

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, October 11th, 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 - absent |

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 September 13th, 2023. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #10, claim 486 thru 496 in the amount of \$7,023.07. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #10, claim 497 thru 507 in the amount of \$174,972.43. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Veteran’s Day Holiday is observed on Friday, November 10th with the County. The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Saturday, November 11th. The station will be open Monday, November 13th, regular hours.
- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd for the Thanksgiving Holiday but will be open Saturday, November 25th regular hours of 8am till 4pm.

Public Input:

- Bill Simpson, on New Turnpike Rd, said although he appreciated the millings put down by the Town, he had concerns of them going on his grass with the snow plows during the winter.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival reported a structure fire on Old State Rd that caused the property to be condemned.
- He has information for John Polenski regarding the use of a trailer for his business. Commercial properties are held to a higher standard per the fire code.
- Notices are going out for Rockwood, red tagged for unsafe fire code.
- Sam Bursese is clearing land and is planning for National Grid to bring in electricity.
- The DOT called regarding the amount of truck traffic on Rte 29 from Carver. They are concerned with the increased traffic flow as they are planning to replace the bridge in Rockwood.
- The APA sent notice requesting a seeker on the expansion of the Carver mine. A copy of the permit is being presented. Included in the permit is excavation hours from 7am till 5pm with hours of operation from 6am till 6pm and maintenance hours of 6am till 9pm, Monday thru Friday and Saturday from 8am till 2pm; with no hours on Sundays or Federal Holidays. The blasting would be done Monday thru Friday from 11am till 3pm with no more than 3 per month and a maximum of 30 blasts per year. There were no winter restrictions listed. There have been 8 complaints sent in regarding problems with wells, excess dust, and traffic concerns with school buses; noting the APA permit can be voided if drivers don’t maintain a safe speed. Other concerns addressed were the noise from the crusher but has significantly dropped. It went down to 85 decibels and they believe the blasting did not impact the wells. Although the Town would like Carver to stay within the original site plan, they have purchased more land as there has been a huge demand for larger rock going down to the city.

The DEC needs to list a permanent permit for Carver that has not been issued yet. The new permit may be extended to a 5 year permit.

Resolution 69

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 69 into record that Mr. Percival sent a letter with the NYS DOT in Utica's recommendation and the Town's approval requesting that Carver do a SEQR Type 1, full seeker regarding the increase in truck traffic. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Planning Board:

- Planning Board Chair, Bill Simpson, suggested another revision to the Sub Division regulations before it is filed. He would like an amendment to the Review of Major Subdivision, under submittal requirements, to include under D. "#6 The Planning Board reserves the right to waive any of the above requirements mentioned in A., B., or C. as it deems appropriate." He explained to the Town Board this would allow them to waive requirements that may not be necessary and costly to the taxpayer. The original sub division regulations adopted were written for a more populated area and that may be necessary for that but not always in a rural area and would give the Planning Board some leeway on a case by case basis. The Town Board agreed and would need to hold a public hearing to make this change.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to set a public hearing to change Local Law 3 of 2023 by adding language to the Major Subdivision requirements. 2nd made by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried

Highway

- Highway Superintendent, Alan Cretser, gave his monthly report noting that the blacktop was all done and the shoulders are down with 22-24 loads of milling as needed.
- The F550 truck was delivered and is at Charlie Stahl's getting the box put on.
- Cargill won the salt bid and all orders need to be done on line.
- The highway department is currently down a worker until they recover from surgery.
- Alan Cretser also let the Town Board know that he will be submitting his retirement paperwork and retiring as of December 1st, 2023.
- They are having issues with the screen plant, they need a belt.
- Mr. Cretser noted that after tomorrow, M-Shaw will be completed until May.

Youth:

- Saturday will be the last day of soccer for this season, 10/14/23.
- They have been fixing leaks in the roof and is now all taken care of.
- They are having a Halloween Party at the ERC on October 28th.
- Alan Cretser said the blocks have been delivered at the ERC and he will be using an excavator to re-grade and repair the area.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger and her assistant Penny Smith have been out doing data collections.
- The litigations for Erie Blvd is in the hands of the attorneys.
- Their office will be mailing out renewals for Senor and Ag exemptions due by March 1st, 2024.
- Ms. Yuenger said she will help with building permits and Fire exemptions when they come in.
- Any questions or concerns please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688 ext 23.

Supervisor:

- Reports are on file.

Historian:

- Historian, Abby Cretser, attended the NYS Historian conference in Cooperstown.
- She has requested permission for Alan to put up signage on cemetery's and fix stones going forward, as he has done in the past and knows what to do.
- They will be selling items to raise money for the Historian Fund including:
2024 Calendars \$10.00, Engraved glasses \$10.00 and Jars of Chocolate cookie mix \$12.00

New Business:

Resolution 70

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 70 to adopt the 2024 Tentative Budget as the 2024 Preliminary Budget. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to set a public hearing for the Town of Ephratah 2024 Preliminary Budget, at the next Town Board meeting on November 8th at 6:30pm. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

Resolution 71

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept Resolution 71 to set the time for Trick or Treat in the Town of Ephratah on Tuesday, October 31st, 2023 from 5pm to 7pm. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah