
PALMYRA SELECT BOARD MINUTES

8-12-2026

Members Present: Michael Cray, Ronald Rowe, Herbert Bates, Charles Fields and Scott King

Citizens: Planning Board Chair Dave Leavitt, Kristi Butler, Lorna Rowe, Jack Iby, Tom Wright, Rick Preble, Kasey Fair, Claude Thornton, Tyler Norris, Garth Norris, Jeff Hardy, and Lee Mencl.

6:00 pm – Meeting called to order by Michael Cray - Flag Salute

Public Access:

Kasey Fair voiced concerns over the time spent on the sand shed project and road work that has not been done. With only 42 work days left until November 1st, it leaves little time to work on ditching, culverts, etc. He also proposed starting a road committee to plan ahead for projects.

Dave Leavitt discussed the increase on tax bills, stating his increased over 19%. He shared some ideas to help with the budget – 1) written purchase orders which would include details on each project such as scope, schedule, and budget. 2) The bidding process should involve getting at least 3 bids from different companies. 3) Any purchases of \$1000 or more should require at least three out of five signatures from the board. 4) Utilizing grants could lower costs for the town.

Jack Iby voiced concerns about the list of residents that owe back taxes. He also read a letter demanding the removal of Ronald Rowe from the board.

Jeff Hardy commented that other board members are disobeying the laws of the town and need to be looked at. He also commented on the wording on the last bid, recommending that in the future we do not specify the type of gravel to be used or determine where it must be purchased.

Tom Wright gave an update on the Michaud/Spring Road speeding issue. He stated that the Town of Pittsfield agreed to put up a 35mph speed limit sign and asked if the Town of Palmyra would also put one on their end. He also asked about the junk cars on Ell Hill.

Rick Preble asked if the property that had incurred a tree growth penalty paid their fees and what would happen if they decided not to pay. He also commented on the tax increase, tax acquired property, and the possibility of a road closure for a parade later in the year.

Dave Leavitt spoke on a permit that was issued to the business owner that is working on the property with the tree growth penalty stating that the specific wording on stipulations regarding paying the penalty was written in the permit.

Claude Thornton asked if we received reports from the school department.

Garth Norris asked if we could look into splitting our tax bills to have multiple payment options – twice yearly, quarterly, monthly. It would spread cash flow evenly throughout the year.

Mike Cray read an explanation of the certified ratio.

Jeff Hardy voiced concerns about illegal “junkyards” with unregistered/uninspected vehicles and an idea to put an advertisement in the paper to urge residents to take care of their extra vehicles.

Ronnie made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA, Section 405, subsection 6(A) for an employee matter with Samantha Lary, Scott second. AIF
The board left for executive session at 6:30PM and returned at 6:39PM. Scott made a motion to return from executive session, Ronnie second. AIF

Reports:

Rec Committee – Amy was attending a Soccer League Meeting so Priscilla reported information from Amy. There are 51 children signed up for soccer. They are having in person sign ups during Somerset Elementary

School's open house on August 25th. They will be using the fields there this year. The new soccer nets have been received and new jerseys have been ordered.

Public Works – Ronnie reported the guys have been working on the salt/sand shed. They put all the sand with added salt back in today. The International is back. There was an issue with some hoses on the backhoe last week. They called Beauregard and they came right in and had it fixed in a few hours. There was no expense to the town as it is still under warranty. They are looking to get all the winter sand done first to free up as much time as they can for other road projects before winter. Chad Doyon has begun working part time. The new improvements are coming together well. Corey is going to start addressing culverts soon.

Fire Chief – Report Submitted. There have been a lot of EMS calls in the last month. There were also a lot of calls for wires down and traffic control. There have been some recent discussions to get the fire chief involved to see what other options there may be instead of always calling fire departments for these calls.

Animal Control Officer (ACO) – Report Submitted.

Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Report Submitted.

Sexton/Cemeteries – Mike reported the need for mowing is slowing down.

Planning Board – Report Submitted. Dave commented on the new renovations happening at Walmart next summer. We have received a breakdown of the budget for their \$5 million project.

Administrative Assistant/Treasurer – A letter was sent to a former owner of tax acquired property on Raymond/Gee Road to inform them of the intent to sell the property. Dianne contacted the state police about weapon permits. They are not taking on any more towns at this time. The permit fee for a property that burned has been waived. This has been done in the past and Travis suggested that we have a policy written for this to be standard practice. Money is flowing in from taxes and we should be caught up on school payments in the next month. Dave suggested changing the wording in the fee schedule to cover the possibility of waiving fees.

Park Boosters – Fun at the Park Event on August 1st was successful. In the future they may look at other dates. There were a lot of other local events happening that same weekend.

Unfinished Business:

- Motion by Ronnie to accept minutes of previous meeting as written, Herb seconded. AIF
- Motion by Ronnie to go with the three year camera license fee estimate at \$8,025.41.
There was some debate on the costs for 1 year or 3 year licenses and what was budgeted. \$7500 was budgeted for this year. Scott voiced that it would be desirable to stay within our budget. Priscilla explained that it would be within the umbrella of town charges and there would be money available to cover the overage. There was no second for the motion.
Scott made a motion to go with the one year camera license fee at \$2,925.02 to get us by for this year and get more accurate prices to budget appropriately for longer time, Herb second. Vote – 4 in favor 1 opposed (Ronnie)

New Business:

- Priscilla explained the request for an Autistic Child Sign to be put up on Dogtown Road. Charlie made a motion to order the sign, Herb second. AIF
- The old town hall is no longer occupied. There was discussion on next steps such as maintenance and the possibility of using it for rentals again. Scott agreed that opening it up to rentals would be a great idea as a form of revenue. Mike suggested having a work session to discuss this more in depth and allow for more residents to join in. Priscilla mentioned the possibility of creating a town hall committee. A date was set for September 2nd to allow a few weeks to advertise. The meeting will begin at 6:00PM.

Select Board Concerns:

Herb asked if there was a total cost for the sand shed project. Ronnie gave him an overview of some of the items that were purchased so far but does not have a total yet because it is not done.

Herb and Mike had a discussion about the part-time public works employee. Herb also questioned if Chad was part time or full time. He has been hired part time as needed at \$20 per hour.

Ronnie made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA, Section 405, subsection 6(A) for an Employee Review with Corey Collins, Charlie second. AIF

The board left for executive session at 7:14PM and returned at 8:16PM. Herb made a motion to return from executive session, Ronnie second. AIF.

Ronnie made a motion to give Corey an additional 2 weeks of paid time off, Herb second. AIF.

Payroll & AP Warrants signed

Meeting Adjourned 8:18 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Lary