

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, December 14th, 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 - absent
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 November 9th, 2022. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #12, claim 632 thru 650 in the amount of \$59,287.62. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes

George Cosselman made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #12, claim 613 thru 631 in the amount of \$13,529.42. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station is closing on Saturday, December 24th at noon and will be closed Monday, December 26th for the Christmas Holiday. They will be open Tuesday, December 27th from 10am until 6pm.
- The Ephratah Transfer Station is closing on Saturday, December 31st at noon and will be closed on Monday, January 2nd for the New Year's Holiday. They will be open Tuesday, January 3rd from 10am until 6pm.
- The Honorable Judge Arena successfully completed 32 hrs of training and received a certificate of completion of FMCA National Conference.

Public Input:

- John Polinski Jr. gave notice to the Municipality that he intends to open a full retail dispensary at his business, Cannabis Cabin, at 158 Weaver Rd, St. Johnsville, NY 13452. He shared information with the Town Board regarding his business intentions with Cannabis Cabin and NYS Legislation regulating sales. He'll be submitting an application with the NYS Licensing Division for Adult Use. He will also be adhering to the regulations for updated security access and will need to be certified by Weights and Measures.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival had a complaint and found no evidence of a septic leakage.
- Mr. Percival is working on an annual report for the APA compiling 10 years of building permits. There is a small section of the Adirondacks the APA is inquiring about.
- He has had an inquiry regarding a Solar Farm on Rte 67 but that area has been deemed as wet lands and cannot be developed on.
- Mr. Percival also commented on calls regarding chickens and said the Town has no zoning.
- There is a cleanup being done on Rte 67 in Ephratah.
- Mr. Percival spoke to the Town Board members regarding Special Use Permits and suggested a layout of hours of operation for permits such as Cannabis sales.
- Mr. Cosselman would like Devon to write more tickets and see more fines per day for a couple of properties that need to be addressed. The Town Board spoke of hiring someone to help Mr. Percival with tickets but they would need to be a Building Safety Inspector.
- Mr. Percival can be reached at (518) 928-9360.

Resolution 94

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 94 to have a public hearing on January 11th at 6:15pm for Local Law 1 of 2023. The proposed Local Law 1 of 2023 is to set boundaries for a “Special Use Permits, Hours of Operation” being Monday thru Saturday 8am till 8pm excluding Christmas and Thanksgiving which would be closed. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Planning Board:

- The Planning Board held their December meeting and re-elected the same officers as 2022.

Chairman	William Simpson
Vice Chairman	William Claus
Secretary	Rosalyn Wood

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser reported that they are all ready for the snow.
- Alan Cretser spoke to the Town Board about selling a Sander and wood stove.
- Mr. Cretser asked the Town Board to adopt the Volunteer Fireman Policy that Fulton County has in place for the Town employees that are firemen to help with any fires when necessary providing the Town has adequate staff.
- Mr. Cretser said they had replaced some signs and also helped National Grid get a couple of trees down. He also mentioned that Nicole Harris is the new Chips Coordinator and the CHIPS monies should be coming out shortly.

Resolution 95

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 95 to sell the Sander at Auction for \$1,525 and the Wood Stove at Auction for \$690. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 96

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 96 to adopt the Fulton County Volunteer Firemen Policy for the Town of Ephratah employees and put the Adopted Resolution in the Town Code Book as follows:

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT: Fulton County recognizes the important role volunteer firefighters play in service and protection to our rural communities. To that end, the County will strive to cooperate with the local volunteer fire departments to allow their members to provide assistance when deemed necessary.

PROCEDURE:

1. In the event of a major structure fire, mutual aid alarms, or other serious emergency situations requiring volunteer response, Fulton County employees who are volunteer firefighters will be granted paid leave from work providing the operational needs of the employee's department are met.
2. When a call for volunteers is received during work hours, an employee must notify his or her immediate supervisor before leaving the job site and/or job location. The supervisor will attempt to immediately authorize leave, however, the operational needs of the department must first be considered.
3. The time granted to employees while on duty, will be compensated as hours worked, with no charge to the employee's accrued benefit time. The hours paid will not extend beyond the normal straight time work day.
4. When their volunteer firefighter services are no longer required, employees will be expected to promptly return to their normal County work site to complete their normally scheduled work day.
5. If an employee is assisting on a fire call at the start of their work day, upon return to the fire station, they will be expected to work at their normal County work site. The work time missed will be charged to their accrued benefit time. i.e. vacation, personal or comp time.

6. If an employee is assisting on a fire call on off duty hours, they will be expected to report to work at their usual starting time. Consideration for fatigue may be granted by the department head or his/her designee as long as the operational needs of the department are met. Time off will be charged to the employee's accrued benefit time i.e. vacation, personal or comp time.
7. Fulton County Sheriff's Department employees shall follow the internal department firefighter leave policy established by the Sheriff. ·
8. The Department Head must periodically update a complete listing of active volunteer firefighters in their respective departments. Said listing must be kept on file at each department and a copy submitted to the County's Personnel Department.

3/15/96

2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Youth:

- Alan Cretser submitted a calendar of Events for the Ephratah Rec Commission for 2023.
- The Boy Scouts will be using the building on Tuesday.

Resolution 97

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 97 to reappoint Michelle Vickery to the Board for the Ephratah Recreation Commission, term to end 12/31/2027. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Assessor:

- Ms. Yuenger reported that they had sent out the Senior Exemption Renewal form and it needs to be returned by March 1st, 2023. They still have a lot that haven't been returned yet.
- The Ag Exemption forms were also sent out and many have come back but they also need to have the Profit and Loss from Farming Income tax form attached.
- 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. Todd Bradt received notice from the Historian, Evelyn (June) Frasier, that she would be retiring as Historian as of 12/31/2022. She recommended her Deputy Abby Cretser be appointed as Historian and she intends to be Deputy for Abby Cretser, should the Town Board appoint her. The Town Board acknowledged her 30 years of service and was happy to hear she would be staying on to help Abby Cretser with the transition.

Resolution 98

Eleanor Smith made a motion with regret to accept Resolution 98 for Evelyn Frasier's letter of resignation due to retirement. The Town Board acknowledged her 30 years of service and dedication as Town Historian for the Town of Ephratah and everyone agreed it was a job well done. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, carried.

Historian:

- The Historian, Evelyn (June) Frasier reported an inquiry with Noreen Gray. Her mother was a previous Town Clerk in Ephratah. Ms. Frasier was able to meet and help Ms. Gray with a lot of very helpful information.

New Business:

Resolution 99

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 99 to assign Todd Bradt as the voting delegate on the Association's annual legislative platform. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 100

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 100 for the Standard Work Day as follows:

Town of Ephratah Standard Work Day

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 Albanese	3850	35192764	6	1/1/22-12/31/22	N	3.16
			R10243604		appointed		

On this 14th day of December, 2022, Resolution was posted on the Town Offices Board for 30 days. (until 1/14/2023)

Cynthia A. Wesselmann Dated December 14th, 2022

2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to hold the Organizational Meeting on January 2, 2023 at 9am at the Ephratah Town Hall. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 101

Ivan Duesler made a motion to enter into contract with the Brennan Humane Society for \$1,875.00 for January 1st thru December 31st, 2023. The agreements includes up to 10 dogs. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Updates announced were - Bill Gray is doing the Framing on the Ambulance Building.
- Overhead Door's quote was the lowest at \$10,300 including 4 remotes. Blair Overhead came in at \$10,900. The Town Board members decided to go with a beige building and white doors.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to go into Executive Session for the possible sale of property. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to come out of Executive Session and table the property discussion until the January 11th, 2023 regular meeting. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 4 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 4 Ayes, carried. Time 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah