

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, March 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
Attorney	Michael Albanese

The meeting was opened with Salute to the Flag, led by Supervisor Todd Bradt.

George Cosselman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on February 8, 2023. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #3, claim 138 thru 147 in the amount of \$15,284.86. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes

George Cosselman made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #3, claim 148 thru 166 in the amount of \$18,542.13. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- DOT was sent another letter regarding the Lassellsville & Bradtville signage that needed to be corrected and put back up.
- Fulton County Planning sent notice of a training being offered at FMCC on March 23rd at 4pm. Call the Planning Dept with any questions or concerns at (518) 736-5660.

Public Input:

- Highway Mechanic, Steve Cornaire, thanked the Town Board for letting them buy the new code reader for the equipment. They have already had to use it and the savings may be close to the value of the computer; it was a good buy.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival had complaints about living conditions and with the standards the Dept of Health adheres to, there was nothing they could do.
- There has been no activity for Carver and they are not on the docket with the APA.
- Mr. Percival has a full inspection for AG & Markets coming up.
- He spoke of Brookside Tavern and wants to get that inspection completed. The classification for the property was never updated but they may try to reopen as a bar anyway.
- Mr. Cosselman asked about the state requirements for living in the old fire house. Mr. Percival explained the code and exits needed. The Town also inquired about other structures that may be unsafe. Mr. Percival explained that the Fire Chief, Mark Souza, in certain instances, would need to be present in order to enter the structure.
- Mr. Percival can be reached at (518) 928-9360.

Planning Board:

- Devon Percival said there are a couple things in the works and he believes they will be meeting next month.

Highway:

- Highway Superintendent Alan Cretser reported that the AED came in and is on the wall.
- They have been plowing and have a U-dig training on 4/4 and an MSHA training on 4/6 at the Sir William Fire House in Johnstown.
- Mr. Cretser explained to the Town Board the need for a dump truck verses a pickup and that the larger trucks don't run hot enough in certain areas with the def system. He had checked around and got pricing on F450 and 550 dump trucks and shared those numbers with the Town Board members. The Supervisor told Mr. Cretser that he is the boss in Highway and they would likely go upon his recommendations but he would probably need to go out to bid and that it would depend on the Highway Budget monies available.

- Mr. Cretser would like to pave 9/10 of a mile on Bolster Hill Road and approximately 1 mile on Mud Rd this year but is waiting on the amount of Chips and road monies allotted to the Town before he goes out to bid on Asphalt. He would like to do Asphalt bids in May.

Youth:

- Alan Cretser reported that they are planning an Easter Party on April 1st.
- They plan to mail sponsor letters out to support the Ephratah Recreation Commission and order T-shirts for the teams the first of June.

Assessor:

- Ms. Yuenger reported that the Senior and Ag Exemptions have been received and processed. They are done with data collections and have been entering the updates. They would like to have the Tentative Roll finalized by April 1st.
- Ms. Yuenger is taking a course to continue her education and credits needed for Assessor.
- Any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688.

Supervisor:

- The monthly reports and Balance sheets were corrected and submitted to the Town Board members and are on file in the Clerk's Office.

Historian:

- The Historian, Abby Cretser, reported that she finished the book on Tillboro Rd and is working on cemetery data. She said that June is still researching softball and baseball teams over the years.
- The Historian meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Town Hall and all are welcome to attend.

New Business:

- The Supervisor, Todd Bradt, has a copy of the Fireman's Exemption from the County on file for review. He supports the Exemption and will review with the Town Board again as the details are still being worked out.

Resolution 44

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 44 to pay the Mirabito bill, as the invoice was corrected, in the amount of \$531.59. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- The Ambulance doors were installed and the Supervisor, Mr. Bradt, said Jimmy Manzer would be working on insulating the inside and the ceiling.
- The Ambulance still needs heat and electric and they had spoken with Tommy Gray about doing that. Mr. Bradt met with the St. Johnsville Ambulance and they will be responsible for the heat costs.

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

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

Resolution 45

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 45 to approve the audit of the Judges books for the Honorable Mark Souza, for the year ending 2022. Mr. Souza commented that they would like the Town to consider getting a court clerk that would be more familiar with the paperwork and reporting as they are not trained for a lot of the reporting. He said that he and the other Judge Dominic Arena have been putting time in to figure it out. The Town Board commented great job and that it was well done! 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 4 Ayes, carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried. Time 7:04 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah