans to further his education and do it by the book.
- There has been no new news on Carver. In March the APA contract expires.
- Mr. Percival was communicating with Caroga in regards to campers and time limits.
- Any questions or concerns, please call (518) 928-9360.

Planning Board:

- The Planning Board next meeting is scheduled for March 7th, 2022. They may be meeting before with a couple pending splits of property; one being Gray's.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser said they have one truck down and have been working on frozen culvert pipes.
- The M-Shaw training is scheduled for 4/7 and 4/12 tentatively.
- The Town of Palatine would like to buy gravel from the Town owned pit.
- Mr. Cretser is planning to go out to bid for blacktop in April. He would like to be able to pave Tillboro Rd, Smolik Rd, Wohlgenuth Rd and the lower end of the East Rd. He is also planning to meet with Mr. Rhodes, Director of the Fulton County Landfill, regarding piggybacking on the blacktop bid to be able to pave the Ephratah Transfer Station as well. Mr. Cretser is getting the totals together for the upcoming blacktop bid. He thinks it would be approx 1,250tn. He said, at the moment, no one seems to want to give any type of pricing. He also noted that salt was going up 20%.
- Mr. Cretser also said they have been doing clean up in the shop and would like to get rid of some surplus belts and a Gradall. He would like to advertise items through Auction's International to be able to sell.

Resolution 43

George Cosselman made a motion to accept Resolution 43 to purchase a new International truck for \$248,000 off on Onondaga State Contract to replace the truck that was recently totaled. The insurance did reimburse the Town \$104,000 and \$8,500.00 for the truck and sander. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 ayes, carried.

Youth:

- They are planning a meeting next month and would like to plan on Softball this year.

Assessor:

- The Assessor Lyn Yuenger said to let anyone turning 65 in the year 2022 needs to go to her office to sign up for any exemptions before the March 1st deadline.
- Ms. Yuenger stated that Ag exemptions still need to be sent in to their office before March 1st, 2022.
- She also noted that the Star exemption is done through the State site. She has helped residents with that information. The Enhanced and Senior Exemptions are done through the Assessor's office on Tuesdays, from 6-8pm, or by appointment.
- Ms. Yuenger said they continue to find buildings without permits.
- She has sent a notice to ORPS and to Real Property requesting a Uniform Percentage of value for 2022 of 62.30%. (equalization rate)
- Any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's office extension at (518) 762-5688.

Supervisor:

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

Historian:

- The Historian said they are continuing to work on sorting and cleaning out files.

Public Input

- The owner of Cannabis Cabin, John Polenski, explained to the Town Board his intentions of expanding his business and furthering his education to get the permits required for CBD and or other Cannabis business. He requested the Town's support for his business. He tried to respectfully address any questions and or concerns; stating customers need a valid ID and be over 21 years of age. He believes there would be a 40% tax rate on any products sold with 8% going to the Town. The Supervisor, Todd Bradt, acknowledged his time and effort into the research. The Code Enforcer, Devon Percival would be writing a letter supporting Mr. Polenski and his endeavors with Cannabis Cabin, located on Weaver Rd, in the Town of Ephratah.

- Mr. Bill Gray commented about the Town selling sand and gravel from the pit. He believes the Town should save those resources; or charge more, as down the road that could cost the Town more.

New Business

- Bill Gray's permits have been renewed with the APA.
- Supervisor Todd Bradt said they would be auditing the Judges and Clerk's books.

Unfinished Business:

- There has been no news on Carver. The APA permits expire in March.
- Supervisor Todd Bradt acknowledged the Honorable Jack Keppler Jr.'s retirement. He retired as of 12/31/2021 after 12 years of service as Judge in the Town of Ephratah. His service was greatly appreciated and he will be missed at the Town by all. Judge John Keppler Jr. acknowledged the Town's other Judge, the Honorable Dominic Arena and was grateful for all of his help and they would be in good hands. The newly elected Honorable Mark Souza took Mr. Keppler Jr.'s place as the Town Justice.

Resolution 44

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 44 to acknowledge auditing the Honorable John Keppler Jr.'s judge's books, with a job well done. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

Resolution 45

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 45 to acknowledge auditing the Honorable Dominic Arena's judge's books, with a job well done. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

Resolution 46

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 46 to acknowledge auditing the Town Clerk's books, Cynthia Wesselmann, with a job well done. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, carried. Time 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah