

**Palmyra Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2021**

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, Steve Papenhagen, Mark Crane. and Chris Whited

Members absent: None

Audience Attendance: 17

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

Add to New Business:

- Interim Electrical Inspector
- EMT Intermediate Training for Stacy Rohlan
- Academy Rd. Stone
- Township Information Flyers

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: Laurie Isley reported that the Planning Commission had a very short meeting on September 7, 2021. The PC clarified that green energy is in the 2035 Master Plan.
- Building Committee: Mark Crane reported that new preliminary Fire Hall building plan are available to view.

Motion Koester, support Pixley to approve the July 13th Regular Meeting minutes and the July 22nd Special Meeting minutes as written and the reports as presented and place on file. **Motion carried**

Communications:

- **Land Splits:** The clerk reported that a Land Split application was submitted, but the Assessor and Zoning Administrator found issues with it. The assessor has sent a letter to the applicant.
- **FOIA requests:** The clerk reported that a FOIA request from True North Law was received on August 20, 2021, and fulfilled on August 31, 2021.
- **Cemeteries:** N/A
- **Roads & Bridges:** Clerk Whited reported that the 2021 Road Match funding has been used up.
- **Palmyra Township Hall property:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the owner of the adjacent property, PA0-700-0333-00, 6442 Palmyra Rd., has agreed to work with the Township to adjust the property line.
- **Utility pole down on Humphrey Hwy:** Treasurer Koester reported a utility pole on Humphrey Hwy remains down. Residents are concerned that children will play on it.
- **Letter from Robert Thelma Lee:** Supervisor Pixley read a letter from Robert & Thelma Lee regarding their disapproval of ESA Solar projects, or any solar project.

Unfinished Business:

- **Water & Sewer Public Hearing:** Motion Papenhagen, support Koester to open the Water & Sewer Public Hearing at 7:26 pm.
No public comment was made.
Supervisor Pixley reported that there is \$16,041.08 in delinquencies. He also stated that he had mailed 47 notices, and six were returned undeliverable.
Motion Koester, support Pixley to allow the Supervisor to add the \$17,668.31 in delinquencies to the 2021 Tax Roll. **Roll call vote:** Koester – yes; Crane – yes; Pixley – yes; Papenhagen – yes; Whited – yes **Motion carried**
Motion Papenhagen, support Koester to close the hearing at 7:33 pm. **Motion carried**
- **ARPA funds:** Discussed with no action required
- **Hall ceiling fans:** Tabled until the October 12th Regular Meeting.
- **Township credit card:** Motion Pixley, support Crane to allow the Clerk to open a Township credit card account and a savings/checking account with TLC Credit Union.
Motion carried
- **PFD uniform badges:** Motion Papenhagen, support Crane to allow the PFD to purchase shirt badges at a cost that shall not exceed \$900. **Motion carried**
- **PFD painted valve fitting for Engine -1:** Discussion tabled until the October 12th Regular Meeting. **Motion carried**

New Business:

- **PTFD –**
 - **Employment applications:** None
 - **Probation terminations:** None
 - **Resignations:** None
- **Interim Electrical Inspector:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to hire Heath Platt as the interim Electrical Inspector until the Board completes the interviews of the other

applicants. **Roll call vote:** Papenhagen – yes; Whited – yes; Koester – yes; Crane – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**

- **Repair of Engine – 1:** Turbo went out and Chief Rohlan is waiting for R&R Fire Truck Repair to submit a repair quote. Discussion tabled until the October 12th Regular Meeting.
- **Hydro testing of air pack bottles:** Motion Papenhagen, support Pixley that the PFD have 20 air pack bottles hydro tested as a cost of \$32 per bottle. **Motion carried**
- **Village sewer:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to allow the Lenawee County Drain Commission to transfer \$7,241 to hire IR Construction to clean the sewers by using high pressure jetting and vacuuming. **Motion carried**
- **CLSS Training:** The Board members will meet at the Central Lenawee Sewer System plant at 12:00 pm on either October 4th or 5th for a training and tour session.
- **MTA Training:** Motion Papenhagen, support Whited to allow any Township Board member and the Planning Commission Chairperson the opportunity to attend the MTA Professional Development Retreat in Frankenmuth, MI. **Motion carried**
The renewal of the MTA Online subscription was also discussed with no action taken.
- **Damage in the Main Cemetery:** Discussion tabled until after the Cemetery Commission can make recommendations about the assessed damage to grave markers and a suitable remedy to resolve the issue.
- **COT for Ambulance:** Discussed with no action required at this time.
- **Dual dispatch:** Tabled until the October 12th Regular Meeting.
- **Rules for PFD Officer Elections:** Motion Papenhagen, support Crane to adopt the 2022 – 2024 PFD Election Procedure Policy. **Motion carried**
- **PFD Officer application due 10/22/2021:** Discussed with no action required.
- **Special Meeting:** Supervisor Pixley has called to schedule a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 7:00 pm, at the Palmyra Township Hall, for the purpose of discussing the Solar Ordinance.
- **Palmyra Township Information/Contact Flyers:** Discussion tabled until the October 12th Regular Meeting
- **Intermediate EMT Class for Stacy Rohlan:** Motion Pixley, support Whited that the Township pay the \$950 for Stacy’s Intermediate EMT class beginning October 30th, with the requirement that she remain a member of the PFD for at least a year. **Motion carried**
- **Academy Rd. stone:** Motion Koester, support Crane to allow the Supervisor to contact the Road Commission and offer \$19,000 to repair Academy Road. **Motion carried**

Public Comment:

- Jeff Ehlert asked which Board members have visited a solar farm. He also commented that what took place at the July 22nd Special Meeting undercut the Planning Commission’s work on the SES Ordinance. He stated that the Planning Commission is appointed to make recommendations to the Board, and the Board should consider

those recommendations. Treasurer Koester replied that the Board does not have to implement those recommendations.

- Laurie Isley asked the Board the purpose of having a separate attorney to look over the Solar Ordinance. She also asked the Treasurer if the \$15,000 tax revenue collected from the Nexus pipeline is correct. Treasurer Koester replied that the amount is separate from the amount that is collected from the FD Millages. However, the Township portion has decrease over time.
- Matt Drennan, ESA Solar, explained that the State of Michigan is working on removing existing policy restrictions in Michigan to allow for the development of small-scale community solar projects that would enable greater access to solar.
- Jeff Ehlert commented that someone else will enjoy the tax and benefits from SES projects if it is not allowed due to rumors and misinformation. He also stated that solar helps preserve farmland.
- Mark Cremeans asked if any of the Board members or Planning Commission members have a conflict of interest.
- Allen Gust commented that the Planning Commission has done their due diligence to put the Ordinance together, and he believes the Board is doing their due diligence to make decisions that will benefit the entire community.
- Matt Drennan, ESA Solar, said that he had a conversation with one of Blissfield's Board members who went throughout the community to talk to people about solar energy, only to learn that approximately 58% of those individuals do not support solar. Matt stated that he believes that residents are not as involved or educated in solar, which is the result of their lack of support.
- Kathy Cremeans asked the Board what the setbacks are for participating properties. She also stated that she does not want her property surrounded by solar panels.
- Leslie Severn stated that it is up to the Board to get the information out to the public and set the setbacks.

Bill Payment

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

Motion carried

Adjournment

Motion Koester, support Whited to adjourn at 11:05 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: October 12, 2021