

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

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, Angie Koester, Steve Papenhagen, Chris Whited

Members absent: None

Supervisor Pixley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Attendance: 20

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

- Added to New Business: PFD Chain Saw & PFD Helmets

**Public Comment:**

- Debra Rogers of Palmyra Township, Schultz-Holmes District Library Trustee, stated that she will give periodic updates to the Township Board regarding the Schults-Holmes District Library. She reminded the Board that a 1.25 millage was passed by voters in the August 2024 Primary Election. With that said, the 2025 adopted budget states a projected income of \$488,000. She also shared that since the library has become a district library, it no longer receives Blissfield Village appropriations of \$248,000. With that said, Debra reported that 52.06% of the library's operating budget is dedicated to wages. She pointed out that all library employees received a raise after the millage was passed. As a Trustee, she wants the library to be fiscally responsible.
- Lee Andre from Raisin Township stated that the seven solar arrays in Raisin Township were built through the cooperation of land owners, residents and the solar companies. He encourages the Board to have thoughtful ordinances.
- Ryan Powell, Rau Hwy, stated that he is concerned and does not understand why the solar companies ESA and RWE are in the Township since the community voted on an ordinance that keeps large solar arrays out of the Township. Ryan stated that he feels it's the Board's responsibility to uphold the community, and asks why the Board continues to court the solar companies. He also stated that the draft renewable energy ordinances were approved by the Lenawee County Planning Commission, so the Board's vote on those proposed ordinances should be "yes" to uphold what the Palmyra Township citizens want.
- Tom Creque, 9555 Sylvania Ave., stated that he owns land in Palmyra Township and is speaking in favor of a workable solar ordinance. He also stated that the Township has been dealing with solar for approximately five years, and he would like to see some progress. He stated that within a five-year period, the solar companies have become

financially vested by continuing to pay monthly lease payments to the landowners. He believes that solar is a good investment for the Township.

- Mark Farris, Monroe County, stated that nuclear energy is being resurrected in Michigan. He does not believe that solar is the correct choice, as it consumes large areas of farm ground. He also stated that solar companies do not always pay the taxes owed to the municipalities, and that their goal is pay as little as possible.
- Deb Comstock, 2525 Ogden Hwy., stated that she has lived in Palmyra Township since she was approximately four years old and remembers a very different community – a collaborative community. She stated that currently farmers own most of the land in the Township and pay most of the taxes. Deb stated that the farmers are hurting financially due to the decreases in the market. She pointed out that solar would provide funds for services in the Township, and economic development would occur as well. Deb pointed out that when considering the ordinances, the Board has the opportunity and responsibility of considering the land owners as well as constituents.

### **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 now meets on the first Tuesday of every month, and John Turpening is the Chairman; Ryan Mapstone is the Vice Chair; and Carmen Loar is the secretary. He also shared that the Planning Commission is currently working on the Master Plan and hopes to have it completed within two months.
- Drain Commission: Supervisor Pixley reported that the Drain Commission has tentatively scheduled the quarterly meeting on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Dave stated that he will suggest changing the usage fees listed in the Sewer Usage Ordinance to keep the system afloat. He stated that since September 2024, the Collection O&M has decreased by \$40,000.
- Roads & Bridges: N/A
- FOIA Requests: Clerk Whited reported that the FOIA request submitted by Morgan Powell in December was fulfilled February 5, 2025.
- Park Committee: Clerk Whited reported that the Park Committee met during a Special Meeting on February 3, 2025, to discuss moving forward with the DNR Recreation Park Grant and a final revision of the park concept plan.
- Land Splits: None

Motion Papenhagen, support Crane to approve the December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes; the February 6, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes; and the February 6, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes, as well as the reports, and place them on file. **Motion carried**

### **Communications:**

- **Consumers Energy Notice of Hearing:** Supervisor Pixley reported that on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 9:00 am there will be a public hearing before the Michigan Public Service Commission for the gas customers of Consumers Energy Company via video/teleconferencing.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- **Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Articles V, VI, & VII:** Discussion postponed until the February 18, 2025 Special Meeting.
- **Road Commission Annual Meeting:** Supervisor Pixley reminded the Board members of the Road Commission Annual Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 9:00 am, at the Road Commission office.
- **PFD Backup Cameras – Par Plan Grant:** Discussion is postponed until the March 11, 2025 Regular Meeting.
- **Township Hall Generator Wall Repair:** Supervisor Pixley reported that we are waiting for Adrian Electric & Generator to install the generator system. Dave also mentioned that he met with John Turpening, who works at Citizens Gas Fuel, and no updates need to be completed prior to the installation of the generator.
- **Township Hall Lighting & Electrical Work:** Supervisor Pixley reported that he will have quotes by the March 11 Regular Meeting for the upgrade to LED lights in the Hall.
- **Boiler Pump Replacement:** Supervisor Pixley reported that one of the older pumps on the boiler system went out, and he had to contact JC Mechanical to replace it. Supervisor Pixley stated that two old pumps remain, and could quit working at any given time. He also said that JC Mechanical had a difficult time locating a similar pump to replace the old pump. Trustee Mark Crane suggested that a pump be purchased and stored on a shelf in case one of the old pumps fails. Motion Crane, support Papenhagen to allow the Supervisor to purchase a new pump for the boiler system to have on hand in case one of the old pumps fails. **Motion carried**

### **New Business:**

- **PTFD –**
  - **Employment applications:** N/A
  - **Probation terminations:** N/A
  - **Resignations:** N/A
- **Park DNR Recreation Passport Grant:** Motion Whited, support Crane that the Board recommend that the Park Committee forgo the DNR 2025 Recreation Passport Grant due to the lack of additional funding required to develop the park. **Motion carried**
- **PFD Water Issues:** Supervisor Pixley reported that the PFD water pumping system in the old cistern has failed. He suggested to hook up the truck wash to the cistern and the water that is contained in the tank be used for the toilets, sinks, and washing machine.
- **River Raisin Watershed Council (RRWC) Dues:** Motion Crane, support Pixley to authorize the payment of \$208 for RRWC annual membership. **Motion carried**

- **February 11, 2025, Maturation of PFD CD & Reinvestment:** Motion Pixley, support Crane to authorize Treasurer Angie Koester to reinvest PFD funds of \$153,804.65 in a certificate of deposit at the best interest rate and term limit at TLC Community Credit Union. **Motion carried**
- **PFD Training Promissory Note:** Motion Pixley, support Whited to allow the Supervisor to contact Attorney Dave LaCasse for opinions on a PFD training promissory note/agreement and whether or not the Township can make members pay back training fees if training is mandatory. **Motion carried**
- **Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training:** Motion Crane, support Papenhagen to contact Attorney Dave LaCasse to schedule a date, preferably on the first Tuesday of the month, for an OMA Training session for the Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Review. **Motion carried**
- **Susan Schuchard, Township Purchase of Burial Sites:** Motion Whited, support Crane to authorize the Clerk to reimburse Susan Schuchard \$400 for two burial sites she purchased on January 3, 2002, located in the Main Cemetery, Section D, Lot 61, sites 3 and 4; and to discuss with attorney Dave LaCasse whether or not the bond money is refundable. **Motion carried**
- **2024/2025 Budget Amendments:** Motion Papenhagen, support Crane to adopt the 2024-2025 amended budget (See below). **Roll call vote:** Papenhagen – yes; Crane – yes; Koester – yes; Whited – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**

		Palmyra Twp.						
		2024/2025 Approved Budget Amendments						
		April 2024 through January 2025						
		Approved February 11, 2025						
			Actual	Budget	Over Budget	Approved Amendments		
		755-001 • "Main" - Repair/Maint Supply	312.51	200.00	112.51	Increase by	\$115	
		567-801 • Professional/Contract Services	10,441.60	6,000.00	4,441.60	Increase by	\$4,500	
		934-001 • Main - Repair & Maint	2,054.67	250.00	1,804.67	Increase by	\$1,850	
		567-956 • Operating Expense	710.00	650.00	60.00	Increase by	\$60	
		215-851 • Postage	435.55	250.00	185.55	Increase by	\$175	
		336-752 • FD Operating Supplies	2,625.06	1,000.00	1,625.06	Increase by	\$2,000	
		336-849 • ALS Transports	12,375.00	13,000.00	(625.00)	Increase by	\$6,000	
		336-863 • Ambulance Tax	311.02	300.00	11.02	Increase by	\$100	
		336-956 • Operating Expense	7,008.11	2,000.00	5,008.11	Increase by	\$6,750	
		336-975 • Building Additions/ Improvement	24,545.00	12,500.00	12,045.00	Increase by	\$12,050	
		753-801 • Professional/Contract Services	7,420.93	0.00	7,420.93	Increase by	\$7,500	
		701-704 • Wage - Per Mtg	2,768.00	2,500.00	268.00	Increase by	\$1,268	
		701-790 • Books	431.00	100.00	331.00	Increase by	\$340	
		701-801 • Professional Services	3,973.00	2,000.00	1,973.00	Increase by	\$2,000	
		701-900 • Printing and Publishing	403.20	250.00	153.20	Increase by	\$155	
		701-956 • Operating Expense	650.97	0.00	650.97	Increase by	\$655	
		376-704 • Wage - Per Inspection/Permit	1,347.07	1,200.00	147.07	Increase by	\$500	
		101-803 • Insurance/Bonds	7,764.86	6,500.00	1,264.86	Increases by	\$1,300	
		101-956 • Operating Expense	4,240.11	4,000.00	240.11	Increase by	\$240	
		101-960 • Education & Train.	1,000.00	300.00	700.00	Increase by	\$700	
		101-961 • Dues & Memberships	3,042.75	3,000.00	42.75	Increase by	\$250	
		120-957 • Travel Expense	1,035.79	875.00	160.79	Increase by	\$500	
		<b>Total Budget Amendments</b>					<b>\$49,008</b>	

- **Special Meeting for Amendments to Zoning Ordinance:** The Township Board has scheduled a special meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 pm, to review the Renewable Energy Ordinances and Amendments to Articles 5, 6, and 7 of the Zoning Ordinance.
- **New Printer for Clerk's Office:** Motion Pixley, support Koester to allow the clerk to purchase HP Laser Jet Pro MFP 3101 monochrome printer and ink at a cost of \$434. **Motion carried**
- **PFD Chain Saw:** Motion Papenhagen, support Pixley to allow Chief Rohlan to purchase a Stihl, Lithium-Ion Chain Saw, Bar Length 20 in, Model# MSA 300, at a cost of \$1,100. **Motion carried**
- **PFD Helmets:** Motion Crane, support Pixley to allow the purchase of four fire helmets at a cost not to exceed \$1,700. **Motion carried**

#### **Bill Payment**

Motion Koester, support Papenhagen to allow the Clerk to pay all Township and PTFD bills.

**Motion carried**

#### **Adjournment**

Motion Pixley, support Koester to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. **Motion carried**

**Next Regular Meeting: March 11, 2025**