

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, December 13th, 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. Mr. Bradt called for a moment of silence in honor of Andy Paliling. He had served as a member of the Planning Board before his sudden passing in November.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on November 8th, 2023. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #12, claim 599 thru 610 in the amount of \$3,827.09. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #12, claim 576 thru 598 in the amount of \$17,218.13. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, Dec 25th for the Christmas Holiday and be open on Tuesday, Dec 26th reg hours from 10-6.
- The Ephratah Transfer Station will also be closed on Monday, Jan 1st, 2024 for the New Year Holiday. They will be open for residents on Tues, Jan 2nd reg hours.
- The Town Board recognized Alan Cretser retiring as Town Supervisor after 27 years with the Town, 8 as Supervisor. Also retiring is Ivan Duesler as Councilman for 23 years, also serving as Deputy Town Supervisor for a number of years as well. Both have been pillars of our community and will be missed dearly.
- The Town Clerk had done some research and got to share how long a lot of the members have served in the Town as follows:
Lyn Yeunger and Penny Smith 37 years, Mike Albanese 32 years, Alan Cretser 27 years, Ivan Duesler 23 years, Dan Robinson over 25 years, Lita Hillier over 30 years, Todd Bradt 22 years, Eleanor Smith 20 years, George Cosselman 18 years, Cynthia Wesselmann 14 years, Abby Cretser 11 years, Andrew Chorlton 16 years, Jack Keppler 12 years, Susan Groesbeck, Vicki Lansburg, Paula Keppler, Devon Percival and many others serving on the Planning Board and Board of Review over the years as well as very valuable employees and lots of others, too many to list, my apologies. The Town of Ephratah has been very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of longtime members and to have got along so well over the years for the greater good of our Town; met with a round of applause.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon spoke of an incident on the Mud Rd and involved DEC.
- DEC has not approved Carver’s mining permit yet but plan on the crusher running from 7-5; blasting 3x’s monthly with 30 yearly. They can have a mercy blasting Saturday and cannot exceed the truck average. They will be operating 6am till 6pm with a conditional permit because of the school buses. They could default back to the original permit if conditions are not met or resolved. A copy of the permit is on file in the Clerk’s office.
- Devon asked the Town Board members to consider looking at getting Zoning going in the town again. This would give Code Enforcement more leverage on building regulations. He also mentioned that Bolar Engineering is looking at a parcel within the town.

Planning Board:

- The Planning Board chair Bill Simpson has been seeking new members to fill the board vacancies. The board meets every 3 months on a Monday at 6pm, or when a special meeting is needed at the Town Hall. Interested parties can forward a letter of interest with the Clerk or call Bill Simpson at (518) 993-5684.

- The election of officers for 2024 are as follows:
Chairman Bill Simpson, Vice Chairman Bill Claes and Secretary Dan Richardson
Lyn Woods term is up but she is going to continue as an alternate until they get new members.

Highway

- Retired and now appointed Highway Superintendent, Alan Cretser said the new truck is in. The loggers are on Tillboro Road working and will submit a certificate of insurance. Mr. Cretser thanked the Town Board for their continued support over the years and being able to talk to the Town Board over the years.

Youth:

- They have the 2024 Ephratah Recreation Commission schedule posted.
- Alan plans to still help but plans on Ethan Cretser taking over.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger said the County just approved a higher income exemption up to \$29,999. They are continuing data collections for the new tax role after March 1st. Anyone turning 65 in 204 should come in before March 1st to sign up for the property exemption.
- Any questions or concerns please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688 ext 23.

Supervisor:

- The report was submitted and on file.

Historian:

- Historian, Abby Cretser spoke of the successful Christmas in Ephratah parade on Dec 2nd.
- They had a research request for the reservoir on Mud Rd and Alan helped fix stones in the Tillboro Road cemetery.

New Business:

Resolution 82

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 82 to enter into contract with the James A Brennan Humane Society for \$1,875.00 for 2024. 2nd by Ivan Duesler 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 83

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 83 to adopt the sliding scale Senior Exemption based on income that Fulton County adopted. 2nd by Ivan Duesler 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 84

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 84 to appoint Jamie Laraway as the Town Tax Collector and Vicki Lansburg as Deputy, term to end 12/31/2024. 2nd by Ivan Duesler 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 85

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 85 appointing the Planning Board members as follows: Chairman - Bill Simpson, Vice Chairman - Bill Claes, Secretary - Dan Richardson and Lyn Woods term is up but she is going to continue as an alternate until they get new members. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 86

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 86 to have the Highway Department work 5 days a week, 8 hours a day through the winter and 4 ten hour days in the summer. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 87

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 87 to have the Bookkeeper pay the year end bills. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- The ambulance need one more heater hooked up.
- They are looking for Ambulance Board members.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah