

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, November 9th, 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 - absent
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 October 12th, 2022. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #11, claim 561 thru 572 in the amount of \$22,252.64. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #11, claim 573 thru 580 in the amount of \$54,404.95. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Standard Work Day Resolution was sent to the Comptroller’s office and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Resolution 3 of 2022 was sent to Governor Hochul as well as the Senate and Assemblyman via email.

Public Input:

- None.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival’s report is on file. He noted there are construction projects and a mobile home moved to Co Rte 119.
- He has not heard back regarding Carver’s permit application yet.
- Mr. Percival has had complaints of garbage and will be writing tickets for trash removal. The Town board noted cars being added to Mr. Frank’s property.
- He did send out a condemnation letter to the Royal Mountain Restaurant. The Town Board would like to see something done with that.
- Mr. Percival’s has a code meeting coming up in relation to building with Amish structures and upcoming code changes. He can be reached at (518) 928-9360.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:15pm for any comments on the 2023 Preliminary Budget.

Planning Board:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser reported that the trucks are all set and ready for the winter season.
- Mr. Cretser had to get salt from Cargill because the salt hadn’t come in. They are doing work but it hinges on the weather.
- Mr. Cretser spoke with Mr. Rhodes, Director of the Fulton County Landfill about doing work on the Hart Rd. The Solid Waste will be sending an excavator and operator to help with replacing a culvert.

Resolution 86

Eleanor Smith made a motion to sell the 2001 Tandem truck with a set of tires and tire chains to the Fulton Co Dept of Solid Waste for \$8,000. They did not want the sander on the truck. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 87

George Cosselman made a motion to sell the sander from the 2001 Tandem truck. Mr. Cretser will be listing it on Auctions International. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 88

George Cosselman made a motion to sell a wood stove in the garage not being used. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Youth:

- Alan Cretser said they would like to plan and do a calendar of events for next year.

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 by 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.

Historian:

- The Historian, June Frasier and her Deputy, Abby Cretser continue to sort through files. Ms. Frasier said she helped the James Miller family member. She also helped Monk family buried in the Dempster Cemetery.
- Ms. Frasier said that they quite often would refer to church records when looking back in the 1800's as that information is hard to find. She noted that there are no records to be found for a Lutheran Presbyterian Church and no records from a Reformed Church that was located on the Tillboro Road.

New Business:

Resolution 89

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 89 to accept and approve the Audit response as it had been completed. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 90

Ivan Duesler made a motion to override the Tax Cap of 2% for the 2023 Budget. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- The Town Board agreed to send Supervisor, Todd Bradt, as a delegate to speak on behalf of the Town. The Association of Towns annual meeting is in NYC.
- There were bids submitted for the concrete work on the Ambulance Building. Eric Carney's bid came back \$67,000; B & B Foundation \$47,700, and Steve Miller's was \$69,000. The Ambulance plans are available.
- Mark Souza submitted the grant for the Judge's bench and repairs.

Resolution 91

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept the concrete bid submitted by Bill Gray of B & B Foundations in the amount of \$47,700. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 92

Ivan Duesler made a motion to close the public hearing. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes carried.

Resolution 93

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 93 to adopt the 2023 Preliminary Budget to become the 2023 Budget for the Town of Ephratah. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah