

Palmyra Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:04 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: 25

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

- Add to New Business:
 - *Palmyra Twp. Principle of Governance*
 - *PFD Painted Fittings for Engine -1*
 - *MML Fund Trustee Election*

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: No report
- Building Committee: No report

Motion Koester, support Crane to approve the June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as written and the reports as presented and place on file. **Motion carried**

Communications:

- **Land Splits:** N/A
- **FOIA requests:** N/A
- **Cemeteries:** Clerk Whited reported that Ropes & Riggings Tree service completed the tree removal, trimming, and stump removal.
- **Roads & Bridges:** Clerk Whited reported that the 2021 Road Match unused balance is \$27,259.25 as of June 9, 2021.

- **Palmyra Township Hall property survey:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the Township Hall sign will be installed sometime during this week or first thing next week. Supervisor Pixley reported that he purchased supplies to repair a leak on the roof of the Township Hall.
- **MML Fund Trustee Election:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the Michigan Municipal League has sent the Township Board the Trustee Election Ballot.
- **PFD laptops:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the PFD laptops will not be shipped until August 5, 2021.
- **6490 Palmyra Rd. Property Survey:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the Palmyra Township Hall property survey is available for review.

Unfinished Business:

- **PFD property appraisal:** Discussed with no action required at this time.
- **R & R Inspection Report:** No action required
- **Adam Miller complaint of 6325 US 223:** No action required at this time.
- **Cloud Service for Township Computers:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to allow the Clerk to purchase a one-year subscription of IDrive Cloud Backup Service for 5 computers and users, at a cost of 74.62. **Motion carried**
- **PFD Uniform name badges:** Motion Pixley, support Crane to table the name badges until the September 14, 2021 Regular Meeting. **Motion carried**
- **Township Credit Card:** Motion Whited, support Koester to table the credit card discussion until the September 14, 2021 Regular Meeting. **Motion carried**

New Business:

- **PTFD –**
 - **Employment applications:** None
 - **Probation terminations:** None
 - **Resignations:** None
- **Veteran flag holders:** No action required.
- **Hot water recirculation loop system for Township Hall:** Motion Koester, support Whited to accept the JC Mechanical estimate to complete a hot water recirculation loop system in the Palmyra Township Hall at a cost that shall not exceed \$2,900. **Motion carried**
- **James Mohler (3290 Parr Hwy) complaint about 3272 Parr Hwy:** No action required at this time. Complaint was sent to the Code Enforcement Officer.
- **ARPA funds application:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to have the Clerk complete the *Funding Election and Budget Certification Form* (Form 5751) to elect to receive ARPA funding. **Motion carried**
- **Solar Attorney, Foster & Swift:** Motion Papenhagen, support Crane to allow the Supervisor and Clerk to correspond with Attorney Mike Homier of Foster & Swift topics concerning the Solar Ordinance. **Motion carried**
- **Solar Ordinance:** Discussed with no action taken at this time. Board members are asked to read through the returned SES Ordinance and jot down suggested changes/additions.

- **Special Meeting:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to schedule a Special Meeting on Thursday, July 22, 7:00 pm, at the Palmyra Township Hall, for the purpose to discuss the Solar Ordinance. **Roll call vote:** Papenhagen – yes; Whited – yes; Crane – no; Pixley – yes; Koester – yes **Motion carried**
- **Special Meeting Amendment:** Motion Whited, support Pixley to amend the scheduled time of the July 22nd Special Meeting, changing it from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm. **Roll call vote:** Papenhagen – yes; Koester – yes; Crane – yes; Whited – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**
- **PFD Air Conditioner:** Discussed with no action taken at this time.
- **Township Hall Ceiling Fans:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to table the discussion until the September 14, 2021 Regular Meeting. **Motion carried**
- **August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to cancel the August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting. **Motion carried**
- **Palmyra Township Principle of Governance:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to adopt the Principle of Governance and all Board members sign the document. **Roll call vote:** Crane – yes; Whited – yes; Koester – yes; Papenhagen – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**
- **PFD painted valve fittings for Engine – 1:** Motion Koester, support Crane to table the valve fitting discussion until the September 14, 2021 Regular Meeting. Treasurer Matt Koester will look into painting the old valves. **Motion carried**
- **MML Fund Trustee Election:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to elect Lois Allen Richardson and Brian Boggs as Michigan Municipal League Fund Trustees. **Motion carried**

Public Comment

- Commissioner Jim Goetz reported that the Tire Collection is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 9, 2021, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$2.00 for car tires and \$1.00 for motorcycle tires. No truck tires will be collected. Commissioner Goetz also reported that the completion of the renovations of the Old Court House is on schedule, and the Commissioners are hoping to meet in-person sometime in September at the Old Court House.
- Jeff Ehlert, 4333 Ricker Hwy., Blissfield, handed out information and stated that he received information from Attorneys from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law regarding the solar ordinances of Riga and Deerfield Township being contrary to Michigan zoning law and public policy promoting renewable energy, which was also emailed to the Board members. He encouraged the Board to read the material.
- Eileen Crique, Sylvania, OH, thanked the Board for their service. She encouraged Board members and others to seek information that would educate them in solar energy developments. She also stated that solar developments can benefit the township extensively.
- Dan Sauter, 6403 Deerfield Rd., Palmyra, commented that he is concerned about the Township's methods of communication used to distribute information to the public. He would like the Township to use multiple forms of communication to reach the public.

- Jeff Crique, Sylvania, OH, commented that he brought arial photos of solar systems. He encouraged the Board members to look at those photos and visit some of the developments.
- Frank Baker, 273 S. Monroe St., Blissfield, reinforced the need for the Township to establish better communication. He also stated that he installed solar panels on his home and is pleased with the benefits.
- Deb Comstock, 2525 Ogden Hwy., Palmyra Twp., commented that as a Planning Commission member, she took an oath to serve the Township. She stated that soil conservation is important, but there is a lot of misinformation about solar development. Solar development will contribute to soil conservation. She also commented that Palmyra Township decides where solar developments would be placed with the issuance of Special land Use Permits. Lastly, she stated many will benefit from solar development.
- Tom Crique, Sylvania, OH, commented that the community of Sylvania, OH, has greatly benefited from solar developments. He continued to say that solar development will allow growth in Palmyra Township.
- Rich Beauleaux, 3710 E. US 223, Palmyra, inquired of the Board if Riga and Deerfield said “no” to solar. Treasurer Matt Koester replied that Riga approved solar, but that it is restrictive. He would like more information about solar development and desires to hear from other townships that have a Solar Ordinance in place.
- John Turpening, 3720 E. US 223, Commented that he is not against progress. He also stated that he is concerned that there is a conflict of interest. He believes that solar will only benefit a few. He would like to know what Palmyra, Deerfield, and Riga want (concerning solar) as a whole. He hopes that the Township considers what the residents of those communities want, and that he has a lot of concerns regarding solar.
- Craig Dunham, 6151 Deerfield Rd., Palmyra, commented that he too hopes that there is no conflict of interest with the Board members or those individuals attending the meeting. He stated that solar is a huge issue, not just a Township issue, but also a federal issue. He stated that the Federal government desires a move to alternative energy sources. He also included that energy consumption has been reduced as well as industry use, which is a benefit to the nation. He also stated that he is afraid that solar is not the answer to the nation’s energy problems. He is also concerned that as a property owner in Palmyra Township, mega solar farm development is the primary goal, and believes mega solar is a bad deal. He encouraged the Board to read an article concerning solar development in Shiawassee County, Michigan.
- Allan Gust, 3240 Humphrey Hwy, Palmyra, stated that palmyra Township has great farmland, and that he would like to keep it that way. He also stated that renewable energy is good, but it doesn’t belong in Palmyra Township.
- Dan Sauter, 6403 Deerfield Rd., commented that he is not against solar energy, but he does not want it in palmyra Township. He believes the residents should be compensated if solar comes into the community.
- Jeff Ehlert, 4333 Ricker Hwy., Blissfield, stated that he supports land use, and not solar itself. He added that Palmyra Township needs the income that solar would generate.

- Matt Drennan, ESA Solar, stated that he wants to clear the record concerning solar. He stated that during the Trump administration the country saw a huge increase installed solar. He added that the free market is driving the installation of solar, and that solar complements other forms of energy. He added that ESA Solar does not have a conflict of interest. He encouraged the Board and audience to contact ESA Solar to answer questions and concerns. Treasurer Koester asked Matt why choose palmyra. Matt replied that Palmyra is one of the best solar resources in Michigan.

Bill Payment

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

Motion carried

Adjournment

Motion Crane, support Whited to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: September 14, 2021