

Regular Meeting

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

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on February 9th, 2022. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #3 claim 109 thru 128 in the amount of \$9,000.53. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #3, claim 129 thru 147 in the amount of \$13,655.42. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The retired Honorable Jack Keppler and retired Tax Collector, Paula Keppler sent in a thank you note to everyone for the generous restaurant gift card.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Code Enforcement, Devon Percival said that Carver has submitted an application to the APA increasing the work hours, from 6am to 8pm, and Saturday's from 7am until 2pm. Mr. Percival responded to the permit application P2022-0037 Carver Sand and Gravel – Rockwood Mine and wrote to Bart Haralson at the APA the following:

“In Reference to the APA Project 2022-0037, application from Carver Sand and Gravel, the Town of Ephratah council and town residents have expressed serious concern over the expansion of the mine and work activities at the Fulton County Site. I have listed the concerns that have been brought to our attention below:

1. Blasting operations. On several occasion Carver has blasted when the weather has been overcast conditions and have exceeded the limits of blasts per month.
2. Starting operations before 7am and exceeding past the permitted time.
3. Not completing dust control on the mine and roads. Causing silica and limestone dust to cover personal properties.

4. Trucking companies not covering loads and losing material at the intersection of 10N/29 and also at the intersection of 10/ 29.
5. Excess speeds into the hamlet of Rockwood.
6. Lack of notifications of blasting to residents that have requested
7. The hours of operation has raised major concern with the town residents. Rockwood is home to a majority of retired and elderly resident. With hours starting a 6am that would disrupted many of the residents still sleeping. With the hours being extended to 8pm, many of the residents would not be able to enjoy the peaceful area for dinners or enjoy their homes in the evening hours. On school days, trucks traveling down the hill from 10N/29 may have issues stopping on inclement weather days also. Most school buses for the OESJ district are traveling that route between the hours of 6:30am to 7:30 am.
8. Increase of blasting without limiting the sound pressure. Leave Carver open to do all large blasts.

The Town of Ephratah has had several board meeting willing to work with Carver Sand and Gravel to ensure a smooth process of operations between the Town Residents and the work required to be performed on site. We have come up with some guidelines that the town would like to have implemented as to the blasting limits and also restricting hours of blasting. We believe the town has come up with recommendations that allows carver to operate their business with minimal restrictions and allows the residents in the local community to enjoy their homes as they have intended to.”

- Any questions or concerns, please call Mr. Percival at (518) 928-9360.

Planning Board:

- The Planning Board has a meeting coming up with the Gray’s.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser said they have been plowing, sanding, and doing maintenance on the equipment. They also calibrated the fuel pumps.
- Mr. Cretser mentioned the phones have not been working again.
- Mr. Cretser met with the Landfill Director, David Rhodes, regarding the transfer station bid for asphalt. They would like to go to out to bid for the roads and the transfer station separately.
- There is M-Shaw training on April 7th at the Meco Fire house. Mr. Cretser is working on a CPR training.

Resolution 47

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 47 to go out to bid for asphalt paving for parts of Smolik Rd, Tillboro Rd, Wohlgemuth Rd and East Rd; see the bid specs. The public hearing will be held on April 13th at 6:30pm to open the bids. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

Youth:

- They are planning an Easter Party for the youth on Saturday, April 9th at 1pm.
- Softball sign up is on Saturday, May 7th from 10am-1pm. Last day to sign up is May 21st from 10am-1pm.
- First day of softball is on July 9th at 10am. Last day is August 20th at 10am.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger, has her report on file. She said her office has completed entering data on property record cards and making changes in assessment on these parcels in the RPS system.
- Any Change of Assessment notices will be mailed to taxpayers who are affected. Open Book dates and times as well as grievance day information will be published in the Leader Herald in early May.
- Ephratah's new equalization rate for 2022 is 61%.
- Any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688.

Supervisor:

- The Supervisor's financial report was submitted and is on file in the Clerk's office.
- Ephratah's Fire Dept was graded via an ISO report; used for the insurance rate, and is on file.

Historian:

- The Historian, June Frasier, said they are asking for 2-3 recipes from each family to put on the 2023 calendar. They can be mailed to the town barn, or send to the Deputy, Abby Cretser via email at acretser@gmail.com. The recipes are needed by 8/1/22.

Resolution 48

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 48 adopting Fulton County's Resolution 43 of 2022 "The Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan". 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, Carried.

New Business

- The new auditor Jacob Karker, from the Comptroller's office, will be finishing the audit with the Supervisor, Bob Ellit from Saratoga.
- Supervisor Todd Bradt said the Ambulance service is working out well. Mr. Bradt discussed options going forward with the Town Board members.

Unfinished Business:

- Mr. Devon Percival addressed Carver's permit concerns.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, carried. Time 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah