

**Palmyra Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Dave Pixley at the Palmyra Township Hall, 6490 Palmyra Rd.

Members present: Dave Pixley, Matt Koester, Mark Crane, Steve Papenhagen, and Chris Whited

Members absent: None

Audience Attendance: 20

Motion Crane, support Koester to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried**

- Add to New Business:
 - Sewer Rate Resolution
 - ESO CAD Integration
 - PFD Wish List

Public Comment:

- John Turpening thanked the Board for their efforts in carving out the SES Ordinance. He also thanked the Board for working on behalf of the majority of residents who are opposed to large scale solar projects.
- Jim Leonard asked the Board why the Zoning Ordinance is not enforced. He pointed out that there are many violations in the township that have not been addressed. He said that the Board cannot pick and choose what to enforce.
- Kunhal, NextEra engineer, stated that he wants to reassure the community that there is no solar project in Palmyra and no leases have been signed.
- Tony Casper asked if the 20-acre minimum for solar applied to private home owners who desired to have solar. Supervisor Pixley stated that the 20-acre minimum is for commercial scale solar projects.
- Charles LaRose asked the Board who was responsible for mailing to the Township residents a flyer that addresses the SES Ordinance on the ballot for the May 2, 2023, election. The Supervisor stated that the Board had nothing to do with the flyer being sent to the residents. John Turpening stated that the Committee to Protect Palmyra Township sent the flyers.
- Rod Skow stated that he too supports the efforts of the Board concerning the SES Ordinance.
- Deborah Comstock commented that a nonresident was involved in sending out the flyers. She also stated that farmers are currently struggling due to high prices, and the

community needs to support farmers. She assured the public that solar will not replace fossil fuels. She stated that the Board has been “messaging around” with solar for years, and they need to come to some resolution, especially since the counties around Lenawee County are pursuing progressive measures to change.

- Dan Sauter stated that he doesn't think anyone is against solar, but the main issue seems to be taking productive land out of service.
- Jeff Ehlert said that some land in the township is good farm ground but not the best. He said that taking sandy land out of production will restore the land.
- Charles Larose commented that China has double the CO2 emissions than the United States. He also stated that China has invested heavily in solar, but not on their own soil. He said that China does not care about green energy.
- Deborah Comstock said that China cannot be compared to the United States. She also said that the Lenawee County Commission is looking at replacing farmland with the construction of houses, which will permanently change the landscape.
- Richard Beauleaux thanked the Board for their efforts. He said that the solar issue is now in the hands of the voters.
- Dan Sauter asked the Board if they would be sending out a letter to the residents. Supervisor Pixley said that the Board must approve that decision.
- Bill Reed said that the flyer mentioned that the land is “our land.” He said that the land belongs to the individual who pays the taxes on it. He also said that farmers want to retire using their land to fund their retirement.

Minutes & Reports:

- Minutes: presented by Clerk Whited
- Financial: report presented by Treasurer Koester
- Fire & EMS: report presented by Chief Paul Rohlan
- Code Officials:
 - Code Enforcement: report presented by Clerk Whited
 - Building Inspector: report presented by Clerk Whited
 - Electrical Inspector: report presented by Clerk Whited
 - Mechanical Inspector: report presented by Clerk Whited
 - Plumbing Inspector: report presented by Clerk Whited
- Planning Commission: PC Chairperson Deb Comstock reported that the next PC meeting is March 21, 2023.
- Building Committee: N/A
- Drain Commission: Supervisor Pixley reported that he will be attending the Sewer System Budget Meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Motion Papenhagen, support Crane to approve the February 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, as well as the reports, and place them on file. **Motion carried**

Communications:

- **Land Splits:** None

- **FOIA requests:** A request was submitted John Turpening on February 27, 2023. He asked for a copy of the Absentee Voter list.
- **Cemeteries:** Clerk Whited reported that there was quite a bit of tree damage and fallen branches due to the ice storm. She said that Supervisor Pixley and Dustin, also with three others, cleaned up the debris.
- **Roads & Bridges:** Two Board members met with the Lenawee County Road Commission to review the road project list. Supervisor Pixley was asked to send a letter to Senator Tim Walberg requesting his help in securing funds to build a roundabout at the Deerfield Road intersection at Wilmoth Hwy. and Palmyra Rd. known as Lenawee Junction.
- **Water Cooler:** Supervisor Pixley thanked Judy Marcus for donating the water cooler.

Unfinished Business:

- **Expense Reimbursement Policy:** Attorney Jeff Juby is still working on the Expense Reimbursement Policy; therefore, the discussion is tabled until the April 11, 2023, Regular Meeting.
- **Appointment to Planning Commission:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to appoint Josh Leupold as a member of the Planning Commission. **Roll call vote:** Crane – no; Papenhagen – no; Whited – yes; Pixley – yes; Koester – no **Motion failed**
- **Letter to Residents:** Motion Crane, support Koester to have Attorney Mike Homier review the Clerk's letter addressed to Palmyra Township residents, and the cost to review the letter shall not exceed \$500. **Roll call vote:** Koester – yes; Pixley – no; Papenhagen – yes; Whited – no; Crane – yes **Motion carried**
- **Planning Commission/Board Joint Meeting:** Tabled until after the May 2, 2023, Special Election.

New Business:

- **PTFD –**
 - **Employment applications:** N/A
 - **Probation terminations:** N/A
- **Resignations:** N/A
- **Sewer Rate Resolution:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to adopt the Sewer Rate Resolution. **Roll call vote:** Papenhagen – yes; Crane – yes; Pixley – yes; Whited – yes; Koester – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**
- **Board of Review Appointments:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to appoint Judy Marcus, Aaron Whitmore, Gary Sheldon, and Josh Leupold as members of the Board of review, with terms expiring December 31, 2024. **Motion Carried**
- **Park Committee:** Tabled until the April 11, 2023, Regular Meeting. Possible appointees are Clerk Whited and Sarah Smith.
- **Budget Adjustments:** Motion Koester, support Crane to approve the following adjustments to the 2022/2023 Budget. **Roll call vote:** Crane – yes; Whited – yes; Papenhagen – yes; Koester – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion Carried**

	Apr 1, '22 - Mar 8, 23	Budget	Amended	APPROVED APRIL 11, 2023	
Income					
101-528 · Other Federal Grants	108,814.73	0.00	108,814.73	Increase by	108,814.73
Expense					
247-900 · Printing & Publishing	72.00	50.00	150.00	Increase by	100.00
934-001 · Main - Repair & Maint	250.00	100.00	250.00	Increase by	150.00
567-956 · Operating Expense	640.00	100.00	640.00	Increase by	540.00
215-851 · Postage	223.36	150.00	224.00	Increase by	74.00
262-752 · Supplies - Operating	926.95	700.00	927.00	Increase by	227.00
262-851 · Postage	1,374.38	600.00	1,375.00	Increase by	775.00
262-900 · Printing & Publishing	343.72	200.00	344.00	Increase by	144.00
262-977 · Equipment	2,976.29	100.00	2,977.00	Increase by	2,877.00
336-751 · Office Supplies	303.61	100.00	300.00	Increase by	200.00
336-752 · FD Operating Supplies	549.51	0.00	550.00	Increase by	550.00
336-801 · Professional/Contract Services	14,507.90	1,600.00	14,600.00	Increase by	13,000.00
336-803 · Insurance Premiums	17,045.42	16,000.00	17,050.00	Increase by	1,050.00
336-849 · ALS Transports	13,700.00	12,000.00	15,625.00	Increase by	3,625.00
336-861 · Mileage	148.75	100.00	150.00	increase by	50.00
336-862 · Fuel Expense	4,150.16	3,500.00	4,250.00	increase by	750.00
336-863 · Ambulance Tax	264.18	200.00	370.00	increase by	170.00
336-932 · Repair/Maint - Vehicles	11,096.16	10,000.00	11,100.00	increase by	1,100.00
336-940 · Rental	70.00	0.00	70.00	Increase by	70.00
336-956 · Operating Expense	2,595.50	600.00	3,000.00	Increase by	2,400.00
336-961 · Membership & Dues	2,880.92	500.00	2,900.00	Increase by	2,400.00
336-989 · Equipment - ARPA	74,504.02	0.00	74,504.00	Increase by	74,504.00
537-935 · Repair - ARPA	3,465.00	0.00	3,465.00	Increase by	3,465.00
333-861 · Mileage	426.00	350.00	460.00	Increase by	110.00
701-801 · Professional Services	3,600.00	200.00	3,600.00	increase by	3,400.00
448-920 · Utilities - Electric	4,238.98	3,000.00	4,300.00	Increase by	1,300.00
101-702 · Premium Pay - ARPA	12,160.00	0.00	12,160.00	Increase by	12,160.00
101-751 · Office Supplies	488.69	300.00	500.00	Increase by	200.00
101-801 · Professional/Contract Services	16,305.77	13,500.00	16,850.00	Increase by	3,350.00
101-803 · Insurance/Bonds	5,343.84	1,500.00	5,344.00	Increase by	3,844.00
101-851 · Postage	1,891.42	750.00	1,900.00	Increase by	1,150.00
101-853 · Internet	844.37	800.00	844.00	Increase by	44.00
101-900 · Printing & Publish.	2,067.23	2,000.00	2,200.00	Increase by	200.00
101-904 · Property Tax	10,815.87	8,500.00	10,816.00	Increase by	2,316.00
921-002 · 6490 Palmyra Rd.	2,992.87	2,500.00	3,000.00	Increase by	500.00
101-956 · Operating Expense	1,868.73	1,200.00	1,869.00	Increase by	669.00
101-961 · Dues & Memberships	2,952.30	500.00	2,952.00	Increase by	2,452.00
101-977 · Equipment	8,277.00	500.00	8,277.00	Increase by	7,777.00
265-801 · Professional & Contract Service	100.00	0.00	350.00	Increase by	350.00
265-934 · Repairs/Maint - Other Service	1,765.35	1,000.00	1,766.00	Increase by	766.00
253-851 · Postage	476.00	300.00	476.00	Increase by	176.00
253-960 Continued Education	0.00	0.00	75.00	Increase by	75.00
255-960 Continued Education	0.00	0.00	75.00	Increase by	75.00
120-960 · Continued Education	55.00	0.00	55.00	Increase by	55.00
703-704 · Wage	40.00	0.00	40.00	Increase by	40.00

- **Park Grounds Keeper Quote:** Motion Papenhagen, support Koester to accept D&C Lawn & Landscape groundskeeping quote of \$800 for the park area. **Motion carried**
- **Cemetery Tree Removal Quote:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to accept the Ropes & Rigging tree service proposal of \$4,300. The \$4,300 will be taken out of the Cemetery Donation Fund, contingent on the donation agreement. **Motion carried**
- **Lenawee County Road Commission Projects:** Tabled until the April 11, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- **Salary Resolutions:**
 - Motion Pixley, support Koester to adopt the Trustees' Salary Resolution, increasing the Trustees' pay to \$3,120, effective April 1, 2023. **Roll call vote:** Koester – yes; Papenhagen – yes; Whited – yes; Crane – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**
 - Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to adopt the Clerk's Salary Resolution, increasing the clerk's pay to \$17,680, effective April 1, 2023. **Roll call vote:** Pixley- yes; Papenhagen – yes; Koester – yes; Crane – yes; Whited – yes **Motion carried**
 - Motion Pixley, support Whited to adopt the Treasurer's Salary Resolution, increasing the treasurer's pay to \$13,000, effective April 1, 2023. **Roll call vote:** Whited – yes; Pixley – yes; Papenhagen – yes; Koester – yes; Crane – yes **Motion carried**
 - Motion Koester, support Papenhagen to adopt the Supervisor's Salary Resolution, increasing the supervisor's pay to \$13,000, effective April 1, 2023. **Roll call vote:** Crane – yes; Koester – yes; Papenhagen – yes; Whited – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**
- **Budget Hearing Date:** The Budget Hearing will be held during a Special Meeting Scheduled on March 28, 2023, 7:00 pm, at the Palmyra Township Hall.
- **Deerfield Road Crossing:** Discussed with no action required at this time.
- **Two Wheel Hand Cart:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to allow the Supervisor to purchase a two-wheel hand cart at a cost of \$75.00. **Motion carried**
- **ESO CAD Integration:** Motion Pixley, support Crane to approve the ESO CAD Integration contract at a cost of \$595. **Motion carried**
- **PFD Wish List:** Discussed with no action required.

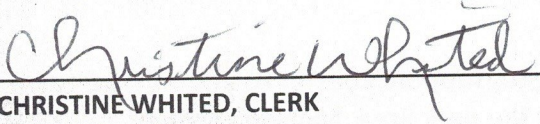
Bill Payment

Motion Whited, support Pixley to allow the Clerk to pay all Township and PTFD bills. **Motion carried**

Adjournment

Motion Pixley, support Koester to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: April 11, 2023


CHRISTINE WHITED, CLERK

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED APRIL 11, 2023.