

## Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 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.

George Cosselman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #8, claim 402 thru 415 in the amount of \$56,519.36. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #8, claim 387 thru 415 in the amount of \$11,319.68. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

### **Communications:**

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day. They will be open Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 6pm.
- Hunting licenses went on sale as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, available at the town clerk's office.

### **Public Input:**

- Terry Weaver, a resident of Old State road, was in again complained of garbage that was attracting rodents and was wondering what was being done. Code Enforcement said he will be addressing it. Nancy Rutsky, another neighbor on School House Road, also complained about the same property.
- David Hoyer of 171 Wohlgemuth Rd, wanted to read over a contract and see a building permit of another property owner.
- John Polenski, 158 Weaver Road, informed the Town that his cannabis license was being held up at the OCM. There is a pending lawsuit on behalf of Veterans against the OCM for not giving licenses to Veterans. Mr. Polenski is trying to get a micro business license. Instead of a dispensary license, it would be a microbusiness license. Mr. Polenski would use his own brand and be held to all the same regulations. He also informed the board it would be the same tax and revenue for the town. Mr. Polenski has purchased a culvert to put on the corner lot of Weaver Road and Route 10.

### **Reports:**

#### Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival reported that Carver has submitted an application for a permit with the DEC. The application is on file for review. Mr. Percival said they are not changing the hours of operation. Carver has also done substantial dust control. Mr. Percival said that without the dust control, they should cease operations. They want to expand maintenance hours at the site. Mr. Percival wants to see the number of truck trips per day at the site. Carver has requested three blasts per month, 30 yearly with none during the months of November and December. Mr. Percival is requesting blast size as a resident is having to changing well filters frequently. Mr. Percival also wanted to know how they are still mining if their permit has expired. The permit was for only 6 months and was started in October 2022.
- Mr. Percival can be reached at (518) 928-9360, his report is on file.

#### Planning Board:

- Bill Simpson, Planning Board Chair, reported two items. He has a two lot subdivision with each lot needing 200 feet of road frontage according to building code and fire prevention. Changes are being proposed to correct the Town Code book so that subdivisions require 200 feet frontage.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to set a public hearing to change and correct the road frontage minimum requirement. 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried

#### Highway

- Hansen will be paving the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Highway Dept. shimmed pipes on Bolster Hill Rd and Mud Road, repair work that needed to be done before paving.
- Nothing on the mining permit yet.
- Research was done on Cromer Road and in 1957, it was half a mile long.

#### Youth:

- Softball is a done in a few weeks. Trophies have been ordered.
- Soccer starts on September 8<sup>th</sup> and t-shirts have been ordered.
- Allan would like to thank Abby and Ethan for all their help.

#### Assessor:

- Erie Boulevard Hydropower has filed a small claim for a reduction in their assessment on their three parcels in the town. Their request was sent to the town attorney.
- They have rolled over so that 2024 is the current tax roll and are doing data collection on properties. They are now able to do splits and merges.
- A course was taken on Valuations of Unusual Properties via Zoom. Another course on Advanced Data Collection will be on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- There are still many junk yard properties in the town that need to be addressed. This problem is on-going.
- Any questions or concerns please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688 ext 23.

#### Supervisor:

- The bookkeeper is addressing a problem with her computer. No report at this time.

#### Historian:

- Abby is planning to attend a historian conference in Ithaca and attend classes.
- Abby is doing research on Brookside Tavern as the new owners are redoing the building.

#### New Business:

##### **Resolution 63**

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 63 to enter into a Snow Plowing contract with the Fulton County Highway Department for the 2023-24 year. The Snow Plowing Contract is for Highway to pay the Town for snow and ice control on 7.52 miles (on certain County Roads) at \$5,500/mile for a total of \$41,360.00. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

##### **Resolution 64**

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 64 to pay the Fulton County Solid Waste Landfill in the amount of \$2,411.10 transfer station debris for the month of July. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

#### Unfinished Business:

- The Ambulance building is done. The phone lines are in.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to go into an Executive meeting for litigation. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ivan Duesler. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to come out of the Executive meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann  
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah