

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 at the Ephratah Town Hall. Roll call found the following members present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler - absent
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.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on January 11, 2023. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #2, claim 76 thru 91 in the amount of \$12,768.61. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #2, claim 92 thru 114 in the amount of \$17,053.14. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, February 20th for the President's Day holiday. The station will be open on Tuesday, February 21st from 10am-6pm.
- Evelyn Frasier submitted her annual New York State Historian report for 2022.
- The Fulton County Planning Department forwarded information on Airbnb regulations.
- The Town of Palatine sent in a notice about their public hearing regarding their Local Laws 1 and 2 on solar energy and battery energy storage systems.
- The United Public Service Employees Union sent notice regarding grievance G-23007 filed.

Public Input:

- None

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival was not in attendance
- Mr. Percival can be reached at (518) 928-9360.

Planning Board:

- The next meeting for Planning is their quarterly and will be held in March.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser reported that the boiler inspection on the 18th of January was submitted to the state so all set for another year.
- Steve Cornaire, the mechanic for the Highway Dept., explained to the Town Board the need for a box, monitor, code reader for the equipment.
- Mr. Cretser would like to get prices on a pickup truck for the town. He plans to look into his options and prices on plows.
- Mr. Cretser requested the current insurance information to review for the Town.
- The Superintendent, Alan Cretser, would like to pave 1.3 miles on the Mud Road and 9/10 of a mile on Bolster Hill Road this year. Mr. Cretser is waiting on the final Chips monies available.

Resolution 41

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 41 to purchase a monitor box code reader for the highway department in the amount of \$5,000.00 with a \$1500 yearly subscription. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Youth:

- Alan Cretser reported that there is nothing going on at this time.

Assessor:

- Ms. Yuenger reported that they had sent out the Senior Exemption Renewal forms and Real Property also sent a post card for anyone turning 65 this years. Any exemptions needs to be returned and submitted by March 1st, 2023.
- 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. The Assessor's office will be making calls for the ones that haven't come back.
- Any new Star applicants for the 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.
- The Assessor's office will be entering exemptions and data collections.
- Any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688. It is much easier to correct errors before the tentative roll is printed.

Supervisor:

- The reports have been submitted and on file in the clerk's office.

Historian:

- The Historian, Abby Cretser, reported that she has been researching the Tillboro Rd Cemetery dating back to 1822. Her Deputy, June has been researching baseball teams that had played in Ephratah over the years.

New Business:

- Mr. Bill Gray is done and was paid for his work on the Ambulance building. Mr. Tom Gray will be doing electrical work and the doors will be done by the end of the month.
- Fulton County is reviewing the Volunteer Fireman 10% land tax deduction.

Unfinished Business:

Eleanor Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel. 2nd by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to come out of Executive Session. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 42

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 42 stating that after auditing the Honorable Dominic Arena's books, the Town Board agreed that his judicial books were in very good order, with a job well done. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 43

George Cosselman made a motion to accept Resolution 43 after auditing the Town Clerk, Cynthia Wesselmann, the Town Board acknowledged that the books were in good order with a job well done. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried. Time 7:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah