

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, April 10th, 2024 at the Ephratah Town Hall. Roll call found the following members present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Andrew Chorlton
Councilwoman	Eleanor Smith
Councilman	George Cosselman
Councilwoman	Paula Keppler
Clerk	Cynthia Wesselmann
Highway Superintendent	John Polenski Jr.
Code Enforcement Officer	Devon Percival - absent
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 March 13th, 2024. 2nd by Paula Keppler. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #4, claim 167 thru 181 in the amount of \$7,387.24. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #4, claim 182 thru 190 in the amount of \$2,734.55. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Fulton County Planning Board will be holding the 10th Annual Planning and Zoning training at FMCC on Thursday, April 11th from 3:15pm to 7:45pm.

Public Input:

- Resident Lyn Yuenger of State Rte 10, in Ephratah would like the meetings taped and posted and available on line. The Town Board wishes to discuss and table to next month.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival sent an email to the Town Clerk and was unable to attend.
- Mr. Percival is still dealing with DMV about junk yards and debris on properties.
- Brookside is trying to get the septic system plan approved with the DOH.
- Carver's permit has been suspended as of a couple of days ago.
- Mr. Percival needs a member of the planning board, town board and Todd for a meeting for the community solar project that is coming across from C&C on Rte 29.

Planning Board:

- The Chair, Bill Simpson, advised the town board that they had changed a parcel.
- The next meeting is planned for Monday, June 10th at 6pm, at the town hall.

Highway

- Highway Superintendent, John Polenski Jr., was happy to announce that the newest employee, Andy Goodman now has his CDL.
- The Highway Dept has finished bush hogging; they got all the roads done.
- The department has also been pressure washing and painting the trucks.
- Mr. Polenski Jr. presented the proposal from CT Male for the engineering of the new salt shed.

- Mr. Polenski Jr. had spoke with Nichole at Gorman's and found that Saltsman's, Ostrum, and other roads all qualify to oil and stone the roads. He would also like to blacktop all the way through Gray Rd so they would not have to rake, grade and ect.
- The M-Shaw training for the highway dept is tomorrow. They are hoping we have had the last snow storm for the year.
- The Highway Superintendent, John Polenski Jr., has made all of the vouchers for his department digital. He also received a check from the loggers for the 650 ft of damage in the amount of \$2,466.00 to be put into the highway account.
- Mr. Polenski Jr. has spoke with property owners about the town equipment having the right of way, on the side of the road, to be able to plow or brush hog at any given time.
- The highway department was able to fix Cromer Rd and will go back to cover the graffiti on Old State and School House Rd.
- Steven's Equipment will be giving the department an estimate on brush hog accessories.

Resolution 54

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 54 to have CT Male draw up plans for concrete and testing for compaction, for the new salt shed, in the amount of \$16,000.00. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Youth:

- The Easter party on the 23rd went well. They had a dozen kids with 1,000 eggs.
- Sign up for softball will be held on May 6th and May 18th. They will be sending out sponsor letters.
- The ERC has talked to the highway department about taking the fence out and getting help making an outhouse with a septic holding tank, and the mowers need work.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger, said they have completed data collections for the 2024 and will be mailing out the new assessment notices. Property owners will have an opportunity to look at other assessments during open book on Tuesday, May 7th, 14th, and 21st from 6-8pm; also on Saturday, May 18th from 9am till noon. They are encouraged to discuss the assessment with the Assessor and hopefully be able to resolve any discrepancies before grievance day.
- A publication titled "Contesting Your Assessment in New York State" and complaint forms (RP-524) are available at the Assessor's Office or online at http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp524_fill_in.pdf. Complaints can be filed with the Assessor prior to Grievance Day or with the Board of Review on such day. Complaint forms must be completed before the hearing is heard.
- Grievance Day will be held at Town Hall on May 28th, 2024 from 4pm till 8pm. The Board of Assessment Review will be reviewing complaints in relation to assessments of real property and mail out any determinations.
- Any questions or concerns please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688.

Supervisor:

- The Supervisors financial report will be mailed with the minutes of the meeting.

Historian:

- The Historian, Abby Cretser, has been researching Abner Fueller and will be putting together a photo display of people and veterans that lived in the town. She would like to collect photos and additional names of Veterans if available.

New Business:

- The Supervisor, Todd Bradt, would like to put a sign on the ambulance building. He has recommended the signage to say: Town of Ephratah EMS (Emergency Medical Services). Mr. Bradt said the Town of Ephratah should be recognized for providing the land and building for the greater good of the community. The St. Johnsville Ambulance, running and operating in the building, has had a lot of praise with a really good response time. Everyone agreed that they have done even more than they are contracted for with the County, thereby benefiting all of the surrounding communities.

Resolution 55

George Cosselman made a motion to accept Resolution 55 to order signage from Derby for the Town of Ephratah EMS building for approximately \$400.00. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to go into an Executive meeting for employment history on a town employee. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to come out of the executive meeting. 2nd by Paula Keppler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- The Highway Supervisor praised Laura Carpenter and town residents for coordinating the town wide cleanup. The highway employees will be helping pick up the bags of trash and recycling along the town roads for the next 30 days.

Resolution 56

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 56 to acknowledge the audit of the Honorable Mark Souza's judge's books to be in good order with a job well done. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Paula Keppler. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 7:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah