

**Palmyra Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2024**

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, Mark Crane, Matt Koester, Steve Papenhagen, Chris Whited

Members absent: None

Supervisor Pixley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Attendance: 11

Motion Koester, support Crane to approve the agenda as amended by adding the following to New Business: Carted Television. **Motion carried**

Public Comment:

- Matt Drennan, ESA Solar representative, stated that he came to the meeting to answer questions that Board members and the public may have. He also stated that EGLE will be hosting the Renewable Energy Academy Workshop on October 10, 2024, in Adrian.
- Rashay Khripunova, ESA Community Involvement Representative, stated that the Renewable Energy Academy Workshop will take place at the Tobias Center on the Adrian College campus at 2:00 pm.
- Craig Dunham asked what EGLE is. Supervisor Pixley stated that it is the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Department, replacing the DEQ.
- Craig Dunham stated that he attended the September 5, 2024, Planning Commission special meeting, and did not get an answer to his question concerning the constitutionality of PA 233, which creates the siting process for renewable energy and energy storage projects at the MPSC, going into effect November 29, 2024.
- Mike Voght, attorney from Dickenson Wright law firm, who is an outside representative for ESA. Mike has been actively monitoring the actions of the MPSC by attending the meetings. He stated that if PA 233 is unconstitutional, then someone will surely challenge it.
- Jeff Ehlert asked Craig Dunham why he considers PA 233 to be unconstitutional.
- Craig Dunham stated that he is concerned that the State is demanding solar and wind be established in communities. He pointed out that the Palmyra Township residents voted to regulate solar, but the State has overstepped by overruling the people.
- Jeff Ehlert stated that people have an opportunity to work with the developer of solar projects.
- Attorney Mike Voght stated that a workable ordinance allows more control over a project, such as additional setbacks and vegetative buffers. He also added that the State has created the Renewables Ready Communities Award. This is a \$30,000,000 program

designed to reward municipal renewable energy adopters in the state. The program will provide up to \$5,000 per megawatt (MW) to eligible Michigan municipalities for an eligible renewable energy project that they will physically host and/or perform local permitting.

- Matt Drennan wanted to clear up any misunderstanding of the Rouget Road project. He stated that there are no solar projects going on Rouget Rd. ESA is in the process of renaming the project. He said that a proposed project would be south of the River Raisin and west of US 223.
- Diane Knoblauch, Blissfield Planning Commission chairperson, stated that MTA has drafted a Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance (CREO), and is in the process of drafting a workable ordinance that will be released later in September. She stated that MTA does not recommend the adoption of a CREO, but does recommend the adoption of a workable ordinance.

Minutes & Reports

- Minutes: presented by Clerk Whited
- Financial: report presented by Treasurer Matt 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 had a Special Meeting and Public Hearing for a Zoning Ordinance text amendment on September 5, 2024. He also reported that the Blissfield Planning Commission scheduled a meeting with attorney Mike Homier on September 26th. Mike Homier will be answering questions about the CREOs he drafted. Mark recommended that the Palmyra Planning Commission members as well as the Board members attend that meeting. He also stated that during the September 17, 2024, regular Planning Commission meeting, the PC members will be reviewing a recording of a meeting that took place in July with attorney Mike Homier, Mark Crane, Ryan Mapstone, and Dave Pixley.
- Drain Commission: Supervisor Pixley reported that he attended the CLSS management meeting on July 17, 2024, and they discussed the distribution of the \$298,327.00 to the Collection System Replacement account and the Collection System O & M account. He also reported that the next CLSS management meeting is scheduled on December 4, 2024, at 1:30 pm, when they will discuss increasing the drain usage fees.
- Park Committee: Clerk Whited reported that she is waiting for Fleis & Vandenbrink planning manager Lisa Easterwood to send the park concept plans to the Township Park Committee.
- Roads/Bridges: Supervisor Pixley reported that Wellsville Hwy is the only project left to complete.
- FOIA Requests: Clerk Whited reported that she received a FOIA request on August 1, 2024, from RENUA, requesting copies of the Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinances (CREO). The request was fulfilled August 1, 2024.

Motion Crane, support Koester to approve the July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, as well as the reports, and place them on file. **Motion carried**

Communications:

- **Discontinuation of Palmyra Farmers' Market:** Clerk Whited reported that the Palmyra Farmers' Market has been discontinued as of July 7, 2024.

Unfinished Business:

- **Casket Disinterment & Displaced Headstones/Damaged Foundations:** Supervisor Pixley read a letter from the Medical Examiner regarding the casket disinterment that was the result of a large tree uprooting the casket during a storm that occurred June 17, 2024. The casket was interred as directed by the Medical Examiner. Motion Pixley, support Koester to contract Adrian Monument to reset the headstones, replace vases, and repour new foundations in the Main Cemetery at a cost of \$4,544, which will be covered by the insurance company. **Motion carried**
- **CLSS Funds:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to allow the treasurer to issue a check to the Lenawee County Drain Commission for \$150,000 to disperse to the CLSS Collection System O & M account; issue a check to the Lenawee County Drain Commission for \$148,327.24 to disperse to the Collection System Replacement account; issue a check to the Lenawee County Drain Commission for \$55.58; and close the CLSS account. **Roll call vote:** Koester - yes, Crane - yes, Whited – yes, Papenhagen - yes, Pixley – yes **Motion carried**
- **Ambulance Committee:** Motion Crane, support Koester to appoint Paul Rohlan, Stacey Rohlan, and Supervisor Dave Pixley to the Ambulance Committee. **Motion carried**

New Business:

- **PTFD –**
 - **Employment applications:** Motion Crane, support Papenhagen to hire Dylan Vansteenkiste as a member of the Palmyra Twp. Fire Department and to be placed on probation for a period of six months. **Roll call vote:** Koester – yes; Whited – yes; Papenhagen – yes; Crane – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**

Motion Pixley, support Whited to hire Jeremy Norton as a member of the Palmyra Twp. Fire Department and to be placed on probation for a period of six months. **Roll call vote:** Papenhagen – yes; Whited – yes; Koester – yes; Crane – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**

Motion Pixley, support Whited to hire Dave Sanchez as a member of the Palmyra Twp. Fire Department and placed on probation until he gets his EMS license reinstated. **Roll call vote:** Pixley – yes; Whited – yes; Koester – Yes; Papenhagen – yes; Crane - yes **Motion carried**

- **Probation terminations:** N/A
- **Resignations:** N/A

- **Repair of Southside of PFD Building:** Photos of wood rot and damage of the lower southside exterior walls of the building were shown to the Board members. Action was taken in August by Supervisor Pixley when the damage was found. Repairs have been made to the exterior wall to prevent further damage.
- **PFD Lexipol Fire/EMS Training Platform Renewal:** Motion Whited, support Crane to renew the Lexipol Fire/EMS Training Platform. **Motion carried**
- **TLC 7 Month CD Investment:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to allow the Treasurer to reinvest \$263,936.55 of the Fire Department CD, which matures 9/27/2024, in a TLC Certificate of Deposit for a period of seven-months at five percent interest. Roll call vote: Koester – yes; Papenhagen – yes; Crane – yes; Whited – yes; Pixley - yes
Motion carried
- **Park Committee Appointments:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to appoint Paul Rohlan and Stacey Rohlan as members of the Park Committee. **Motion carried**
- **Planning Commission Laptop:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to allow the Planning Commission to purchase a new laptop and Microsoft Office software at a cost of \$850. **Motion carried**
- **Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance (CREO):** Postponed until more information is available.
- **Michigan Municipal League (MML) Limited Associate Member Dues:** Motion Whited, support Pixley to allow the Clerk to pay the MML member dues by September 30, 2024. **Motion carried**
- **Stone for Main Cemetery Drive:** Motion Crane, support Koester to allow the Road Commission to replace the stone on the Main Cemetery drive at a cost of \$4,100. **Motion carried**
- **Metal Detector for Cemetery:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to allow the Clerk to purchase a metal detector for cemetery purposes at a cost not to exceed \$400. **Motion carried**
- **Television:** Motion Crane, support Koester to allow Supervisor Pixley to borrow the carted television. **Motion carried**

Bill Payment

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

Adjournment

Motion Pixley, support Crane to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: October 8, 2024