

**Palmer Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2016**

1       **1. Roll Call**

2       The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, June 20, 2016 was called to order at 6:30 pm by  
3       Town Council President Barbara Barry. Present were Town Manager Charles Blanchard,  
4       Councilors Robert Lavoie, Philip Hebert, Barbara Barry, Lorinda Baker, Mary Salzmann and  
5       Donald Blais. Councilor Karl Williams was absent.

6

7       **2. Visitors Comments**

8       None

9       **3. Vote - FY17 Budget**

10       Town resident Shirley Lamb of 36 Saint John Street addressed the Town Council to ask questions  
11       regarding the FY17 Budget. She asked if the mosquito control line item was a new expense. B.  
12       Barry and C. Blanchard gave an overview of the proposed mosquito control program and what  
13       would be involved in adopting the Mosquito Control District.

14       The FY17 Budget resolution was read by R. Lavoie.

15       *Motion to accept the FY17 Operational Budget by R. Lavoie, seconded by L. Baker. Motion*  
16       *passed 6-0.*

17       **4. FY17 Capital Budget**

18       *Motion to appropriate \$14,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Stabilization Account for the*  
19       *replacement of two Garage Doors at the DPW Highway Division garage by M. Salzmann,*  
20       *seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 6-0.*

21       *Motion to appropriate \$22,100.00 from the Capital Improvement Stabilization Account and*  
22       *\$10,000.00 from the Perpetual Care Fund for the purchase of a new Backhoe for the DPW*  
23       *Cemetery Division by P. Hebert, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 6-0.*

24       *Motion to appropriate \$32,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Stabilization Account for the*  
25       *purchase of a new ¾ Ton Pick Up Truck with plow for the Department of Public Works by D. Blais,*  
26       *seconded by R. Lavoie. Motion passed 6-0.*

27       *Motion to appropriate \$13,500.00 from the Capital Improvement Stabilization Account for the*  
28       *purchase of 10 new XP26 Tasers by L. Baker, seconded by D. Blais. Motion passed 5-1 with P.*  
29       *Hebert against.*

30       *Motion to appropriate \$24,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Stabilization Account for the*  
31       *purchase of twelve new Cafeteria Tables for Palmer High School by D. Blais, seconded by L.*  
32       *Baker. Motion passed 6-0.*

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1       **5. FY17 Revolving Funds**

2       *Motion to re-establish the following funds as provided by MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2:*  
3       *Legion Field Fund, not to exceed \$20,000 annually; Recreation Fund, not to exceed \$30,000*  
4       *annually; Plumbing Inspections Fund, not to exceed \$30,000 annually; Gas Inspections Fund, not*  
5       *to exceed \$30,000 annually; Electrical Inspections Fund, not to exceed \$100,000 annually; Senior*  
6       *Center Fund not to exceed \$20,000 annually and the Bulky Day Fund, not to exceed \$20,000*  
7       *annually by D. Blais, seconded by L. Baker. B. Barry thanked C. Blanchard and Finance Director*  
8       *John Kuzmiski for reviewing the revolving account regulations. B. Barry stated that she will*  
9       *abstain from the revolving account vote because she believes that all indirect costs related to*  
10       *the inspection services should be part of the line item budget. Motion passed 5-0-1 with B. Barry*  
11       *abstaining.*

12       *Motion to establish a special revenue fund for Cable Television Public, Educational and*  
13       *Governmental (PEG) Access Programming as provided by MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53F1/2 by R.*  
14       *Lavoie, seconded by P. Hebert. B. Barry noted the change in law that requires franchise fees be*  
15       *held in a PEG Access Special Revenue Fund. Motion passed 6-0.*

16       *Motion to appropriate \$10,000.00 from the Perpetual Care Fund to fund seasonal labor by D.*  
17       *Blais, seconded by P. Hebert. Motion passed 6-0.*

18       **6. Free Cash Expenditures**

19       *Motion to appropriate \$150,000.00 from Free Cash for the replacement of classroom carpets at*  
20       *Old Mill Pond School by M. Salzman, seconded by D. Blais. B. Barry noted that the appropriated*  
21       *amount would cover replacing carpets in half of the school. Additional Free Cash could be*  
22       *appropriated in the next Fiscal Year to complete the school. Motion passed 6-0.*

23       *Motion to appropriate \$40,000.00 from Free Cash to revise the Munis Chart of Accounts by R.*  
24       *Lavoie, seconded by L. Baker. C. Blanchard stated that the goal of the account revision would be*  
25       *to switch to the new account structure in FY18. He noted that the town's CPA consultant would*  
26       *do a majority of work involved in revising the chart of accounts. J. Kuzmiski gave an overview of*  
27       *the services which will be provided by the consultant. B. Barry noted her support for the chart of*  
28       *accounts revision. Motion passed 6-0.*

29       *Motion to appropriate \$25,000.00 from Free Cash for an adaptive reuse of Converse Middle*  
30       *School by D. Blais, seconded by P. Hebert. C. Blanchard stated that the request for funds to study*  
31       *the reuse of the building is not an attempt to force the closure of Converse Middle School, but*  
32       *to study how the town could reuse the building in the event the school committee decided to*  
33       *stop using the building. C. Blanchard stated that the process to study the adaptive reuse of the*  
34       *building and identify funding sources for the reuse would be a long process. B. Barry stated that*  
35       *she will not support funding a reuse study because there has been no public discussion on the*  
36       *long term use of the Converse Middle School building. She stated that the Town Council would*  
37       *need to have a conversation with the School Committee before they should move forward. M.*  
38       *Salzman stated that she would not support the proposal for same reason as B. Barry. R. Lavoie*  
39       *stated that he believes the council should appropriate the funds due to the duration of the*  
40       *process. D. Blais stated that he supports appropriating funds for the re-use study. L. Baker*

1 stated that she supports waiting to appropriate any funds. R. Lavoie stated that the town should  
2 take a proactive approach towards the possible closure of Converse Middle School.

3 *The motion on the floor failed 2 - 4 with D. Blais and R. Lavoie voting in favor.*

4 *Motion to appropriate \$4,000 from Free Cash for the field irrigation system replacement at the*  
5 *School campus by B. Barry, seconded by D. Blais. DPW Director Gerry Skowronek stated that the*  
6 *estimated cost of the irrigation system replacement was between \$3,200 and \$3,900. Motion*  
7 *passed 6-0.*

8 *Motion to appropriate \$2,000 from Free Cash to replace signs at Burleigh Park and Chase Park*  
9 *by B. Barry, seconded by M. Salzmann. G. Skowronek stated that the sign at bottom of hill*  
10 *indicating the location of Chase Park had been replaced with a standard sign. Motion passed 6-0.*

11 *Motion to appropriate \$25,000 from Free Cash to establish a Town Council discretionary fund by*  
12 *B. Barry, seconded by M. Salzmann. B. Barry stated that the funds could be used at the Council's*  
13 *discretion to address vandalism and other related issues throughout town that they felt were*  
14 *priorities. L. Baker stated that her priority would be to install cameras in high crime areas.*  
15 *Motion passed 6-0.*

#### 16 **7. 1st Reading – Community Preservation Act**

17  
18 The first reading of the ordinance adopting the Community Preservation Act was read by R.  
19 Lavoie. The Public Hearing for the Community Preservation Act was set for July 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### 20 21 **8. New Business**

22 Executive Assistant Andrew Golas stated that a three-way stop had been installed at the  
23 Bondsville Main Street Intersection.

24 M. Salzmann asked when the Park Street stop light would be replaced. G. Skowronek stated that  
25 they are waiting on the manufacturer to complete the engineering on the new stop light.

#### 26 **9. Miscellaneous Correspondence**

27 P. Hebert acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

#### 28 **10. Adjournment**

29 *Motion to adjourn by D. Blais, seconded by R. Lavoie. Motion passed 6-0 at 7:40pm.*