

**Palmyra Township
Special Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by Clerk Christine Whited at the Palmyra Township Hall, 6490 Palmyra Rd.

Board Members present: Angie Koester, Mark Crane. Steve Papenhagen, and Chris Whited

Members absent: Dave Pixley

Audience Attendance: 47

Motion made by Whited to appoint Trustee Mark Crane as the meeting moderator, and supported by Papenhagen. **Motion carried**

Agenda approved as presented.

Communications: Trustee Mark Crane reported that the Board received a letter from Michael Vogt from Dickinson Wright, PLLC, attorney for the Rouget Road Solar Farm, LLC. The letter addressed to the Board to consider revocation of determination that Palmyra Township has not adopted a CREO.

Public Comment:

- Patrick Fountain, 2784 Ogden Hwy, presented to the Board a history of electricity, and explained the routing of electricity generated by solar, stating that the cost will be much higher than what electric utility companies are claiming.
- Ryan Powell, Palmyra Township, stated that the ordinance was intentionally misrepresented, allowing solar to expedited in the Township. Ryan also would like the Board to hire attorney Mike Homier and follow his recommendations to reaffirm that Palmyra does have a CREO.
- John Tuckerman, Blissfield Township, stated that he is tired of hearing negative comments about renewable energy and is upset about the attacks on Supervisor Dave Pixley.
- John Turpening, 3555 Ogden Hwy, stated that solar is a contentious topic, and that the township does have a CREO. He also stated that the majority of residents in the township do not want solar. He also would like the Board to hire attorney Mike Homier.
- Travis Cagle, 5840 Rau Hwy, asked the Board why RWE/ESA and other solar companies have taken an interest in the township. He believes that the solar companies are taking advantage of the township's expanse of land. He also supports the hiring of Mike Homier.

- Blake Brosamer, 5950 Rau Hwy, thanked the Board for scheduling the special meeting. He stated that the township residents had voted in 2023 to keep solar out of the township. He also stated that the solar issue is dividing the community. He encouraged the Board to stand up and support the residents' desire to keep solar out of the community.
- Jeff Ehlert, property owner in Palmyra, stated that when the Board initially interviewed Mike Homier, Mike said that he could not guarantee that he could keep solar out of the township. Jeff also expressed his concern about the rumors that are misleading people.
- Richard Eaton, Humphrey Hwy, stated that he moved from California to Michigan, and has seen the negative impacts that solar companies have had in California, and he also stated that he is very concerned that solar will decrease the property values in the township.
- Leeann Forche, 5492 E. Gorman Rd, thanked the Board for meeting. She stated that she feels misrepresented, and solar is being forced upon the township. She also is concerned about the lack of transparency.
- Alison Prielipp, Palmyra Township, stated that residents voted in 2023, opposing industrial solar. She is concerned the impact solar will have on the water quality and property values. She also said that she supports representation by Mike Homier and submitting a letter to the RWE to rescind the letter that states that Palmyra does not have a CREO.
- Kara McBeth, Deerfield Township, feels that residents are disregarded and unheard by the Township Board. She said that large scale solar projects industrialize rural areas. She also stated that the Township needs to consult with Mike Homier.
- Bob Nesbit, Palmyra Township, asked the Board what would happen if the solar company goes out of business, and who would be responsible for cleaning up the mess if it did go out of business.
- Allen Gust, Palmyra Township, stated that he is disappointed that Supervisor Dave Pixley is not at the meeting to explain why he did what he did that brought about the special meeting. Allen also stated that he is against solar.
- Alanna Cook, Palmyra Township, stated that residents have spoken when they voted in 2023 to keep solar out of Palmyra. She said that she believes that solar is not sustainable. She also stated that the Board needs to consult with Mike Homier.
- Conrad MacBeth, Deerfield Township, stated that Mike Homier is Deerfield Township's attorney and has been great dispelling myths about PA233. Conrad stated that Mike Homier has credentials and is very experienced, and he is hoping that Mike will reverse the current situation.
- Stacey Downing stated that on the surface, solar sounds great, but there are too many "what ifs."
- Justin Brown, Palmyra Township, thanked the Board for meeting and requested that the Board hire Mike Homier and reaffirm that the township has a CREO.
- Sarah Novak, 4639 Station Rd, thanked the Board for meeting and stated that agriculture is a thriving industry and is concerned that solar would jeopardize it.

- Morgan Powell, Palmyra Township, stated that she is amazed of the number of community members that are in attendance at the special meeting. She expressed that she is frustrated that she has not been heard by the Board and feels there is a lack of transparency. She begged the Board to listen to the community members and fight with them. Morgan also requested that the Board hire Mike Homier and affirm that the Ordinance is a CREO.
- Steve Brandt, Ogden Hwy, stated that he is a real estate broker and has seen the negative effect of solar on land values, primarily the devaluation of it.

Business:

- **Kohler Generator Annual Maintenance Contract:** The discussion is postponed.
- **Hiring Mike Homier to Provide Additional Counsel in Renewable Energy:** Motion made by Crane to allow the Board and Planning Commission to consult with and refer all renewable energy questions, inquiries, changes needed to the ordinance, or any other matters regarding wind, solar, and battery storage facilities within the township to attorney Michael Homier of Foster, Swift, Collins, & Smith; and Palmyra Township will continue to use attorney David LaCasse for all other legal matters. **Roll call vote:** Papaenhagen – yes; Crane; yes; Koester – yes; Whited – yes; Pixley – absent **Motion carried**
- **The Response to RWE Concerning the Lack of a CREO:** Motion made by Papenhagen and supported by Whited to authorize Supervisor Pixley and Clerk Whited to contact attorney Mike Homier to schedule a conference call prior to August 25, 2025, to discuss options concerning the revocation of the Township’s response to RWE/ESA that the township does not have a CREO. **Motion carried**

Adjournment

Motion Crane, support Whited to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: September 9, 2025