

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Ephratah Town Board was held 6 PM December 11, 2013 at the Ephratah Town Hall.

Roll Call found the following people present:

Supervisor	Todd Bradt
Councilman	Ivan Duesler
Councilman	George Cosselman
Councilman	Thomas Miles
Councilman	Andrew Chorlton
Clerk	Eleanor Smith
Hwy Superintendent	James Berry
Code Enforcement Officer	David Rackmyre, Jr.
Attorney	Michael Albanese

The meeting was opened with Salute to the Flag led by Supervisor Todd Bradt.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to accept the minutes from November 13, 2013 Regular meeting. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Thomas Miles made a motion to pay General bills, Abstract 12, Claim # 179 thru 198 for the amount of \$ 5,803.91. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Ivan Duesler made a motion to pay Highway bills, Abstract 12, Claim # 196 thru 207 for the amount of \$ 7,304.04. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Communication:

- The Holiday has no affect on the Transfer Station.

Public Input: None

Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer:

- One new permit
- Two Certificates of Compliance Issued
- One ticket served
- Owner on 67 failed to show for court, criminal summons issued to appear on 1/2/2014, if fails to appear then, a warrant will be issued
- The owner for ticket issued for Church St., reached an agreement to clean up by 2/1/2014. Also, a fence to be constructed (with proper permit) no larger than 30 x 30 feet non see through, scraps must be non visible from public road.
- On Schoolhouse Rd, if trailer not removed by 12/20/13, owner will be issued an appearance ticket in violation of the conditional discharge
- An investigation at 101 Church Hill Rd has begun. Unable to gain access to the apartment at this time. Tenant will call when it is convenient to inspect while DSS are there also.
- Met with owners from "Top of The Grill" and will set up a time to go through to inspect and open up
- Royal Mountain Restaurant plans to open sometime in April, 2014.
- David has completed required service training to maintain NYS Code Enforcement Officer Certification.

Planning Board:

- Lyn Wood reported on the signage being planned for the Nature Trail. Some will be prepared by the Trail Blazer Group of Lexington Center

- The Planning Board is asking the Town Board to adopt measures to begin the zoning process
- Planning Board recommends 3 members from the public, 3 members from the Comprehensive Planning Committee and 1 member from the Town Board

Highway Superintendent:

- Mining permit done and sent in
- Jim asked to go out for bid for a new truck and plow

Resolution 86

Thomas Miles offered Resolution 86 authorizing Jim to go to bid for a new truck with plow. Jim will work up the specs and Clerk will advertise for it. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Youth:

- Closed for the winter
- Girls made up approximately 10 baskets to be distributed to shut-ins

Assessors:

- Still fielding calls about Star B filing
- Exemption renewal applications for enhanced, senior, and agricultural exemptions have been sent out
- So far 67 letters have been set out to homeowners who have not filed for the Star B exemption. If they do not file the WILL lose the exemption. The state gets to collect the extra money.

Supervisor: Report submitted for review.

Historian:

- Filed for the grant for William Palmer Historical site. Sign to be put on the lawn of Avis Ovitt

New Business:

Resolution 87

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 87 to accept the Excellus Health Insurance as of January 1, 2014 to replace the MVP insurance previously contracted with. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Resolution 88

Andrew Chorlton offered Resolution 88 to apply for a grant for construction of a salt shed. Grant has been written and ready to send. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Resolution 89

Thomas Miles offered Resolution 89 to appoint Judith Townsend to the Planning Board for another 7 years. Her term will be January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2020. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Resolution 90

George Cosselman offered Resolution 90 to appoint Alan Cretser to the Recreation Board term to be from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018. 2nd by Andy Chorlton. 5 Ayes. Carried.

The Organizational Meeting will be held January 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall.

Resolution 91

Ivan Duesler offered Resolution 91 to authorize Lita Hillier to pay year end bills. 2nd by Thomas Miles. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Resolution 92

Thomas Miles offered Resolution 92 to adopt measures to begin the zoning process. The first step will be to create the zoning commission which will consist of 3 members from the public, 3 members that served on the Comprehensive Planning Committee and 1 member from the Town Board. Secondly determine the composition of the commission. 2nd by Ivan Duesler. 5 Ayes. Carried.

The Town Board discussed the many streetlights throughout the town not working, some for at least a year. No one has called the pole number in to National Grid. Supervisor Bradt gave the board a directive of riding the roads to see if the non-working streetlights really need to be lit or taken out and to make an honest decision. At the next meeting a decision will be made on weather to keep the lights or have National Grid remove them.

Unfinished Business: None

Public Input: Neil Cronin asked to be heard. He asked Mike Albanese to look into, on line, the Town of Bloomingburg and the Comprehensive Retention and what happened. He felt the people need to be notified, by postcard, the fact that the town is starting a zoning process.

Thomas Miles made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by George Cosselman. 5 Ayes. Carried.

Time: 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Eleanor Smith
Clerk