

Palmer Town Council

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024

Call to Order:

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, April 8, 2024, was called to order at 6:36 pm by Town Council President Barbara Barry. Councilors Jessica Sizer, Philip Hebert, Matthew Lemieux, Mark Caci, and Karl Williams were present. Also present were Town Manager Brad Brothers and Executive Assistant Marlene Ottomaniello.

Visitor Comments –

Steve Kosmider, Thorndike – Would like to know where the proposed pickleball courts would be, planned use of ARPA Funds for a parking lot, if the WWTP Roof project has started and the recent article about the Bondsville water problem.

Town Council visited the court area and restrooms at Legion Field. Waiting for cost estimates to decide whether or not to move forward with restroom improvements. The courts are being measured to determine how many Pickle Ball Courts can be placed there, will be discussed once price estimates are received. APRA funds were proposed to repair and update the Palmer High/ Old Mill Pond parking lot and install Pickleball courts. APRA funds may now be need used to pay for the repairs to Palmer St. Project construction at the WWTP has already started. The Bondsville newspaper article was an opinion piece, there is no bottled water obligation for any homes.

John Comerford – Points out a dangerous intersection at the corner of Commercial St and High St, suggests a convex mirror to allow a better view of oncoming traffic.

Town Council will have DPW look into possible solutions.

Minutes-

September 18, 2023 - Motion by M. Lemieux, 2nd by P. Hebert Vote: 6-0-0

September 25, 2023 - Motion by M. Lemieux, 2nd by K. Williams Vote: 6-0-0

October 16, 2023 - Motion by P. Hebert, 2nd by M. Lemieux Vote: 6-0-0

No Old Business

New Business

The Town Council would like to thank Interim Town Manager Robert Reed for all going above and beyond in his role.

Introduction of Town Manager Brad Brothers - Town Council would like to welcome Brad as the new Town Manager. He started on April 1, 2024, and hit the ground running. Brad thanks the Town Council for the opportunity, expressing that Palmer has always been special to him.

Palmer Street & Railroad Repair Update –

On March 28, 2024, a sink hole opened causing major damage to Palmer St. and a portion of adjacent Railroad. The source was a collapsed stormwater drain about 40 ft from the sinkhole location. DPW Director Matt Morse did a phenomenal job keeping everyone up to date as crews were working around the clock. On April 2 Railroad repairs were completed, and trains were able to pass through. Palmer St. is now open as repairs were completed as of 6pm today. The Town Council would like to thank everyone involved in the rapid repairs completed on this project. Local contractors dropped whatever they were doing and came right away to help, and residents were very helpful and understanding.

Resolution 2024-08 - To designate Town Manager Brad Brothers as Municipal Hearings Officer for the Town of Palmer.

Motion to designate Brad Brothers as the Municipal Hearings Officer by K. Williams, 2nd by P. Hebert
vote: 6-0-0 passed.

Resolution 2024-09 - Transfer of \$606,590 from Sewer Surplus for Boiler Replacement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Discussion- The town received five bids, the lowest came in at \$606,590 including one add alternate for a pump.

Motion to transfer of \$606,590 from Sewer Surplus for Boiler Replacement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant by P. Hebert, 2nd by J. Sizer *vote: 6-0-0.*

Resolution 2024-10 - Transfer of \$71,710.11 from Free Cash to Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund.

Discussion- There was a 20-year commitment from different pharmaceutical retailers and the town will be receiving x amount of dollars over the course of the next 20 years. New guidance from the state is to create a special revenue account. More groundwork needs to be done on how this money can be utilized.

Motion to Transfer of \$71,710.11 from Free Cash to Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund by M. Caci, 2nd by J. Sizer *vote: 6-0-0 passed.*

Appointment of Brad Brothers to the Liquor License Commission

Motion by M. Lemieux, 2nd by K. Williams *Vote: 6-0-0*

Subcommittee Reports

The Budget Subcommittee meetings will be starting on April 17, 2024.

Misc. Correspondence & Councilor's Roundtable

M. Caci – Disappointed with how the Town event at Amvets for Wreaths Across America was set up. This was supposed to be a collaboration of the Veterans and Recreation department so that proper accounts could be set up for fundraising.

K. Williams - the Palmer Rail Stop Steering Committee is moving along smoothly; the last meeting was very productive.

Town Council would like to encourage the Planning Board to have their meetings televised and recorded. Would also like to have a joint meeting in the future.

M. Lemieux – Discusses consolidating the Water Departments, problems with infrastructure in each village. Having one district would even out rates and money can be put towards infrastructure as a whole. Representative Todd Smola is willing to help write legislation to dissolve the districts, if the town and districts are willing to move forward.

forward Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:34 pm by P. Hebert, 2nd by K. Williams *Vote 6-0-0*