

Palmyra Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 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: 21

Motion Whited, support Koester to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried**

Public Comment:

- Deborah Comstock, 2525 Ogden Hwy., stated that documents she received from the County Clerk lists anyone who contributed to support the passing of the Solar Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Deborah said that Kevon Martis, a Lenawee County Commissioner, contributed over \$700 to support the passage of the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. She also pointed out that Trustee Mark Crane contributed funds as well. Deborah stated that she was very upset that a vehicle parked along the side of Palmyra Road during the May 2, 2023 Election was a travesty. She pointed out that it took approximately six years of dedicated work of the Planning Commission to develop the solar ordinance, only to be hijacked by two Board members, accusing them of being self-serving in their motives. Deborah requested that the two Board members she referenced as Matt Koester and Mark Crane, to resign from their public office seats.
- Charles Larose, 3605 Pine Ridge Trail, stated that the May 2, 2023, Election was fair and honest. He also stated that all who came to cast their votes in the May 2, 2023 Election voted in a legitimate election.
- Paul Wohlferth asked to give his three minutes of comment to Deborah Comstock. It was allowed.
- Deborah Comstock felt that the truck parked at the edge of Palmyra Road was wrong. She claimed that farmers were offended, accusing the two Board members (Matt and Mark) of making motions that shut down solar for the farmers. She believes that it was handled inappropriately.
- Rod Skow, 2578 Ogden Hwy., asked to give his three minutes of comment to Charles LaRose. It was allowed.
- Charles LaRose thanked the Board for acting professionally. He commented that the biggest issue is not solar, but it is the Chinese involvement and what's at stake for this

country as a whole. He asked why the community is against each other. He believes solar will be very costly to the community.

- John Turpening, 3555 Ogden Hwy., said that the majority of the Board acted in the best interest of the community. He also added that the truck was beyond the 100-foot distance from the entrance of the polling place.
- Rich Beauleaux, 3710 E. US-223, stated that he was the individual parked in front of the Hall during the May 2 Election. He said that he was given permission to be there. Rich also stated that the people voted, and it was time to accept it.
- Mark Ferris, Monroe, stated that he has been following the progress of solar for a couple of years. He exclaimed that people need to wake up to the fact that China is not going to continue to purchase grain from the United States when they can go elsewhere for it. He also stated that DTE has plans to build two nuclear plants in Monroe County, which will be very costly to consumers. He said that solar is the future, and we need to accept it.
- Jeff Ehlert, Blissfield Township, stated that the farmer has to deal with other countries when it comes to the sale of their products, because the majority of the United States does not use all the grain. He stated that the Township should be protecting farmers along with the homeowners.
- Maria Carrico, Adrian Township, thanked the Board for their hard work and for what the Board does for the Township.
-

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 has scheduled Special Meeting and Public Hearing on June 20th, at 7:00 pm.
- Drain Commission: Supervisor Pixley reported that during the upcoming CLSS quarterly meeting, he will receive more information concerning the illegal sewer usage.
- Park Committee: Clerk Chris Whited reported that a meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm. She said that the Committee has been discussing fundraising opportunities to obtain playground equipment.
- Solid Waste: Supervisor Dave Pixley reported that there was a recent recycling event. He said that a semitruck load of tires was collected as well as a large amount of packing foam.

Motion Koester, support Crane to approve the May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, as well as the reports, and place them on file. **Motion carried**

Communications:

- **Land Splits:** PA0-119-4350-00 & PA0-119-2400-00
- **FOIA requests:** A request from Elite Property Research requested information for 8999 Gorman Rd. Clerk Whited provided the information that was available.
- **Cemeteries:** Clerk Whited reported that the Crane Cemetery Drive needs maintenance. She said that there is quite a bit of grass growing in the drive. Supervisor Pixley said that he will look into having the drive scraped. Supervisor Pixley reported that two recently poured foundations had to be repaired due to crowning on the top of them.
- **Roads & Bridges:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the sealing of Wellsville Hwy was completed.
- **Comcast:** Supervisor Pixley reported that customer fees will be lowered from \$21.40 to \$21.30.
- **EGLE:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the Township received notification from EGLE that the Adrian Landfill has been granted an operating license. However, the Township has not been notified if or when the landfill will reopen.
- **Legislative Breakfast:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the Housing Study for Lenawee County is completed and available on the Lenawee County website. He said that Palmyra's report will be available mid-July.
- Treasurer Koester reported that there is a complaint of an individual throwing items at speeding vehicles. Supervisor Pixley will look into the matter.

Unfinished Business:

- **Illegal Use of the Central Lenawee Sewer System (CLSS): No action required at this time.** Supervisor Pixley reported he is waiting for the paperwork, which will have the legal language that will address the illegal use of the sewer system. The discussion is tabled until the July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting.
- **Request for payment:** No action required at this time. Supervisor Pixley is waiting for the attorney to complete the review of the payment request.

New Business:

- **PTFD –**
 - **Employment applications:** N/A
 - **Probation terminations:** N/A
- **Resignations:** N/A
- **Hot Sticks:** No action required. Supervisor Pixley reported that the hot sticks were ordered in May, but the company was waiting for a new shipment. The hot sticks will be delivered to the PFD by June 26, 2023.
- **Seal Coat – PFD parking lot & striping:** Motion Papenhagen, support Crane to contract K & B Asphalt to seal coat the PFD parking lot and add striping at a cost of \$918. **Motion carried**

- **Air Conditioner Unit for PFD:** Motion Papenhagen, support Pixley to allow the fire department to purchase an air conditioner unit for the PFD office. **Motion carried**
- **Planning Commission Chair:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to accept Deborah Comstock's resignation from the Planning Commission, effective immediately. **Motion carried**
- **Planning Commission Open Positions:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to appoint Josh Luepold as a member of the Planning Commission, with his term ending December 31, 2023. **Motion carried**
Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to appoint Leonard Weinlander as a member of the Planning Commission with his term ending December 31, 2024. **Motion carried**
- **Code Enforcement Officer:** Tabled until the July 11, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- **Park Committee Pay:** Motion Whited, support Crane to pay Park Committee members \$44 per meeting for regular members and \$60 per meeting for the chairperson and secretary. **Motion carried**
- **Park Fundraising:** Motion Whited, support Pixley to allow the Park Committee to move forward with fundraising activities to purchase playground equipment. **Motion carried**
- **ITC \$5,000 Grant for New Fire Department:** Discussed with no action required. Supervisor Pixley reported that ITC has provided the Township a \$5,000 grant toward a new fire station. The Supervisor will send a thank you letter/card to ITC.
- **MML Risk Management Report:** Discussed with no action required at this time. The fire department will work on development and implementation of the following:
 - Development of a PPE cleaning/inspecting policy
 - Development and implementation of a distracted driver policy
 - Securing pressurized gas cylinders with a chain/bracket
 - Securing ladders on the wall with a chain/bracket
- **MTA Dues:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to renew the MTA membership dues at a cost of \$2,158, which also includes the legal defense fund. **Motion carried**
- **JC Mechanical, \$1500 approved on 2/14/2023. Actual due is \$1,735 plus \$250 for boiler repair:** Motion Koester, support Crane to adjust the original motion made on April 14, 2023, for the dryer vent installation from \$1,500 to \$1,735, and \$250 for the boiler repair. **Motion carried**
- **Expense Reimbursement Request – Don Olszewski, 06-13-2023:** Discussed with no action taken.
- **Headlight Repair on Engine #2:** Tabled until the July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting. Fire Chief Paul Rohlan working on getting a couple of estimates.
- **R&R Inspection Report:** Tabled until July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting.
- **Chain Saw:** Motion Koester, support Crane to allow the fire department to purchase a Stihl battery operated 18" chain saw, a carbide chain, and a battery at a cost of \$1,000. **Motion carried**
- **Adrian Landfill:** The Township received a letter from EGLE on May 22, 2023, stating that the Adrian Landfill was granted an operating license. Supervisor Pixley asked the Board members to submit their questions to him by July 5, 2023, so that he can present them to the Solid Waste Committee at their next meeting.

Bill Payment

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

Adjournment

Motion Pixley, support Crane to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: July 11, 2023