

**Palmer Town Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 12, 2021**

**Call to Order**

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, July 12, 2021 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Town Council President Lorinda Baker. Councilors Barbara Barry, Robert Lavoie, Jessica Sizer, Philip Hebert, Karl Williams and Matthew Lemieux were present. Also present was Town Manager Ryan McNutt and Executive Assistant Nicole Parker.

**Visitors Comments:**

None to be discussed.

**New Businesses:**

**6a: Veteran Agent District Proposal**

Veteran Agent Troy Brin proposed forming a District with Monson. Combining the two populations allows T. Brin to become full time and bring on an Administrative Assistant. Monson pays the remaining 4.5 hours for T. Brin and all the Administrative Assistant hours. T. Brin would be Director for both towns, Palmer would take lead providing the Primary Commissioner who could also act as Palmer Designee, while Monson has their own Designee, with a shared Lead Treasurer.

FY2022 Veteran's Budget is \$364,894 including Chapter 115 benefits.

R. Lavoie questioned if Monson covers T. Brin's additional hours and the Administrative Assistant Position for one year or entirely.

Barbara Barry stated that the proposal needs to include information regarding cost sharing of all benefits and determination of how costs would be split.

T. Brin stated Monson covers during the entire partnership.

A brief questions and answers session was held.

**6.b: Land Management Grant Opportunity**

Sarah Fortune, Interim Conservation Agent was approached by the owners of River Walk Parcels located along the Chicopee River in Three Rivers. The owners are interested in selling the (3) parcels identified as: L45 Chicopee River (Map 16-45), L3 Chudy Street (Map 22-3), and Chudy Street (Map 76-78) to be protected by the Conservation Commission due to limited development opportunities. The owners are looking to sell 82 acres for \$485,000, including a donation of \$150,000 in land pending a tax credit and addition of a gravel parking lot off Chudy St and Glen St.

The town would be reimbursed 70% of the cost leaving the town to pay \$100,000 for 82 acres of land.

K. Williams questioned if the land is not viable for development, why is the appraisal so high.

Because the grant application due date is July 14, 2021, and the Palmer project was not ready, it was discussed not applying in this fiscal year so to not block another communities' opportunity to be funded.

R. McNutt stated he will get a second appraisal. And would not support the FY22 grant application being submitted but will revisit for FY23.

A brief questions and answers session was held.

#### **6.d Appointment of Chief Burns to Local Licensing Authority**

R. McNutt appoints Chief Burns. P. Hebert motions to approve, seconded by Matthew Lemieux. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6.e FY2022 Reappointments**

Board of Registrars- Helena Jalbert

Conservation Commission- Dorothy Lawrence and Mike Swiatek

Sealers of Weights and Measures- Susan and Gerald Petzold

M. Lemieux made a motion to accept the reappointments. K. Williams Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6.f Town Council Rules Review**

L. Baker made a motion to table for review in August.

#### **Minutes: June 14, June 21, 2021**

**June 14, 2021:** A motion to accept minutes as amended was made by K. Williams, Seconded by P. Hebert. The motion passed unanimously.

**June 21, 2021:** A motion to table minutes as amended was made by B. Barry, Seconded by R. Lavoie. The motion is tabled until August meeting pending minutes are redone.

#### **Old Businesses:**

R. Lavoie questioned why the cemetery fence went over budget, were there multiple proposals and was a state bid? If so, why was it not a locked in bid?

R. McNutt responded it was a state bid.

P. Hebert questioned if the town is responsible for the Swift River Trail and gazebo in Bondsville. He stated shingles are falling off the roof of the gazebo and there are four tires in the river. Hebert also indicated that although there is a handicap sign there is no access for a wheelchair to get to the trail.

R. McNutt stated he will look into the removal of the tires, replacement of the shingles and evaluate the parking access issue.

**Subcommittee Report:**

None to be discussed.

**Councilor's Roundtable:**

R. Lavoie thanked N. Parker for her service and wished her luck in her new position.

J. Sizer stated Linda Leduc reached out to the Planning Board, who is going to invite the Town Council to the August meeting for a presentation and review of the Master Plan.

L. Baker thanked N. Parker for her service.

**Council Reorganization Vote:**

R. McNutt asked for nominations for Town Council President. Barbara Barry was Nominated by R. Lavoie, R. Lavoie as Town Council Clerk cast the ballot for Barbara Barry as Council President. There were no other nominations.

R. McNutt asked for nominations for Town Council Vice President. M. Lemieux nominated Lorinda Baker, R. Lavoie as Town Council Clerk cast the ballot for Lorinda Baker as Council Vice President. There were no other nominations.

R. McNutt asked for nominations for Town Council Clerk. P. Hebert nominated Robert Lavoie, Barbara Barry as Council Vice-President casted the ballot for Robert Lavoie as Council Clerk. There were no other nominations.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:41PM was made by B. Barry, Seconded by K. Williams. Motion Passed unanimously