

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 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 April 13th, 2022. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #5 claim 230 thru 240 in the amount of \$6,773.74. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #5, claim 241 thru 261 in the amount of \$15,162.54 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- Ephratah Transfer Station is going to be closed Monday, May 30th for the Memorial Day holiday. The station will reopen Tuesday, May 31st from 10am-6pm.

Public Input:

- None

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Code Enforcement Devon Percival has had complaints about a commercial property on the corner of Red School Road. Two RVs are being occupied and parked on the side of the road. The town would like tickets issued.
- Structure on the New Turnpike Road on the town line that needs to be moved.
- On Fical Road, there is a 24x40 building going up that has a permit.
- There is an attorney involved with the Boy Scout's property on Arthur's Road. There is a right-of-way on deeds that dates back to 1901. Mr. Wells is not allowing them to go on the property.
- Carver is requesting through the APA that all restrictions be lifted. They have all the updates with testing, ground movement and dust control. Their current permit is good until October. There have been complaints that they are working outside of the hours on the permit. Carver stated they have the dust containment with water sprayed on every belt and will be putting calcium on the main road and watered daily. Mr. Cosselman said well water issues were a concern with residents. Carver has requested filters to do their own testing of resident wells. Carver also responded to trucking companies covering the loads out. The APA regulations passed on the trout streams. Seismograph meter test passed. DOT

asked about the bridge in Rockwood. Mr. Percival would like more detail on the blasts. Local towns in the area are requesting loads for pavement projects so it is difficult for Carver to stay within the loads allowed annually. Attorney Michael Albanese and Mr. Duesler suggested tracking tonnage instead of loads to account for town trucks that are smaller than tractor trailers. The town addressed why Carver is asking to increase their hours and Carver said it was because of transit times from different companies.

- Devon spoke to the town about subdividing a property to make both properties saleable. He will confirm that there are separate wells and septs.
- Any questions or concerns, please call Mr. Percival at (518) 928-9360.

Resolution 54

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept resolution 54 to allow the merger and subdivision of properties by the Brookside in order to make both properties saleable. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried

Planning Board:

- No business at this time

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser said the new tractor is due to come in June. They have also been working on the Gray Road.
- The auction ended for all the equipment that was sold including a grade all, paver, pallet, brush hog, mower, 1985 Steam Jenny and belts.
- Alan said they had ran wires for some of the phone lines.
- There is approximately \$306,000 in paving monies which includes the Chips money of \$23,000.
- Alan will be on vacation the wk of the 22nd thru the 31st of May, 2022.
- Fulton County Department of Solid Waste awarded Empire the asphalt bid for the Ephratah Transfer Station at \$164 per ton as follows:
Ephratah Transfer Station to be billed to Fulton County Dept of Solid Waste
 1. Inside fence 140 tn \$164.00/tn = \$22,960.00
 2. Entrance off 29 35tn \$164.00/tn = \$5,740.00
 3. Entrance 30tn \$164.00/tn = \$4,920.00
- Mr. Cretser will be on vacation the wk of the 22nd thru the 31st of May, 2022.
- The Highway Department will need to ask the Town Board to amend the budget with the Chip’s monies to account for hours, sand and time on the roads for Highway contracts. They would need to be increases 20% for plowing. Mr. Cretser has kept track of mileage and time.

Resolution 55

George Cosselman made a motion to accept Resolution 55 to award Callanan Industries the asphalt bid for \$205,310.00. See the following breakdown submitted via the bid:

Callanan Industries

1. Smolik Rd 192.50tn \$103.50/tn =\$19,923.75
 2. Tillboro Rd 683.50tn \$87.50/tn = \$59,806.25
 3. Wohlgemuth Rd 192.50tn \$103.50 = \$19,923.75
 4. East Rd 1207.5tn \$87.50 = \$105,656.25
- 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried

Youth:

- Alan Cretser said youth numbers are down. They are not asking for sponsors.
- Last day to sign up for softball is May 21st from 10am-1pm. They will be using shirts that they have.
- First day of softball is on July 9th at 10am. Last day is August 20th at 10am.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger said they had sent out letters for changes in property assessments and another explaining when open book is. Taxpayers should come in before to speak with the assessor or Ms. Penny Smith, her Admin Assistant.
- Ms. Yuenger mentioned they are working on trying to raise the equalization rate and they cannot take things off the role unless there is a permit to tare down.
- Open book will be held on May 3rd, 10th, and 17th from 6pm to 8:30pm and May 21st from 9am to 12 noon. Grievance Day is May 24th from 5pm to 9pm. Please come to open book with questions or concerns.
- Any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688.

Supervisor:

- The Supervisor's financial report was submitted and on file.

Historian:

- The Historian, June Frasier said she had a landowner, Donald, letting her park in his driveway and they were working on fixing a fence.
- They sold 26 pies at the Bake Sale and made approx \$200.00.
- Ms. Frasier had an issue in Fical Cemetery where her grandparents were laid to rest. The markers were removed and other markers where placed in the resting area. She had documentation and said the cross removed was wrong and crude. The new markers were for an Abare baby and a Cole baby. She requested that there be no activity without the Town Boards permission and she would like to see another gate put up.
- Ms. Frasier spoke on signage that had a misspelling going into Lassellsville that needs to be corrected. Also that another sign for Bradtville had never been replaced after it was accidentally damaged by a worker plowing the roads in Rockwood off Rte 10 by the Rockwood Damn.

Resolution 56

Eleanor Smith made a motion to have DOT change the sign on Route 29, going into Lassellsville, to reflect the correct spelling of Lassellsville. Also the Town Board wants the sign for Bradtville put back up by the Rockwood Damn that DOT accidentally took down years ago. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

New Business

Resolution 57

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 57 to enter into contract with Fulton County Highway with a mowing contract for 7.52 miles at \$425.00 per mile. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 58

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay a bill for a scanner charged to Card Services. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- The time clock and the phone system has been ordered.
- Mr. Bradt said the auditor Jake from Schoharie had done a good job and had moved on to another.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:15pm. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 59

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 59 for the Town of Ephratah to purchase property SBL #130-1-56.11 in the amount of \$35,000; with all Town Board members and the Town Attorney Michael Albanese present and in agreement. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:30pm. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah