PALMYRA SELECT BOARD MINUTES

9-9-2026

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

Citizens: Planning Board Chair Dave Leavitt, Kristi Butler, Lorna Rowe, Jo-Ann Brown, Kasey & Amy Fair, Garth Norris, Jeff Hardy, Kyle & Hillary Halford, Eric Hanson, Jamie Moran, Fred Allan, Jason Fitch, Pat White, Jennifer & Megan Watson, and Sandra Cooper

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

Announcements:

Priscilla commented on the TDS internet and phone outage.

Public Access:

Mike addressed resident Eric Hanson concerning delinquent taxes and scheduled an appointment to speak with him next week.

Kasey commented on the trucks that were sold and suggested setting up an equipment account with the proceeds. He also commented on tax acquired property.

Kyle asked about the new truck. Ronnie advised that it would be discussed in the public works report.

Reports:

Rec Committee – Amy reported that the first soccer game is going to be a home game this Saturday, September 12th at 9am. They have a fundraiser started. Jennifer suggested a stipend be considered during the budget planning.

RSU 19 – Jennifer reported that meetings are just getting started as the school year just began. Enrollment numbers seem to be the same as last year. All teacher and bus driver positions are filled. There may still be some ed tech openings.

Public Works – Ronnie reported that the guys have been working on culverts and the Western Star. They have the chipper for two weeks and will be working on ditching. Raymond road will be the starting point. The new truck has had an overhaul of the drive shaft and some alignment work. It is much less noisy now. Corey is looking into getting some new equipment, including a storage box, compactor, and transit.

Fire Chief – Report submitted. Mike commented that there were a lot of calls and reminded the board that October is a good time to start arranging fire protection negotiations with nearby towns.

ACO – Report submitted.

CEO – Report submitted. Dave commented on some of the recent items that have been addressed including work on the I-95 overpass coming this fall and the need for addressing the dead trees by the solar field.

Cemeteries – Jason reported on upcoming projects that he would like to work on. He explained a quote that he received for tree removal in Village and Warren Hill cemeteries.

Charlie made a motion to move forward with the plans for all in tree work at $5,000, Herb second. AIF

Jason also discussed some work in Pooler cemetery that he would like assistance from Public Works to complete.

Planning Board – Dave reported current plans that have come in, including the Walmart expansion.

Administrative Assistant/Treasurer – Clarification was made on the 90 day probation period for new hires. The 90 days begins at the first day of work. Paid time off will begin after that date. Priscilla also commented on a complaint about the culvert on Davis Road. Those complains need to be sent to DOT.

Palmyra Village Events – Lorna reported on upcoming events. A trunk or treat will be held on October 24th from 5PM to 7:30PM. Candy and small toy donations will be accepted at the town office and the Tipped Trailer in Newport. There will be food trucks, the haunted bus, and the ghostbusters car at the event. There was also a brief discussion on how fundraising money is tracked and spent.

Unfinished Business:

- Discussion by the board to clarify Corey's additional two week vacation.

- Ronnie made a motion to accept the minutes of August 12th as written, Charlie second. Vote 3-2 Charlie, Mike, and Ronnie in favor. Herb and Scott opposed.
  Ronnie made a motion to accept the minutes of August 26th as written, Charlie second. Vote- 4 in favor. Mike abstained due to being absent for that meeting.
  Charlie made a motion to accept the minutes of August 28th as written, Ronnie second. AIF

- Priscilla explained the difference in assessment amounts due to a right of way on the property.
  Charlie made a motion to rescind the previous motion on the abatement for Kenneth Shakespeare, Scott second. AIF
  Scott made a motion to accept the new abatement for Kenneth Shakespeare, Charlie second. AIF

New Business:

- Mike read a resignation letter from Veronica Gilbert from her position as RSU 19 Director.
  Charlie made a motion to accept the resignation, Scott second. AIF
  Mike discussed a previous board member that would be willing to take an interim position to cover the vacancy until the next annual town meeting and election.
  Charlie made a motion to appoint Kelly Rowell as RSU 19 Director, Ronnie second. Vote – 3 in favor. Mike, Charlie, and Ronnie in favor. Herb and Scott chose to abstain as they do not know Kelly.
- Priscilla explained the supplemental bill for Alexander Tompkins – a new lot was created from land sold off of another lot and hadn't been billed yet.
  Herb made a motion to accept the supplemental bill, Charlie second. AIF
  Priscilla explained the abatement for Northern Somerset Conservation & Timberlands, LLC – land had been sold and not processed accurately.
  Charlie made a motion to accept the abatement, Scott second. AIF
- Charlie made a motion to issue a quitclaim deed to Sylvia Brown, Herb second. Delinquent taxes have been paid in full. Vote - AIF
- The General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices are updated yearly. The board must hold a public hearing before voting to adopt the updates.
  Charlie made a motion to schedule a public hearing for September 23rd at 6PM, Herb second. AIF
- The board discussed altering camera login access and having a sign in sheet for accountability.

Select Board Concerns:

Ronnie brought up the desire to rent a wheeled excavator for ditching. The quote he received would make the full rental just under $6000 for a month.
Ronnie made a motion to rent the equipment; motion failed for lack of a second.

Herb brought up a question on limiting overtime during the summertime months.

Meeting Adjourned 7:42 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Lary