

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, July 13th, 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 June 8th, 2022. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #7, claim 366 thru 377 in the amount of \$6,408.49. 2nd by Andrew Charlton. 5 Ayes

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #7, claim 345 thru 363 in the amount of \$13,663.40. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- NYS Agriculture and Markets sent in the inspection report for the Dog Control Officer, Daniel Robinson, and it was satisfactory.

Public Input:

- A Hydrogeologist Consultant, Kent Koptiuch with KSK Geo-Environmental Services Inc spoke on behalf of his customer Blue Triton Brands. They had purchased Nestle Waters of North America, a division of Nestle Waters (Independent of Nestle Food Corp) a little over a year ago and bought all of the Nestle Brands of spring water including Saratoga Spring Water Co. back in December. They are in the area regarding potentially sourcing water from Congdon Springs (St. Johnsville's water supply located in Ephratah) as they need additional water sources. Mr. Koptiuch said that the water supply has been tested since approximately 2006-2008 and more recently in 2018. The water quality has been consistent for many years. They are talking and would like to become a customer of the St. Johnsville water supply, pending negotiations with the Water Department and or Town Board in St. Johnsville to bottle it as spring water within the next year. They would be pumping approximately 15,000 gals or 2-3 trucks of 6,500 gals per day out of stainless steel components into stainless steel tanker trucks and taking it to Saratoga to be bottled as a Saratoga Spring Water Brand. He said after five years it may be up to 30,000 gals per day. He also noted that the Village of St. Johnsville currently uses approximately 275,000-325,000 gals per day, a significant source comes from the Burgess Well and a portion comes from the Congdon Springs that puts out 200,000 gals per day. They are looking to capture the excess. Mr. Koptiuch also said it wouldn't be disrupting the Village of St. Johnsville's water supply.

- Katrina Caringi, a St. Johnsville resident, spoke of concerns if the St. Johnsville Water Board and their Town Board moved forward. She also shared information of problems in California and Maine with these water bottling companies. There is a Facebook Group of the ongoing discussions called BlueTriton/Nestle' Water Conversation-St. Johnsville NY. Ms. Caringi was concerned of the potential liability and lack of information being given.
- Attorney Michael Albanese said the EPA and State regulates and oversees any water source.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival has been working on permit for a 32x64x10 Building. The work is now in progress.
- There are discussions of a water pump station.
- The ticket issued on Rte 67 has been resolved.
- Carver's APA permit status is still incomplete. (NIP A status)
- Mr. Percival's report is on file, and he can be reached at (518) 928-9360.

Planning Board:

- Nothing at this time.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser said they had been mowing and they have the screen plant all back together.
- Mr. Cretser asked for permission to move the old wood stove to make room.

Resolution 62

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 62 to sell the two tractors on Auctions International on-line auction for \$2,025.00 each. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 63

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 63 to Amend the CHIPS blacktop monies to add the Heroth Rd via Callahan Industries, to be amended at the County level. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 64

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 64 to purchase the AED to properly respond to a cardiac event quoted for \$1,578.03. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Youth:

- Softball started Saturday and they had about 30 kids. Attendance is down. It ends August 30th.

Assessor:

- The Final Rolls have been printed and are available at the Clerk's Office and the Assessor's Office for review.

- Ms. Yuenger said they will be doing data collections on building and or demolition permits. They will also collect any construction being done without permits when they run across it.
- Any new Star applicants for Basic Star apply on line with the State.
- 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 is putting copies of the Deed's in with each cemetery for future reference. She noted that excepted from the deeds were Peter Duesler - Coppernoll and Getman- hill farm. Not excepted was Christman, Smith-Smolik Rd.

New Business:

- The Town received a letter from the Division of Budget stating the second half of the Covid monies would be coming in toward the end of summer.
- The Supervisor told the Town Board that there is a Union meeting for Highway negotiations on July 20th at 4pm at the Town Hall; he would like them in attendance.

Resolution 65

George Cosselman made a motion to accept Resolution 65 to pay two invoices received. Peter Galarneau's invoice for the Town web domain is \$300 and the Hilltop Tire invoice is \$1,912.50. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- The Town Board members discussed security cameras with Devon Percival. There would be a few cameras at approximately \$100.00 each. Mr. Percival will look into a few options. They tabled until the next meeting.
- The Town is acquiring a property on Rte 29 that will be boarded up and will be making the insurance company aware.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah