

## Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 - absent
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.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

George Cosselman made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #6, claim 248 thru 265 in the amount of \$6,829.50. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eleanor Smith. 4 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #6, claim 266 thru 277 in the amount of \$14,854.75. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrew Chorlton. 4 ayes, carried.

### **Communications:**

- The Fulton County Dept of Solid Waste sent in notice that the Ephratah Transfer Station will be closed Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for the Independence Day Holiday. They will resume regular hours on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The Fulton County Board of Elections sent notice of the new legislation going in to effect Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Chapter 741 of the Laws of 2023 moves elections for several local offices to even number years. All current elected officials will fulfill the entirety of their term. Feel free to reach out to the Board of Elections or the Clerk for the details on file.

### **Public Input:**

- None

### **Public Hearing:**

The public hearing opened up at 6:15 to read the Asphalt Bids that were submitted, went as follows:

Heidelberg Materials Northeast-NY LLC of 4800 Jamesville Rd, Jamesville, NY 13078

- Kahn Rd from New Turnpike Rd, approx 2420 ft x 17ft wide was \$84/tn for a total of \$42,252. Gray Rd from New Turnpike Rd, approx 3000ft x 17ft wide was \$80.00/tn, for a total of \$50,000. The total of the bid was \$92,252.

Cobleskill Stone Products, Inc. of PO Box 220, Cobleskill, NY 12043

- Kahn Rd from New Turnpike Rd, approx 2420 ft x 17ft wide was \$90.20/tn for a total of \$45,370.60. Gray Rd from New Turnpike Rd, approx 3000ft x 17ft wide was \$79.60/tn, for a total of \$49,750. The total of the bid was \$95,120.60.

Callanan Industries, Inc. of PO Box 15097, Albany, NY 12212

- Kahn Rd from New Turnpike Rd, approx 2420 ft x 17ft wide was \$96.24/tn for a total of \$48,408.72. Gray Rd from New Turnpike Rd, approx 3000ft x 17ft wide was \$96.24/tn, for a total of \$60,150. The total of the bid was \$108,558.72.

## **Reports:**

### Code Enforcement Officer:

- Devon Percival suggested to the town board that he would like to bring permit fees back and possibly Solar going under a commercial megawatt fee. The Town should check with the Assoc of Towns and look at other rate schedules. This was tabled until next month.

### Planning Board:

- The Chairman, Bill Simpson submitted their report and is on file for review.
- They have not received any information on the Solar project.
- Kathleen Oughton is continuing to plan an Emergency Preparedness Meeting possibly for the fall.
- They welcomed new Planning Board members Terry Weaver and Carl Ovitt, Jr.
- Their next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm; at the Ephratah Town Hall.

### Highway

- Highway Superintendent, John Polenski Jr. told the Town that Hatch Rd is on the inventory that they need to maintain and he would like to keep it as is.
- He will be meeting with Nicole Gorman on June 24-25 and would like to oil and stone all of Rockwood to extend the life of the roads.
- The Highway Dept raised Denure Rd 10' to keep it dry and dug and fixed ditches. They also filled in the damage on Tillboro Rd.
- Mr. Polenski talked about the top soil overburden in the pit. Highway and the Town Board concluded they would make a pile and send it out to bid, or consider giving it away. This would save the Town employees a lot of time and effort with the screening and moving it around.
- The Highway Superintendent spoke to the Town Board about CT Male and working with a grant writer as well as going forward with the Salt Shed project.
- Everyone welcomed our newest employee Ted Hammons; he will be a very nice addition to the Highway Dept.

### **Resolution 60**

George Cosselman made a motion to accept Resolution 60 to contract with CT Male for \$4,200.00 for the grant writer for the Water Quality Improvement Program that includes the application fee. Any grants monies received the Town is under the standing that they may only have to pay approx 25% of the expenditures. 2<sup>nd</sup> Eleanor Smith. 4 ayes, carried.

### **Resolution 61**

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 61 to contract with CT Male to go ahead with the Salt Shed plans. 2<sup>nd</sup> George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

### Youth:

- The youth commission was yolk raked for the upcoming softball season.

### Assessor:

- The Assessor, Lyn Yuenger, said on Grievance Day on May 28<sup>th</sup>, they had four grievances and three stipulations. The Board of Review will be meeting in the fall on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- Ms. Yuenger needs two courses this year, she plans to take one on solar.
- Any questions or concerns please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 762-5688.

Supervisor:

- The Supervisors financial report, prepared by the Bookkeeper, Lita Hillier, was handed out and on file.

New Business:

**Resolution 62**

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 62 to appoint Andrew Chorlton as the Point of Contact for any Sexual Harassment Claims, thereby replacing Ivan Duesler. 2<sup>nd</sup> George Cosselman. 3 ayes, carried 1 Abstention (Andrew Chorlton)

Unfinished Business:

- Code Enforcement Officer Devon Percival would like to look into a more simplified Zoning. The Town would like to have zoning for land use, but not to restrict people. The Supervisor, Todd Bradt will follow up and discuss further with Fulton County Planning.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to close the public hearing for the asphalt bids. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, carried.

**Resolution 63**

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 63 to award the Asphalt Bid to Heidelberg Materials Northeast-NY LLC of 4800 Jamesville Rd, Jamesville, NY 13078 The Bid is for Kahn Rd from New Turnpike Rd, approx 2420 ft x 17ft wide was \$84/tn for a total of \$42,252. Gray Rd from New Turnpike Rd, approx 3000ft x 17ft wide was \$80.00/tn, for a total of \$50,000. The total of the bid was \$92,252. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried

**Public Input:**

- Mr. Cosselman asked the other Town Board members to reconsider and put the meeting online. Mr. Bradt said he is not for that because this could be misinterpreted and taken out of context. The Town Board meetings are open to the public for anyone to attend.

George Cosselman made a motion to reconsider the Resolution against putting the Town Board meetings on line. This motion was not seconded.

**Resolution 64**

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 64 to accept the Tax Collector, Jamie Laraway's books to have been audited and in good order; with a job well done. 2<sup>nd</sup> George Cosselman. 4 ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to adjourn the town board meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Cosselman. 4 Ayes, carried. Time 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann  
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah