Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held at 6 PM on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025 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 - absent

The meeting was opened with Salute to the Flag, led by Supervisor Todd Bradt. There was a moment of silence for Daniel Robinson who had recently passed. He had been the Town Dog Control Officer for the last 30 years as well as a volunteer firemen at the RGL Fire Department. He will be truly missed in the community.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on March 12th, 2025. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 ayes, carried.

Andrew Chortlon made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract #4, claim 163 thru 176 in the amount of $7,370.43. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes, carried.

Eleanor Smith made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract #4, claim 140 thru 162 in the amount of $80,417.38. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 ayes, carried.

Communications:
- The NYS DOT sent in notice regarding the speed limits on the four additional roads requested to be lowered; see highway's report below.

Public Input
- None at this time.

Reports:
Code Enforcement Officer:
- Code Enforcer, Devon Percival was absent but had said that he was working on a subdivision that he'll talk to the Planning Board about. In other matters, violation court dates were postponed.
- There was a complaint regarding vehicles in the road on Tillboro Rd along with dealing with other complaints.

Planning Board:
- Devin will be working with Bill Simpson regarding the sub-division.

Highway
- Highway Superintendent, John Polenski Jr. reported that they were working with Frontier signed a contract to get fiber optics as planned but they previously had a wrong address.

- The NYS DOT approved lowering the speed limit on the New Turnpike Road from 55mph to 45mph. They also sent in notice they have completed a study and agreed to lower the speed limit on the Old State Rd from 55mph to 40mph and also the Hart Rd from 55mph to 45mph. Based on additional studies, they determined that Murray Hill and Mud Rd, a lower speed limit was not appropriate at this time.
- Working on getting oil and stone preservation on Olstrum Rd, Fort Plain Water Shed and Church Rd to extend the pavement.
- Mr. Polenski Jr. would like to go out for bid on blacktop to pave the Old State Rd and Woods Rd from Saltsman's Hotel to the Saltsman's Rd. Next year he would like to pave the New Turnpike Rd.
- Highway spoke with the Town of Minden about a portable radio system that pings off antennas and would tie into the truck radios for the equipment location and better communication. Mr. Polenski Jr. said the license could be $10,000 and a $240/monthly cell phone service fee; he'll get a final price next month.
- Highway brush hogged roads and they have an M-Shaw training tomorrow.
- The Highway school will be held on June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th this year.
- Truck #5 is all road ready. They purchased it back for $7,500. They also have drug testing set up.
- Mr. Polenski Jr. is researching Highway and Municipal grants he'd like to apply for.
- Highway was issued a nuisance permit for a beaver issue on Mud Rd. He would like the Town to make a town ordinance to hold the property owners accountable. The Supervisor said he would talk to the Town Attorney about putting the home owners on notice.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to go out for blacktop bids at the next town board meeting on May 14th at 6:15pm, at the Town Hall. 2nd by George Cosselman 5 ayes, carried.

Resolution 58
Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 58 for the cost of Highway School for Mr. Polenski Jr. The cost would be $125.00 plus $144.00 per night. 2nd by Paula Keppler. 5 Ayes, carried.

Youth:
- Nothing at this time.

Assessor:
- The Assessor Lyn Yuenger submitted their report. They have completed the Tentative Assessment Roll and will be available to be viewed on May 6th, 13th and the 20th from 6-8pm; also on May 17th from 10am to 12pm. Grievance day will be May 27th from 4pm to 8pm at the Town Hall.
- Building permits are available on line and check with Code Enforcement for costs.
- Any questions or concerns, they are available on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 pm at the Town, or call the Assessor's Office at (518) 762-5688.

Supervisor:
- The Supervisor's financial reports were submitted and are on file.

Historian:
- The deputy, June is currently in the hospital from health issues.

<u>New Business:</u>
- The Town Board agreed they wanted that they would like to send a sympathy card for Daniel Robinson and a get well card to Evelyn Frasier.

Resolution 59
George Cosselman made a motion to accept Resolution 59 to update the town Procurement Policy raising the allowed purchasing from $1,000 to $3,000. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 60
Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 60 to raise Highway Fund revenues and appropriations to record monies received from NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal) for plow truck damage and to also authorize the Supervisor to transfer said monies to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund and a portion to the Highway Machinery Equipment Machinery Budget Line Item as follows:

DA510 – Revenues $149,556.00
   (DA2680 – Insurance Recoveries)

    DA960 – Appropriations $149,556.00
        (DA5130.2 – Machinery Eq. $25,000.00)
        (DA9950.9 – Transfer to Capital Reserve $124,556.00)

2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Resolution 61
Eleanor Smith made a motion to accept Resolution 61 to accept the Judge's Audit of the Honorable Mark Souza for 2024, with a job well done. 2nd by Andrew Chorlton. 5 Ayes, carried.

Andrew Chorlton made a motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting. 2nd by Eleanor Smith. 5 Ayes, carried. Time 6:54 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Wesselmann
Town Clerk, Town of Ephratah