



1  
2  
3 **PALMER TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
4 **Working Session**  
5 **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2009 – 7:00 PM**  
6 **Town Council Meeting Room, Palmer Town Building**  
7 **Minutes**  
8  
9  
10

- 11 1. Called to order at 1915  
12 2. Roll Call  
13 a) Present: Mr. Magiera, Mr. Burns, Ms. Barry, Mr. Remillard, Mr. Backus, Mr. Hebert, Mr.  
14 Duguay, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dinuovo, Mr. Streeter  
15 b) Guests: Mr. DaCruz (Tighe and Bond), Mr. Dick Kaczmarczyk, Mr. Gerry Skowronek, Ms.  
16 Nancy Menard and Ms. Jane Heade  
17 3. Pledge of Allegiance  
18 4. Mr. Backus moved, Mr. Burns seconded to accept agenda order, vote was unanimous to accept  
19 5. Old Business:  
20 a) Vote: Ordinance 2009-05 CSO Project loan authorization (if necessary)  
21 i. Mr. Streeter discussed history of discussion and presentations pertaining to CSO  
22 ii. Mr. Skowronek passed out IEP, discussed timeline for appropriations of funding and  
23 consequences of not passing appropriation and consequences that happened to  
24 surrounding towns  
25 iii. Discussed federal permit and requirements, fines possible for noncompliance after end of  
26 permit allowance  
27 iv. We are eligible for stimulus money if we approve authorization by June 30  
28 v. Mr. DaCruz: town must approve funds by June 30; by July 31 design must be in place;  
29 Mid Dec. 2009 a construction contract must be awarded and signed; construction must  
30 begin by Feb 17 2010  
31 vi. Stimulus component ramps up timeline dramatically but we will make deadlines  
32 vii. Towns dropping off list-if towns drop off do the other towns get more money forgiven?  
33 viii. Discussed why towns are dropping off: they can't afford it; not under mandates or ACOs  
34 to get projects done  
35 ix. Palmer is under 20 year ACO which started in 1996; Palmer elected to do first three  
36 phases of project together to get on the funding list; tried to put off phase IV until last 5  
37 years of ACO; DEP and EPA moved up target to 2012  
38 x. Price will escalate if we put this off; approved for \$6.883,000 currently exclusive of  
39 design  
40 xi. Phase IV is last 6 of 27 CSOs; will eliminate sewage runoff into rivers  
41 xii. After this year Palmer is no longer on the fundable list; no guarantees Palmer will make  
42 the fundable list next year; at 5% private bond rate over 20 years interest alone is  
43 \$4,000,000; who knows how markets will swing

- 1                   xiii. Communities have option of financing bond over 30 years; Palmer elected 20 years but  
2                   paperwork must be filed immediately to take that option  
3                   xiv. To be prudent, we should find out what DEP could do for us  
4                   xv. Even if we don't follow CSO we still will end up digging up streets and fixing lines  
5                   xvi. How did cost triple from \$1.7 million in 2000? Cost will be dictated once project goes  
6                   out to bid; appropriation was more than costs came in over first three phases  
7                   xvii. We estimated price to make application for funds; wanted to make sure that enough funds  
8                   were appropriated for project  
9                   xviii. Won't be making payment on long term debt until year following completion of project;  
10                   estimated to be 2012  
11                   xix. Moved by Mr. Backus, seconded by Mr. Hebert to authorize funds  
12                   xx. Vote was 8-1-0 to authorize funds, with Mr. Burns voting against  
13                   xxi. Moved by Ms. Barry to put debt exclusion amount to be determined not to exceed  
14                   \$7,203,000 on November ballot. Seconded by Mr. Burns.  
15                   xxii. Voted 9-0-0 to approve placing debt exclusion question on ballot  
16                   b) Bulky Day discussion:  
17                   i. Mr. Streeter discussed budget change to appropriate funds for Bulky Day pickup  
18                   ii. People have been disposing of trash in indiscriminate ways  
19                   iii. Looking into the feasibility of town wide trash pickup or transfer station next year  
20                   iv. Landscapers and contractors are taking advantage of town properties and free services to  
21                   the detriment of the town  
22                   v. Drop-offs and services will have to be monitored  
23                   vi. Ms. Heade: there are ways to dispose of things properly; very difficult to change attitude  
24                   in town about illegal dumping  
25                   c) Discussion FY10 Budget  
26                   i. Voted last Monday to use \$200,000 in stabilization funds for school budget:  
27                   (a) Budget was reworked without using stabilization money  
28                   (b) Funding has been found within school budget in talks with accountant  
29                   ii. We have adjusted library operating expenditures  
30                   iii. Wastewater treatment funding  
31                   iv. Ms. Menard: Unclassified funds adjustment would still put library budget below MARS  
32                   funding requirement  
33                   (a) Handout about passing unclassified expenses into library budget  
34                   (b) \$944,871 is figure calculated using formula Mass Library board uses to calculate  
35                   budget to ensure fairness of budget cuts  
36                   (c) We would need to file a waiver application with state  
37                   (d) We would have to set aside 16% of \$944,871 instead of original amount  
38                   v. Library staffing and funding, hours cuts affect everybody even in surrounding towns  
39                   vi. Can we get figures about how many people we serve, what programs and services are  
40                   provided? Yes, we have that information available  
41                   vii. Library funding is important; programs and services impact the whole community-we  
42                   have no desire to cut budget but it is necessary across the board  
43                   viii. Handout has both figures depending on which way council wants to vote  
44                   ix. Please be mindful of the requirements for our certification and what certification means  
45                   to our community; formula for certification will be the same format next year, using  
46                   average of last three years' budgets; gap could widen next year  
47                   x. Given the circumstances, is there ever a point where we can get a fresh start due to the  
48                   loss of aid or large lack of funding available given the circumstances?  
49                   xi. This is why the State board looks also to the whole town budget in the calculations.  
50                   xii. Anybody guaranteed a two and one half percent increase in this economy is unrealistic;  
51                   library board must acknowledge that

- xiii. Accreditation system is voluntary; board formula tries to guarantee consistency among towns who volunteer to belong to MARS
- xiv. We don't know how many years towns can apply for a waiver but waivers are what accounts for funding decreases, adjustments and hardships within town budgetary constraints
- xv. Library board has not come across this type of unprecedented situation; library board is in place to protect towns from under funding their libraries at the expense of other member towns
- xvi. Unfair to ask Ms. Menard to justify state system she has no input into; we are making tight cut but not unfair cut; is not catastrophic
- xvii. It is required that for any funding under the \$748,000 that we request a waiver with documentation required to the library board by Nov 13, 2009
- xviii. Mr. Streeter reviewed the present budget figures presented in the handout
- xix. Left salary figures at status quo but am still negotiating among bargaining units to mitigate layoffs and work hours
- xx. Expect to have package available by Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>
- xxi. Discussion of numbers on the state side of budget; stayed with worst case scenario on the state senate side; even if we wait until the last day there may not be a state budget available to firm numbers
- xxii. I will be available to discuss budget for the rest of the week
- xxiii. Ms. Barry: I thought Monday we were giving school board tentative number instead of final budget figure; very frustrated about process as we haven't discussed actual budget
- xxiv. When are we going to discuss the budget publicly so everyone can be informed?
- xxv. Schools number was best guess; we do need to go through this line by line and do a full budget review
- xxvi. We get information in bits and pieces instead of in full detail; budget process will probably go until June 30
- xxvii. Mr. Hebert: Frustrated; was more comfortable going line by line and voting last year
- xxviii. We should push budget vote until later in the month; Wednesday's meeting is for information and discussion
- xxix. Mr. Streeter will gather changes by week end to go line by line at next Wednesday's meeting in a better representation that's easier to go through
- xxx. Met school budget figure without using stabilization fund; will have to rescind the vote to return funds to stabilization fund next meeting

- 6. Flag day? Legion will be retiring old flags next Sunday 1 PM
- 7. Mr. Burns moved to adjourn, Mr. Backus seconded; vote was unanimous to adjourn at 2053

Respectfully submitted by  
Ramon Dole  
Recording Secretary