

Palmer Town Council

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2023

Call to Order:

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, December 11, 2023, was called to order at 6:33 pm by Town Council President Barbara Barry. Councilors Philip Hebert, Matthew Lemieux, Mark Caci, and Karl Williams were present. Also present were Interim Town Manager Robert Reed and Executive Assistant Marlene Ottomaniello.

Town Council President Barbara Barry welcomes and introduces Robert Reed as the Interim Town Manager.

Visitor Comments –

Steve Kosmider, Thorndike – Questions the use of outside contractors doing highway work and snowplowing. Town Council directs Mr. Kosmider to contact Mr. Reed with examples for him to look into.

Patricia Conti, Faragon Ave – Would like to say thank you for addressing the storm water runoff coming from Flynt St. Explains there are still issues and asks if there could more done to prevent the road from eroding. Town Council would like her to reach out to Mr. Reed to discuss further.

Old Business

Stormwater Management Ordinance 2024-01

Discussion-No feedback given to Tighe & Bond after ordinance was drafted, Robert Reed has not had enough time to review. Town Council would like to table until it can be fully reviewed.

Motion to table by M. Lemieux, 2nd by M. Caci *vote: 5-0-0.*

Stormwater Management Enterprise

Discussion- Robert Reed points out that the Enterprise Fund being put forward references FY24 and with the advice of legal counsel the process establish this fund would need to start over again. Town council does not support the Stormwater Enterprise.

New Business

Liquor License Commission Appointments

Motion to appoint Robert Reed and Jessica Sizer to the Liquor License Commission by p. Hebert, 2nd by M. Lemieux *vote: 5-0-0.*

Town Treasurer Linda St. Onge retiring January 4, 2024.

The Town Council would like to thank Linda for her years of service to the town and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

Town Manager Appointment of Shelby Lamothe as Town Treasurer

The Town Council congratulates Shelby Lamothe in her new role that will begin on January 5, 2024.

Town Manager Appointment of as Conservation Agent

Town Council welcomes and congratulates Justin Enright as the towns new Conservation Agent.

Town Manager Appointment of Capital Committee

The Capital Committee members recommended by Mr. Reed are:

- *Gabriela Potter - Town Accountant*
- *Matthew Francis - School Superintendent*
- *Christopher Burns - Police Chief*
- *Matthew Morse - Public Works Director*
- *John Latour - Community Development Director*

Motion to appoint Capital Committee members by M. Lemieux, 2nd by K. Williams *vote: 5-0-0.*

Discussion/Vote on Make-up of Town Manager Screening Committee

Discussion – Committee should be a 5–member committee- two Town Council members, one Department Head and two Town Residents. Request for members to be advertised with a deadline of January 4, 2024.

Motion to accept by P. Hebert, 2nd by K. Williams *vote: 5-0-0.*

Discussion/Vote on Community Profile for Town Manager Search

Discussion – Town Council reviewed the community profile for the town manager’s search provided by Community Paradigm.

Motion to accept by P. Hebert, 2nd by K. Williams *vote: 5-0-0.*

Old Business

WWTP Roof Replacement

Discussion – Mr. Reed gives status update to Town Council. The contract has been signed, and the project will be moving forward.

Church St. Bridge

Discussion – Work is still being completed, paving is weather dependent and may be delayed until Spring of 2024.

Duke Track

Discussion – Due to weather and drainage issues, the project will not be completed until Spring of 2024.

Councilor's Roundtable

K. Williams- The PHCC Festival of Trees event and Christmas Tree raffle were successful; everyone had a good time.

Town Council would like to thank Chris Smith and all the volunteers for an amazing job they did for the Light Up Palmer Christmas event at Depot Park it; was a great success.

Christmas on the Common at Hryniewicz Park was unfortunately rained out, Councilor Matt Lemieux was able to send Santa to PHCC for the Festival of Trees event.

M. Lemieux announced that Bondsville Fire Department has posted Santa's Parade route for December 23, 2023.

The Krampus Movie event went well with hot cocoa, gingerbread cookies and help from the fire departments to keep people warm.

Motion to enter Executive Session as listed and adjourn therefrom

M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21 # 3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. THE UNITED PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION (UPSEU), LOCAL 424M (DPW/ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT) (Contract 2022 – 2025)

M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21 # 6. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. Converse Middle School

M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21 # 3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Palmer Motorsports Park

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

Roll Call Vote to enter Executive Session at 7:32 pm

B. Barry- yes, M. Lemieux - yes, P. Hebert- yes, K. Williams- yes, and M. Caci- yes