

**2025 TOWN OF PALMYRA  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, March 7, 2025**

*The meeting was called to order by Diane White, Town Clerk. At 7:45 a.m.*

Art. 1 To elect a moderator by secret ballot to preside at said meeting.

*Joshua Tardy was elected as Moderator and Paula Horn was appointed as Deputy Moderator.*

Art. 2 To elect the following by secret ballot:

Selectperson, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor

– Two members for three year terms.

RSU Director

- One member for a three year term.

*177 votes were cast*

Meeting to continue Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

**Saturday, March 8, 2024**

*Selectmen present: Brian Barrows, Vondell Dunphy, Jo-Ann Brown, David Gilbert, Herbert Bates*

*Priscilla Jones, Administrative Assistant, Treasurer*

*Diane White, Town Clerk, Tax Collector*

*Present: 64 residents (including Select Board Members, Administrative Assistant and Town Clerk)*

*2 nonresidents: Lorna Rowe, Herbert Pearl*

*The meeting was continued at 10:00 a.m.*

*Joshua Tardy (Moderator) announced the results of Election:*

- *Michael Cray and Charles Fields were elected to the Select Board.*
- *Jennifer Watson was re-elected to the RSU 19 Board of Directors.*

*Mr. Tardy noted that the Select Board election was won by a margin of one vote between Charles Fields and Jo-Ann Brown.*

*Note: A recount held on March 19<sup>th</sup> had the same results.*

*Mr. Tardy will be using the Maine Municipal Moderator's Manual for this meeting.*

*Select Board Chair Brian Barrows presented Vondell Dunphy with a plaque. Vondell has had 25 years of service with the town as either a Select Board member or a member of the Planning Board.*

*Representative Dean Cray presented Glenn Brown with the Spirit of America award. Glenn is always available to help the town with repairs and assistance wherever needed.*

Art. 3 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,865 for Select Board member's compensation.

*Passed as written*

Art. 4 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$63,100 for insurances, estimated breakdown as follows:

Health	40,000.00
Property & Casualty	18,500.00
Workers comp	3,000.00
Unemployment	<u>1,600.00</u>
Total	\$ 63,100.00

*Passed as written*

Art. 5 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$166,000 for the Town Charge Account.

*Estimated expenditures as follows:*

A. Compensation	\$108,000
B. Contract Services	42,000
C. Utilities	5,000
D. Supplies/Fees	6,000
<u>E. Lien Costs</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total	\$166,000

*Passed as written*

Art. 6 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,000 to maintain the Community Center. Estimated expenditures as follows:

A. Utilities	30,000
B. Maintenance/Repairs	22,000
<u>C. Contracted Services</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total	60,000

*Passed as written*

Art. 7 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for utilities and maintenance for the Town Hall and Modular Building.

*Passed as written*

Art. 8 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500 for assessing work.

*Passed as written*

Art. 9 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$19,500 for Code Enforcement and appropriate Plumbing Fees to this account.

*Passed as written*

Art. 10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$23,000 for a sexton and for maintenance of the town cemeteries. Interest earned from the Cemetery Investment account in 2024 to be credited to this account. Also to

authorize the Select Board to enter into or continue contracts for cemetery maintenance and sexton.

*Passed as written*

Art. 11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for cleaning and repair to cemetery stones.

*Ronald Rowe offered his assistance to repair broken stones.*

*Passed as written*

Art. 12 To see if the Town will vote to accept a gift of land to extend the Village Cemetery and have public access to Whites Pond and to raise and appropriate \$3000 for survey and legal work needed to acquire said property.

*Passed as written*

Art. 13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for General Assistance and appropriate funds reimbursed from the State of Maine.

*Passed as written*

Art. 14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for Maine Municipal Association dues.

*Passed as written*

Art. 15 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$250 for membership in the Sebec Valley Chamber of Commerce.

*Passed as written*

Art. 16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1500 to purchase flags to display on Main Street.

*Ronald Rowe questioned type of flag. American Flag should have been included in article.*

*Passed as written*

Art. 17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$119,237 for the fifth payment of funds borrowed for paving.

*Note: This is the fifth and final payment due under a note executed by the Select Board on behalf of the Town and authorized by a vote of Town meeting on March 13, 2020.*

*Passed as written*

Art. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200,000 for the Public Works account. Estimated amounts in each category as follows:

Summer Roads	\$ 15,000
Winter Roads	60,000
Capital Road Improvements	50,000
Equipment/Garage	<u>75,000</u>
Total	\$200,000

*Passed as written*

Art. 19 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$184,870 for the third payment of funds borrowed for paving.

*Note: This is the third and final payment due under a note executed by the Select Board on behalf of the Town and authorized by a vote of Town meeting on March 12, 2022.*

*Passed as written*

Art. 20 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$71,000 for Fire Protection and to authorize the Select Board to continue/enter into contracts for this purpose.

*Passed as written*

Art. 21 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$180,000 for Solid Waste Disposal, and appropriate reimbursements from Municipal Review Committee (MRC).

*Passed as written*

Art. 22 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for recycling.

*Passed as written*

Art. 23 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for legal expenses. This would include expenses associated with the sale of tax-acquired property, land-use violations and other legal expenses. Any fines and reimbursements will be credited to this account.

*Passed as written*

Art. 24 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for the Planning Board and Board of Appeals.

*Passed as written*

Art. 25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for the Animal Control account and appropriate Dog License Fees to this account.

*Passed as written*

Art. 26 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for mileage and expenses for the Emergency Management Director and the Health Officer.

*Passed as written*

Art. 27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,500 for the Recreation Program.

*Passed as written*

Art. 28 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for maintenance of the Town Park and to authorize the Select Board to continue/enter into contracts for this purpose.

*Passed as written*

Art. 29 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Palmyra Scholarship Fund.

*Passed as written*

Art. 30 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,500 for library services.

*Passed as written*

Art. 31 To see if the Town will vote to give the revenue received from Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for snowmobile registrations to the Palmyra Snowmobile Club.

*Passed as written*

Art. 32 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,854 for dues for Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG).

*Passed as written*

Art. 33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Capital Improvements investment account.

*Passed as written*

Art. 34 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for restoration of vital records.

*Passed as written*

Art. 35 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$54,000 from the LRA account for paving.

*Passed as written*

Art. 36 To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$11,500 from the Capital Improvements account for repairs to the Community Center heating system.

*Passed as written*

Art. 37 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for repairs to the Community Center parking lot.

*Passed as written*

Art. 38 To see if the Town will vote to charge residents for the use of classrooms at the Community Center at a discounted rate.

*Priscilla explained that the building cost a lot to maintain those using it should pay a little. Residents felt that this would discourage them from using the community center and residents should only pay the security deposit.*

*Failed*

Art. 39 To see if the Town will vote to take \$3280.46 from surplus and \$5363.20 from the Assessing Investment Account to ratify overdrafts in fiscal year 2024 (Town Charges - 3030.44, Library – 231.90, Paving Loan – 18.12, Legal – 5363.20)

*Pat White asked for the meaning of this article. It was explained that this article is an “after the fact” approval to pay the amounts listed. There was a discussion regarding the legal fees. Priscilla said that this was for an appeal to superior court and the town is waiting for a decision. She understood that the judge will make a decision based on the information he has. Two other attorneys got involved in the case which helped to increase fees. There was a question about a chance to settle out of court. Brian explained that the case is about an abatement decision that a resident did not agree with. He went to the County Commissioners; County Commissioners decision was then appealed to Superior Court. Dean Cray stated that the town could have dropped the case, but chose to take it to Superior Court. Mike Cray suggested an amendment to take out “legal fees” and ratify the others. Motion made. Dean Cray said that the service should be paid for.*

***Passed as written***

Art. 40 To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on all unpaid taxes after such date the Town shall determine, and set rate.

*Note - maximum allowed by the State Treasurer is 7.5 percent.*

*Select Board recommends 4 percent to start 60 days from day of commitment.*

***Passed with Select Board’s recommendation***

Art. 41 To see if the town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept pre-payments for taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §506.

***Passed as written***

Art. 42 To see if the Town will vote to authorize funds for Abatements to come from overlay.

***Passed as written***

Art. 43 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,507 for the following:

Tri-Town Food Bank – \$1,000

Palmyra Soup Kitchen – \$2,000

Newport Food Bank – \$1,000

Winslow Community Cupboard - \$2000

KVCAP Transportation Program - \$500

Hospice of Somerset County - \$400

Family Violence Project - \$1,000

Senior Spectrum - \$2,557

Somerset Economic Development Committee - \$100

Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter - \$500

Kennebec Behavioral Health -\$500  
LifeFlight Foundation - \$1,000  
KVCAP Community Action Program - \$500  
Community Health & Counseling Services - \$200  
Northern Light Health - \$500  
Crisis & Counseling Centers - \$750

*Passed as written*

Art. 44 To see if the Town will vote to have the Select Board choose all necessary Town Officials for the ensuing year and fix compensation for same.

*Passed as written*

Art. 45 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed three-twelfths (1/4) of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2025 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2026 to the Annual Town Meeting.

*Passed as written*

Art. 46 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to obtain loan(s) in anticipation of taxes not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total commitment, such loans to be paid during the current fiscal year.

*Passed as written*

Art. 47 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes, in such terms as they deem advisable, and to execute quit-claim deeds for such property. And if they should choose to employ a bid process, the Select Board has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Notices of tax acquired property sales will be posted in a newspaper that covers the local area.

*Ronald Rowe questioned why the town is not selling tax acquired property.*

*Passed as written*

Art. 48 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell excess Town equipment and property and credit funds realized to Public Works account.

*Passed as written*

Art. 49 To see if the Town will vote to place the balance of the Veterans' Memorial fund in an investment account for future expansion of the Memorial and to authorize the Town to accept funds from individuals for the purchase of paving stones. These stones will be placed near the Veterans' Memorial to honor individuals chosen by the purchaser.

*Passed as written*

Art. 50 To see if the Town will vote to continue the fund for the purpose of accepting donations for Palmyra's Christmas program known as the Giving Tree with any funds remaining in the account at the end of the year to be carried over to the next fiscal year.

*Passed as written*

Art. 51 Shall the Town of Palmyra vote to authorize the Select Board to accept or reject grants, donations, and or gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town of Palmyra for FY2025 and to expend monies donated for specific purposes.

*Passed as written*

Art. 52 To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to take from anticipated revenue and surplus to lower the 2025 Tax Commitment.

Note: Anticipated Revenue:	Excise Tax	400,000
	Rentals	35,000
	Interest on Taxes	9,500
	Lien Costs	5,000
	Fees/Interest	30,000
	First Park Taxes	8,000
	<u>Surplus Funds</u>	<u>212,500</u>
	Select Board recommends	\$700,000

*Passed as written*

*Charlie Fields announced that a veteran's group meets each month. They are trying to raise money for Hometown Hero Banners. If anyone is interested in purchasing one of the banners, the cost is \$120 and a picture and DD214 would be needed. He would also like to honor the Caldwell brothers who all died within a short time of each other during WWII.*

11:01 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

*Diane White*  
Respectfully Submitted  
Diane White

Attest  
4/10/2025