

**Palmyra Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Supervisor Dave Pixley at the Palmyra Township Hall, 6490 Palmyra Rd.

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

Members absent: None

Audience Attendance: 21

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

- Add to Old Business:
 - *Attorney for Solar Ordinance*
 - *Township Hall sign*
- Add to New Business:
 - *PFD Vacuum*
 - *Carbonite*
 - *SCBA Equipment*
 - *PFD uniform name badges*

Public Comment:

- Nancy Seeburger asked if there will be another Planning Commission meeting for the SES Ordinance. Supervisor Pixley explained that there will be a meeting when the Lenawee County Planning Commission returns the SES Ordinance to the Board.
- Tom Creque of Sylvania, OH, stated that he is in support of the Township SES Ordinance. He also stated that solar will add income diversification to the farmers' portfolio, and solar also offers alternatives to land use, enabling family farms to keep their farms. He also added that solar will produce much needed revenue for the township.
- John Tuckerman of Riga stated that he strongly supports property rights, and that he has issues with people who only have an acre of land and want to tell large land owners what to do with their land. He also added that the County and Township will benefit from the additional revenue, and both County and the Township need an alternative/new tax base.
- Dan Sauter of Palmyra Township stated that the 50-foot setback is too close to adjoining properties, and he is concerned about a security fence being too close to the property lines.
- Eileen Creque of Sylvania, OH stated that she is in favor of solar energy systems in Palmyra Township. She added that it will be a huge source of revenue, generating a sustainable source of income for the Township.
- Henry Smith of Blissfield stated that he is in support of property rights and a strong advocate of the freedom to do what you like with your property. He added that SES would provide opportunities for the Township and benefits for the fire department and schools.
- Don Keller of Sylvania, OH commented that if people want more setback, then they should buy more property.

- Bill Reed of Palmyra Township stated that he doesn't see a problem with SES. He added that people have the right to do what they want with their property, and if people want more property, then they should buy it.
- Nancy Seeburger of Palmyra stated that she is concerned that the SES Ordinance does not regulate the amount of coverage on property. She also stated that the Zoning Ordinance has controlled land use for many years.
- Matt Drennan of ESA Solar explained that ESA Solar is here to work with the Township, and the company desires to be good to the neighbors. Matt also added that SES can only be sited in certain spots, and if the SES Ordinance passes, they will work with the community.
- Greg Sauter of Palmyra Township stated that a solar energy farm is not agriculture, it is an industry. He added that he is opposed to SES, and the community should also reap the benefits as well as the farmers.
- John Tuckerman of Blissfield stated that if the tax base of SES comes to the Township, then the community will benefit.
- Mark Knoblauch of Palmyra Township stated that he has worked very hard for his farm, and therefore, believes in property rights because he has earned them.
- Dan Sauter of Palmyra Township stated that he has a problem with the 50-foot setback and not solar. He added that property owners have the right to have greater setbacks.
- Jeff Ehlert of Blissfield Township believes the 50-foot setback is consistent with other setbacks within the Palmyra Township Zoning Ordinance. He also stated that the Township will benefit from the tax revenue that solar systems will generate.
- Paul Vergote of Blissfield, owner of property in Palmyra Twp., stated that people need to take a step back and consider the future. He added that everybody needs money, and the revenue generated by SES would help sustain the fire department.
- Laura Brown, Palmyra Twp. Planning Commission member, stated that she voted "no" on the SES Ordinance because she wanted an opportunity for the Planning Commission to make changes on the SES Ordinance before it was sent to the Lenawee County Planning Commission. She stated that solar will not offset energy rates, and tax revenue is not a valid criterion to allow SES in the Township. She also stated that if the SES Ordinance goes to referendum vote, it will be the Palmyra Township voters who vote and not those who live outside of Palmyra Township.
- Dan Sauter commented that the setback should be far enough from adjoining property lines in order to properly maintain the SES farm.
- Paul Vergote stated that he would like the Township Board to accept a reasonable SES Ordinance.

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: Trustee Mark Crane reported that the Planning Commission voted to send the SES Ordinance to the Lenawee County Planning Commission.

- Building Committee: Report presented by Trustee Mark Crane

Motion Papenhagen, support Koester to approve the May 11, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as written and the reports as presented and place on file. **Motion carried**

Communications:

- **Land Splits:** PA0-134-3050-00, Donald B. & H. Fay Reed Trust
- **FOIA requests:** N/A
- **Cemeteries:** Clerk Whited reported that she will talk to the cemetery groundskeeper about trimming a large bush.
- **Roads & Bridges:** N/A
- **Palmyra Township Hall property survey:** Supervisor Pixley reported that he asked Chief Rohlan to complete a survey on capacity limits in the Palmyra Township Hall. As reported, standing capacity is 485; seated capacity is 208; and table and chair capacity is 97.
- **L4029 Tax Request:** Clerk Whited reported she has received an L4029 Tax Rate Request form from the Lenawee County Department of Equalization.

Unfinished Business:

- **PFD property appraisal:** Discussed with no action required
- **Survey – West property line, PA0-700-0333-00, 6442 Palmyra Rd.:** Discussed with no action required.
- **Code Enforcement Officer cell phone:** Motion Papenhagen, support Crane to provide an AT&T cell phone plan and phone for the Code Enforcement Officer. **Motion carried**
- **R & R Inspection Report:** Tabled until the July 13th Regular Meeting.
- **SES Ordinance Attorney:** Motion Whited, support Koester to accept the Foster Swift Engagement Agreement and to allow the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the agreement. **Roll call vote: Crane – yes; Papenhagen – no; Pixley – no; Whited – yes; Koester – yes Motion carried**
- **Twp. Hall sign:** Motion Papenhagen, support Whited to go with the red block lettering and white background for the Palmyra Township Hall sign. **Motion Carried**

New Business:

- **PTFD –**
 - **Employment applications:** None
 - **Probation terminations:** None
 - **Resignations:** Geg Pello has submitted his resignation effective June 8, 2021.
- **MTA membership dues:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to renew the MTA membership at a cost of \$1,939.45. **Motion carried**
- **MTA Online Learning:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to forgo renewing the MTA Online Learning subscription. **Motion carried**
- **Adam Miller complaint:** Tabled until the July 13th Regular Meeting
- **Cemetery dumpster:** Discussed with no action taken
- **Twp. Dumpster:** Motion Papenhagen, support Koester that the Supervisor contact Stevens Disposal to discuss issues with the dumpster
- **Solar Moratorium:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to extend the Solar Moratorium for an additional six months, from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, or until an SES Ordinance is in place. **Roll call vote: Pixley – yes; Whited – yes; Koester – yes; Crane – yes; Papenhagen – yes Motion carried**

- **PFD laptops:** Motion Whited, support Koester to allow Supervisor Pixley to purchase two laptops for the Palmyra Fire Department Chief and Assistant Chief at a cost that shall not exceed \$1,800. **Motion carried**
- **PFD Vacuum:** Motion Pixley, support Crane that the Supervisor purchase a vacuum for the PFD at a cost that shall not exceed \$200.
- **Carbonite data backup:** The Clerk will get pricing for a Carbonite data backup plan for the Treasurer, Supervisor, and the PFD.
- **SCBA tanks:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to allow the PFD to purchase three SCBA tanks at a cost that shall not exceed \$1,600. **Roll call vote: Whited – yes; Koester – no; Papenhagen – yes; Pixley – yes; Crane – no Motion carried**
- **PFD uniform name badges:** Tabled until the July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Bill Payment

Motion Pixley, support Koester to pay all Twp. and PTFD bills as presented.

Motion carried

Adjournment

Motion Papenhagen, support Koester to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: July 13, 2021

Christine Whited, CLERK

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED JULY 13, 2021.