

Palmer Town Council

Meeting Minutes

May 8th, 2023-*ammended*

Call to Order:

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, May 8th, 2023, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Town Council Vice President Jessica Sizer. Councilors, Robert Lavoie, Matthew Lemieux, Philip Hebert, and Karl Williams were present. Also present were Town Manager Ryan McNutt and Executive Assistant Marlene Ottomaniello.

Visitor Comments

Steve Kosmider- St. Would like update on Church Street Bridge timeline of completion.

David Ducomb 1012 High Street - Concerned about collapsed storm drain on Calkins Road allowing storm water onto property he owns, also eroding some farmland and roadways. Asking to have situation properly addressed.

Minutes

February 13th, 2023, *amended*.

Motion by R. Lavoie, 2nd by J. Sizer Vote: 4-0-1

March 13th, 2023

P. Hebert – On Resolution 2023-21, would like it noted who voted no

Motion by M. Lemieux, 2nd by R. Lavoie Vote: 5-0-0

New Business

Appointment – Jan McCoy & Judith Bechard, to Palmer Cultural Council *term* to 2026

Motion by P. Hebert, 2nd by M. Lemieux Vote: 5-0-0

Appointment – Peter B. Izyk, Palmer Conservation Commission *term* to 2026

R. McNutt – Gives quick background. The selectman appointed Peter Izyk to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission. He has been an associate member of the Conservation Commission since 1981, full appointment was in 1984. Applause for his service of 40 plus years of commitment.

Motion by K. Williams, 2nd by M. Lemieux Vote: 5-0-0

Department Head Reports

Town Clerk -Susan Coache

Gives power-point presentation including overview of Clerks office Day to Day, Town Election 2023, Looking Ahead 2024, New Legislation including VOTES Act & Vote by Mail.

Discussion: Town Council & S. Coache – Difficulties, complexity, and challenges of the Vote by Mail process, complying with all the State's new mandates and ensuring cross training employees for voting day.

Warrant for Annual Town Election (June 13th, 2023)

Councilor R. Lavoie reads Warrant.

Motion by K. Williams, 2nd by R. Lavoie Vote: 5-0-0

Resolution NO.: 2023-24

Purpose: To authorize a transfer of \$2,310,860 from the Stabilization Fund for the replacement of Church Street Bridge.

Motion: To transfer \$2,310,860 from the Stabilization Fund (8395000) to Capital Projects fund for the replacement of Church Street Bridge.

Motion by J. Sizer, 2nd by R. Lavoie Vote: 5-0-0

Resolution NO.: 2023-25

Purpose: To appropriate \$49,918 from Sewer Surplus a new forklift for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Motion: To transfer \$49,918 from Sewer Surplus to a Capital Project Fund a new forklift for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Discussion: Current forklift condition deteriorating, repair costs and possible need to rent one. 20-week lead time for new one. **Forklift from the 1970's, extremely aged. Need for the forklift was not included in the original WWTP Capital Plan.**

Motion by J. Sizer, 2nd by R. Lavoie Vote: 5-0-0

Resolution NO.: 2023-26

Purpose: To authorize a transfer from Capital Improvement Stabilization for roof repair at Palmer Public Library.

Motion: To transfer \$15,200 from Capital Improvement Stabilization fund (8395002) to a Capital Projects Fund for roof repair at Palmer Public Library.

Discussion- Emergency repair of the leak that is happening. Other Roof and Gutter repairs and replacements are separate and not considered split bidding.

Motion by R. Lavoie, 2nd by J. Sizer Vote: 5-0-0

Resolution NO.: 2023-27

Purpose: To approve a transfer of funds from Free Cash to offset the Snow and Ice deficit.

Motion: To transfer \$107,706.48 from Free Cash to provide funds for FY 2023 Snow and Ice deficit.

Motion by R. Lavoie, 2nd by M. Lemieux Vote: 5-0-0

Old Business- Update on Lysak property, need pull a demo permit. Thorndike Street turning lane, extend it or put in a different one. Linda Leduc is making the checklist of the stuff needed to make changes with Mass DOT. List of Potential Businesses.

Town Managers Report

R. McNutt reads report to the Town Council

Topics- New signs were installed in Depot Village at the town's public parking. Duke Track was issued the Notice to Proceed. Hyrneiwicz Park- moving along, started pouring the walkways. On May 11th having an introductory meeting with Matthew Francis, he is the incoming Palmer superintendent of schools.

Discussion: Veteran Services committee clarification, was actually a meet and greet with members from Amvets, Legion and Homefront Strong to coordinate Memorial Day activities.

Misc. Correspondence & Councilor's Roundtable

People concerned of other towns causing wear and tear of Wastewater equipment. Capacity at treatment plant originally designed for combined storm and sewer, now separated. Plant needs a level of flow to function efficiently and properly, other towns contribute to the increased flow as well as revenue.

Food Truck Permit Fees, meet with Fire Departments to coordinate a single fee structure.

Reminder that it is Law Enforcement Awareness & Teacher Appreciation week.

Increase the days open and make the town's recycling center more accessible.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:50pm by P. Hebert, seconded by R. Lavoie Vote 5-0-0.