

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, August 14th, 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
Attorney	Michael Albanese

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 July 10th, 2024. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #8, claim 331 thru 350 in the amount of \$8,272.71. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #8, claim 351 thru 364 in the amount of \$57,734.89. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, September 2nd for the Labor Day Holiday. They will be open on Tuesday, September 3rd from 10am till 6pm.
- The Town received an email from divideny.org regarding their position on Vote No on Proposition #1 (because the language maybe open for interpretation) they included the following statement: “While it is called an equal rights amendment, Prop 1 will change the state constitution to create a right for boys to use girls locker rooms; allow boys complete in girls sports; make it unlawful for a woman to object to a man in a ladies bathroom/locker room!”

Public Input:

- Christina Weaver of the Old State Rd wanted to acknowledge that John, the Town Superintendent, and his crew have done a great job. They removed the graffiti off the bridge on School House Rd and fixed a trench; now the water flows correctly after many years.
- Jack Keppler, of the North Rd, said it was his opinion for the town to vote no on a 40mph speed limit, as most of the roads you couldn’t go that fast and it would be an unnecessary cost for the signage.
- Kevin Sweet, of the New Turnpike Rd would like the speed limit reduced. They go way too fast on his road and thinks it should be 20mph.
- Linda Christman, of the New Turnpike Rd, said they are flyng down the hill doing 80 on the double lines and questioned whether the big trucks are even supposed to be on their road.
- The Supervisor, Todd Bradt, addressed the issue and said the large trucks are not supposed to be on New Turnpike, the Ephratah side is posted with signage.

The state had done a study and declined to reduce the speed on New Turnpike, as there has not been enough fatalities for that to be necessary. Mr. Bradt asked the Town Attorney, Michael Albanese, who said that he had sent paperwork to the Highway Superintendent and they have to follow procedure. Mr. Bradt said they had a lot more work to do to even get to that point. Highway Superintendent, John Polenski Jr. said the paperwork procedure involves the Town Board, then the County and then the State. Mr. Bradt said the speed limit would not be voted on and changed at this meeting.

- Kimberly Boles, of New Turnpike Rd, said they also go more than 55 on her road since it has been paved.
- Mrs. Keppler of Rte 119 believes they don't have coverage to give out tickets.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival said he had court last month and addressed some of the tickets. Mr. Frank has representation for his tickets, as he is not well. DMV is getting back to Mr. Percival, as he is going back to the beginning. On another matter, Tonies Treasures will be moving their business; for which Mr. Percival can now forward any correspondence to the new address. Mr. Percival also has a court date tomorrow night for debris on the Old State Rd.
- Mr. Percival has had a couple of building permits that are up and finished. He also wanted to let the town board know that companies are buying land, the smaller lots, on Rte 67. He has had title search inquiries. The Dollar Store will be going forward and Mr. Percival will be meeting with the Planning Board. Also, Brookside got a DEC approval for a couple of plans for the septic system to present to the Health Dept and proceed forward.
- Heidelberg Materials acquired a good section of Carver Sand and Gravel. There is nothing listed with the DEC permits as of now, but hopefully they will reach out.
- NYSERTA came out with a kind of unified solar permitting process that a lot of the municipalities are using. It is a standard permit application, with all the guidelines, that we could set a permit fee for. Mr. Percival has a logo done and he would like to use NYSERTA's unified solar permitting application. He will get this to the Attorney Michael Albanese and we can get a copy mailed out for everyone to look it over.
- Mr. Percival, said the Dollar Store plans to build on the corner of Rte 67 and Rte 10, across from Brittany's Diner. They have sent in the site plan data and a layout of what the facility will look like. There would be a parking lot and the front of the store will face Rte 67. The entrance will be on Rte 67 only because of the traffic. He plans to meet with Mr. Simpson and the Planning Board to get this going, and possibly again with the Town Board to address any questions or concerns. After some discussion, the Town Board didn't see any problems and said it would add to the tax base.

Planning Board:

- Code Enforcement, Devon Percival, said he plans to meet with the Planning Board to go over the Site Plan Review. It falls under the stand permitting process and will hopefully complete before September.

Highway

- Highway Superintendent, John Polenski Jr. said that the Highway Department has had a busy month addressing culvert issues by setting and replacing them within the town. They recouped \$597.00 in culvert monies that was handed in.

When they replaced an old section on Woods Road they dug out some collapsed culvert pipes that they figure were approximately 100 years old. The two piece cast iron culvert pipe they have out back for a little piece of history. They also placed cold patch on Woods Rd to prevent any further wash out.

- In Garoga, they replaced the old ribbon rail, cut ditches back, thereby gaining road frontage, and got all the water to flow properly under the bridge. They also replaced the old stop sign with a new high-vis stop sign.
- The Highway Superintendent commended the highway employees for a job well done after the storms. They did a great job cleaning up all the tree debris on the roads. Mr. Polenski Jr. also wanted to thank the Fire Dept for all of their help as well.
- They have been out with the grader and have fixed a lot of the dirt roads within the town. Mr. Polenski Jr. doesn't have a date yet for Heidelberg to start paving. Originally it was going to be around August 1st but they are behind.
- Mr. Polenski Jr. said they had spoke with CT Male regarding the bid for the dry storage building concrete and drawlings. That will go out to bid in September. Mr. Polenski Jr and his Deputy, Steven Cornaire, ended up filling out a 52 page grant to apply for a salt shed building from NY State grant monies. They applied for a 30' x 18'high x 50' building and should know by October or November. If approved, we could get the money in February and use it on the new building. The town would be buying the dry storage shed and concrete that they are going out to bid on. This building will be a temporary storage for the salt and hopefully get grant monies for a new salt shed. If they get the grant, they could move the salt and use the first building for dry storage.
- Mr. Polenski Jr. shared a couple letters sent in supporting a 45pmh speed limit on the town roads in Ephratah. One of the letters was from Holly Brundage at the OESJ School transportation. Mr. Polenski Jr. supports a 45mph speed limit, people would slow down, if not, residents would have more leverage when calling the State Troopers and or the Fulton County Sheriff's Dept.

Resolution 65

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 65 to go out to bid for concrete for the Dry Storage Building. The Public Hearing for opening the bids will be set for September 11th at 6:15pm at the Ephratah Town Hall. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 66

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 66 to support and pursue a 45mph town wide speed limit on town roads within the Town of Ephratah. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Youth:

- They had their last day of softball Saturday.
- Saturday, September 7th is opening day for soccer.
- The RGL Firehouse is planning a training and will be cleaning up in front of the ERC. Mr. Cretser thanked the Highway Department for removing the retaining wall and complimented the grass they planted.
- The ERC is planning on getting a new bathroom; it's in the works.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger, said they have rolled over to the 2025 Tentative Tax Roll. They are now able to do any splits and mergers.

- The Assessor's office is doing data collections and finding construction without permits. They are also working on transfers.
- Property owners can apply for the Basic Star exemption on line at www.tax.ny.gov/star from September 15th, 2024 through March 15th, 2025. You would need your social security number and property tax ID.
- Any questions, please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688.

Supervisor:

- The Supervisors financial report was submitted and is on file for review.

Historian:

- The Historian, Abby Cretser, will be checking with the Supervisor, Todd Bradt, to see where to put the new sign up by Granny's. Dan Pagerie helped by painting another sign that was put back up.

New Business:

Resolution 67

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 67 to approve the Spectrum Right of Way Easement Agreement. They are looking to expand within the Town of Ephratah limits, to give people more options, and there is Federal money available for Broadband in NY; that has to go to underserved areas. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Old Business:

- Standard Workday hours

Public Input:

- Kimberly Heroth Boles, of New Turnpike Rd., inquired about a date for the availability of Spectrum. Mr. Bradt says there are no dates yet, it also depends on the Federal monies.

George Cosselman made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2nd by Paula Keppler. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 7:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah