

Regular Meeting

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

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Andrew Chorlton
Councilman	Eleanor Smith
Councilman	George Cosselman
Councilwoman	Paula Keppler
Clerk	Cynthia Wesselmann
Hwy Superintendent	John Polenski Jr
Code Enforcement Officer	Devon Percival - absent
Attorney	Michael Albanese

The meeting was opened with Salute to the Flag, led by Ivan Duesler, requested by Supervisor Todd Bradt.

George Cosselman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on December 13th, 2023. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #1, claim 3 thru 18 in the amount of \$22,307.05. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #1, claim 19 thru 32 in the amount of \$11,544.77. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Public Input:

- Assemblyman, Robert Smullens attended the meeting and took questions from the public regarding the new Even Year Election Legislation Adopted, along with gun control laws, immigrants and other concerns.
- George Cosselman Jr. of 4901 State Hwy 29 addressed the Town Board about septic concerns going into a water way on Old State Road. He has called Code Enforcement, Public Health and CDC with no resolution. He called DEC and they will be looking into it. Mr. Cosselman Jr. said there is garbage piled to the roof of one of the homes. He also mentioned the Town Web site did not have the Health Officer’s phone number and that the condemned buildings had the signage taken down along with a setback violation with vehicles on the road. In one incident on Church Rd emergency vehicles could not get through. Mr. Cosselman Jr cited the state code that says that residents are allowed two unregistered vehicles and one needs to be covered.
- Courtney Smith, the new owner of the Brookside Tavern 4389 State Rte 10, addressed the Town Board regarding the eye sore camper and debris next door to them. They are putting a lot of money and time into the building and plan to have a nice restaurant with a deck in the front. They are planning on seating in the front for patrons and would like to see it cleaned up.
- Resident, Thomas Baker of 4926 State Rte 29, inquired as to who foil requests could be directed to, which would be to the Town Clerk.

Communications:

- The Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, January 15th for the Martin Luther King Holiday. They will reopen Tuesday, January 16th from 10am-6pm.
- Carmen Page of 111 Hatch Rd, expressed interest in the Planning Board vacancy.

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival was not in attendance due to personal matters.

Planning Board:

- Bill Simpson has spoken with Carmen Page and they would like him to be a member.

Resolution 38

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 38 to appoint Carmen Page to the Planning Board, replacing former member Andy Paliling that had passed suddenly, term to expire 12/31/2027. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 ayes, carried.

Highway

- Highway Superintendent, John Polenski Jr, on 1/2/24 met with Nic Harris and found a program funding bridges and culverts. He will look into the funding as the Town would like to replace a culvert on Hart Rd. The state would reimburse it 100%, but the deadline is fast approaching.
- Steve and Duane went through and fixed all the dirt roads and opened up the overgrowth.
- They are checking the accuracy of the pumps and brought in trucks for repair work. One of the trucks was taken to the machine shop to fix a manifold and is now quite. They also replaced a canister on a truck and did snow removal at the firehouse and senior center.
- Mr. Polenski would like to widen the intersection at Co Hwy 140 and Wagners Hollow Rd for the buses.
- There is a car parked on Smith Road that they can call the Sheriff's Dept and have towed.
- John Polenski Jr. applied for unclaimed monies on the NY State Comptrollers website on behalf of the Town and is awaiting an insurance check.
- Mr. Polenski Jr. told the Town Board members that he would not be purchasing JJ Keller manuals, t He said paying \$1800 a year is not necessary, as they have done in the past.
- He also looked into hi-vis NY Jackets and shirts for the guys for a nominal fee of .11 cents per week more.
- They purchased a scan tool program through Napa for \$1,299, saving \$200 by getting it from them.
- Although they are down a guy, the new Highway Superintendent, John Polenski Jr., would like to go on record thanking the highway employees with a job well done. A resident also left a message commending them for fixing the roads.

Youth:

- Nothing at this time. They have a new schedule available for 2024.

Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger said the County just approved a higher income exemption up to \$29,999 based on a sliding income scale. They are continuing data collections for the new tax role for after March 1st. Anyone turning 65 in 2024 should come in before March 1st to sign up for any senior exemptions that may be available to them.
- Ms. Yuenger expressed concerns about an Amish property on a dangerous corner with no variance, no culvert or permissions with DOT.
- Any questions or concerns please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688 ext 23.

Supervisor:

- The bookkeepers report will be mailed with the minutes.

Historian:

- Nothing at this time.

New Business:

Resolution 39

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept Resolution 39 to pay the Highway Assoc yearly dues in the amount of \$250.00. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Mr. Bradt said the ambulance has been busy and doing a wonderful job. Mr. Albanese will be reviewing the Ambulance contract.

George Cosselman made a motion to go into an Executive meeting for litigation and personnel. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to come out of Executive meeting. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 40

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 40 to accept the Association of Towns proposals. 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