

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, October 12th, 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 September 14th, 2022. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #10, claim 535 thru 543 in the amount of \$5,453.86. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #10, claim 520 thru 534 in the amount of \$10,623.24. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- Fulton County Solid Waste sent notice that the Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The transfer station will be open Saturday, November 26th regular hours.

Public Input:

- None.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival reported that the Adirondack Park Agency sent in a letter for Major Project Public Notice Application Completed for Carver Sand and Gravel LLC. and is under formal review. The notice is to inform the town about the proposed project and ask for any written comments. Previous comments are already part of the project file. Mr. Percival wrote back with four points to make on behalf of the Town of Ephratah and the local town residents.
 1. The expansion was not an issue as they had purchased more land and would be increasing vegetation.
 2. The hours of operation with trucking is not ideal for a few reasons including bus traffic and safety issues in the morning and sun in the afternoon coming down the hill. Mr. Percival requested more information on the maintenance until 9pm, as there were no restrictions listed on the crusher for example. The Town would like them to maintain the current hours of 7am until 5pm for the neighboring residents.
 3. They requested increasing the blasts from 18 to 30 per year. The town residents are concerned with the blasts affecting their water supply and home

structures. Mr. Percival request Carver Sand and Gravel supply a more detailed protection and monitoring plan for the area within 2 ½ miles of the site plan.

4. The Town is concerned with the extra traffic. with the proposed 200 truck trips per day, on the structure of the bridge in Rockwood and increasing the chances of an accident as well as disturbing the peace in the community.
- He has condemned the two restaurant structure fires and will be posting Royal Mountain Inn.
 - Mr. Percival's report is on file, and he can be reached at (518) 928-9360.

Resolution 79

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 79 for National Grid to do a meter service and losing power. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Planning Board:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser reported that the 4 way stop signs are up on Wohlgemuth and Tillboro Roads.
- There is a pipe on the Hart Road that needs to be repaired with a cost of approximately \$7,000.
- The shoulders are fixed on Murray Hill and Bolster Roads.
- There was no bid on the 2001 Tandem truck with the stainless-steel salt sander. The Town Board would like \$10,000 as it does have some electrical issues.

Youth:

- The last day was Saturday. They only had 12 kids in attendance. They would like to do soccer and softball next year.

Resolution 80

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 80 to appoint Abby Cretser to the Board at the Ephratah Recreation Commission, term to end 12/31/2024. She would filling the vacancy of Sara Gray. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Assessor:

- The Assessor's report is on file.
- They are continuing work on the 2023 Tentative Assessment Roll. They are entering data changes, exemptions, and value changes that will be reflected on that roll.
- Ms. Yuenger reported that they had sent out the Senior Exemption Renewal form and it needs to be returned my March 1st, 2023.
- Any new Star applicants for Basic Star need to apply on line with the State. Anyone turning 65 in 2023 can apply for the Enhanced Star and Senior Exemption if they qualify. As of January 1st, 2022, all home owners must be 65 to qualify for the Enhanced Star; effecting applicants that filed in 2022 for this school tax levy as well.
- 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. Mr. Bradt reported that the Budget was up by 5%.

Historian:

- The Historian, June Frasier and her Deputy, Abby Cretser continue to sort through files. They are currently working on the cemetery files.

New Business:

Resolution 81

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 81 to accept the Standard Work Day that was posted for 30 days as follows:

Title	Name	Social Security Number (last 4 digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hrs./day)	Term Begins/Ends	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System Y/N	Days/ Month (based on Record of Activities)
Town Supervisor	Todd Bradt	4462	40310237	6	1/1/20-12/31/23	N	14.42
			R11487235				
Town Clerk	Cynthia Wesselmann	7722	42298984	6	1/1/20-12/31/23	N	8.00
			R10510362				
Attorney	Michael	3850	35192764	6	1/1/22-12/31/23	N	3.16
	Albanese		R10243604		appointed		
Deputy Town Clerk	Susan Groesbeck	5910		Per Diem	1/1/22-12/31/23	y	1.33
			R10016277		appointed		

2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 82

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 82 to accept the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Resolution 3 of 2022 as follows:

WHEREAS, On July 1st 2022, The Assembly and Senate of the State of New York voted on new legislation proposed in the Assembly and Senate under bills A41001 and S51001, respectively, which Restrict Concealed Carry Weapons, under a Message of necessity, a 3-day message, which allows for passage of Law without public comment or public hearings, and WHEREAS, On July 1st 2022 Governor Hochul signed the Bill into Law, which clearly states that all Parks are sensitive areas, and WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park is a State Park by Law and is unique in its size at nearly 6 million acres, and with the ownership which is both public and private, and WHEREAS, the Residents and property owners of the Adirondack Park, live, work and recreate on both public and private lands in the Adirondack Park, deserve clarity in this law, and WHEREAS, the State of New York has advertised the Public and Private Lands of the Adirondack Park as a destination Park, and WHEREAS, the State of New York has purchased Conservation Easements on over 500,000 acres of Private Lands, these Easements have signs declaring these areas as New York State Department of Conservation areas and open to the public, although they are still private lands, and WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board is concerned that there will be unintended consequences of not

excluding the Adirondack Park specifically in the afore mentioned Law as it will create hardships and possibly felony charges to the roughly 100,000 permit holders that reside in the counties that make up the Adirondack Park, and WHEREAS, the Law requires that the roughly 100,000 Law abiding Permit holders in our region, attend training, the infrastructure does not exist to train that many permit holders, as is suggested in the afore mentioned Law, and WHEREAS, the messaging from the Governors office is inconsistent, the Legislation as passed clearly states all Parks are sensitive areas, yet the press release on this legislation posted on the Governors website has no mention of Parks as sensitive areas, and WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board believes the above referenced issues are only a few of the possible scenarios that the uniqueness of the Adirondack Park could create, further be it RESOLVED, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board hereby calls upon Governor Hochul, Temporary President of the Senate Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie to work together to exempt the Adirondack Park as a sensitive area as defined in the afore mentioned Law, and be it also, CLINTON COUNTY | ESSEX COUNTY | FRANKLIN COUNTY | FULTON COUNTY | HAMILTON COUNTY | HERKIMER COUNTY LEWIS COUNTY | ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY | SARATOGA COUNTY | WARREN COUNTY | WASHINGTON COUNTY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Stewart-Cousins scousins@nysenate.gov , Senate Minority Leader Ortt Ortt@nysenate.gov, Assembly Speaker Heastie Speaker@nyassembly.gov, Assembly Minority Leader BarclaW BarclaW@nyassembly.gov, Senator Griffo griffo@nysenate.gov, Senator Tedisco tedisco@nysenate.gov, Assemblyman Jones jonesb@nyassembly.gov, Assemblyman Simpson SimpsonM@nyassembly.gov, Assemblyman Smullen smullenr@nyassembly.gov, Assemblyman Blankenbush blankenbushk@nyassembly.gov, the Association of Adirondack Towns & Villages.
2nd by Eleanor Smith, 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 83

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 83 for a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Ephratah. The Public Hearing will be held at the Ephratah Town Hall at 6:15pm. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 84

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 84 to re-appoint Kathy Oughton to the Board of Review, a 5yr term ending 9/30/2027. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 85

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 85 to set the time for Trick or Treat in the Town of Ephratah to be on October 31st, 2022 from 6-8pm. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Supervisor, Todd Bradt, reported that there were two bid prices out on the Ambulance Building for materials of \$51,000, and that they would need a building permit. There were letters sent out to Stefanik's office for possible grant monies. He had been in touch with the Ambulance service to solicit the surrounding Townships for additional monies needed.
- Mr. Bradt also said that Bob Elliot had closed out the Town's audit.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah