

**Palmyra Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Dave Pixley at the Palmyra Township Hall, 6490 Palmyra Rd.

Members present: Dave Pixley, Mark Crane, Angie Koester, Chris Whited

Members absent: Steve Papenhagen

Supervisor Pixley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Attendance: 12

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

Public Comment:

- Ryan Powell, 4423 Rau Hwy, thanked the Board for aligning with the community in regards to supporting the Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. He also stated that the Board needs to put the Township in line with the other townships in joining the Foster Swift litigation, and that he and his wife Morgan would pay the \$5,000 for the Township to join. Ryan then presented to the Board a proposal of a Community Task Force to address key infrastructure and community challenges in Palmyra Township. One of the topics Ryan brought up was green energy in the form of community solar.
- Jeff Ehlert, Blissfield, stated that the Board has pushed solar out and left it up to the Michigan Public Service Commission, thereby, forgoing the financial benefits. He also said that community solar would cost the Township millions of dollars.
- Justin Brown, 5778 Carleton Rd, stated that community solar is a great idea. He said that the project would put money back in the pockets of residents, and that the project would grow as the community grows.
- Blake Brosamer, 5950 Rau Hwy., thanked the Board for supporting the Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. He reported that surveyors are in his area and asked if they are supposed to be there. He said that the surveyors are in unmarked vehicles with out of state license plates, and they are making some of the neighbors nervous. Supervisor Pixley replied that the surveyors are marking underground utilities.

Minutes & Reports

- Minutes: presented by Clerk Whited
- Financial: report presented by Treasurer Angie 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 meets on the first Tuesday of every month, and that the Planning Commission has made great progress on the Master Plan.
- Drain Commission: Supervisor Pixley reported that he attended the March 11, 2025, quarterly Drain Commission meeting, and they adopted a \$429,700 budget for the Central Lenawee Sewer System. He also reported that there is an issue with a home on 6861 Driggs Rd. He said that the property has not been bill for sewer usage in 21 years.
- Roads & Bridges: N/A
- FOIA Requests: Clerk Whited reported that two FOIA requests were submitted by American Transparency on March 6, 2025, and was fulfilled on March 10, 2025.
- Park Committee: Clerk Whited reported that she contacted Lisa Easterwood to let her know that the Township was going to pursue the 2025 Recreation Passport Grant. She said that Lisa stated that if the Township were to prepare a 5-year park and rec plan that's approved by the DNR, it would make the Township eligible for a larger pot of money under the trust fund program, up to \$350k.
- Land Splits: None

Motion Koester, support Crane to approve the February 11, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes and the February 18, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes, as well as the reports, and place them on file. **Motion carried**

Communications:

- **Jason Morrison, Lenawee County Drain Commission Superintendent of the water and sewer systems of Lenawee County:** Jason reported that EGLE is encouraging municipalities to tie into a municipal water system that will replace the smaller systems, such as the well house in Manor Farms. Jason stated that the well house will be increasingly difficult to maintain due to issues with testing the closed system. Supervisor Pixley stated that Madison Township has tentatively approved hookup to their water system, but this would be costly. Jason said that representatives from Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) will be attending the April 8, 2025, regular meeting to present to the Board a grant program that can help with the cost of a new water system.
- **Meeting with NextEra and DTE:** Supervisor Pixley reported that he and Clerk Whited met with Stephen Eastridge from NextEra and Michael and Josh, Senior Development Program Managers from DTE, to discuss DTE's purchase of the Beecher Solar Project.

Unfinished Business:

- **Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Battery Storage Systems and Wind Energy:** Motion Crane, support Whited to adopt Ordinance #25-06, Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems. **Roll call vote:** Whited – yes; Pixley – yes; Koester – yes; Crane - yes; Papenhagen – absent **Motion carried**

Motion Pixley, support Whited to adopt Ordinance #25-05, Wind Energy Systems.
Roll call vote: Whited – yes; Koester – yes; Crane – yes; Pixley – yes; Papenhagen – absent **Motion carried**

- **PFD Chain Saw, \$1210.99, approved \$1100:** Motion Pixley, support Crane to approve the difference of \$110.99 for the cost of the chain saw that was approved February 11, 2025. **Motion carried**
- **2024-2025 Budget Amendments:** Discussed with no action required.
- **OMA Training:** Discussed with no action required.
- **Township Hall Lighting & Electrical Work:** Supervisor Pixley reported that quotes have not yet been submitted.

New Business:

- **PTFD –**
 - **Employment applications:** N/A
 - **Probation terminations:** N/A
 - **Resignations:** N/A
- **2025 – 2026 Budget Public Hearing:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to open the Budget Public Hearing at 9:08 pm. **Motion carried**
The Board reviewed the 2025-2026 Budget and there was no public comment.
Motion Pixley, support Crane to close the 2025 – 2026 Budget hearing at 9:34 pm.
Motion carried
- **2025-2026 Budget Adoption:** Motion Koester, support Whited to adopt the 2025-2026 Budget as presented. **Roll call vote:** Pixley – yes; Crane – yes; Whited – yes; Koester – Yes; Papenhagen – absent **Motion carried**
- **2025 Road Projects:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to approve the following road projects:
 - Est. #5035 - Academy Rd. Bridge, mill & asphalt overlays - \$7,527.05
 - Est. #5118 – Grosvenor Hwy, US 223 to Rouget Rd - \$113,493.72
 - Est. #5119 – Lenawee Hwy, Deerfield to Demlow - \$18,280.88
 - Est #5145 – Pixley Rd., Rodgers to Grosvenor - \$41,686.18
 - Est #5116 – Etter Rd., Carlton to Ogden - \$27,886.50
 - Replacement of culvert on Grosvenor Hwy.**Roll call vote:** Pixley – yes; Whited – yes; Crane – yes; Koester – yes; Papenhagen - absent **Motion carried**
- **Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA):** Motion Pixley, support Koester to allow Clerk Whited to work with attorney Dave LaCasse to draft an ESTA policy and resolution. **Motion carried**
- **Memorial Day Parade:** Motion Whited, support Koester to allow Clerk Whited to apply for the DOT road closure permit for the 2025 Memorial Day Parade, and that the prize money awards for decorated bikes, floats and/or tractors will be \$15 for third place; \$25 for second place; and \$40 for first place; and \$5.00 for participation awards for children 15 years of age and under. **Motion carried**
- **MTPP Grant Resolution:** Motion Crane, support Koester to adopt the Michigan Township Participating Plan (MTPP) Grant Application Resolution. **Roll call vote:**

Crane – yes; Koester – yes; Pixley – yes; Whited – yes; Papenhagen – absent **Motion carried**

- **Township Insurance Policy Renewal:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to renew the 2025/2026 Decker Agency insurance policy at a cost of \$23,587. **Motion carried**
- **Michigan Township Association (MTA) Online Subscription Package:** Motion Crane, support Pixley to purchase the 2025/2026 MTA Plus Online Subscription Package at a cost of \$1,000, **Motion carried**
- **Excess Dirt Spoils from Boring to Fill Low Spot in Crane Cemetery:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to allow EGLE to discharge the dirt spoils from the boring project onto the low area of the new section of the Crane Cemetery, north of the wood line at the north driveway. **Motion carried**
- **Fittings for Engine 2:** Motion Koester, support Pixley to allow Chief Rohlan to purchase from Macqueen color coded Kochek fittings for Engine 2 at a cost of \$5,500 plus shipping. **Motion carried**

Bill Payment

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

Adjournment

Motion Whited, support Koester to adjourn at 10:34 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: April 8, 2025