

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
PALMYRA TOWN HALL
February 22nd, 2024**

At 7:00 p.m., Supervisor Gary Rose called to order the regular Town Board meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, at the Palmyra Town Hall, 1180 Canandaigua Rd, Palmyra, New York.

Supervisor Rose led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Upon roll call, the following Board members were present:

Gary Rose, Supervisor
James Welch, Councilman
Douglas DeRue, Councilman
Todd Pipitone, Councilman

Councilman Brad Cook was absent.

Motion was made by Todd Pipitone to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting which took place on January 25th, 2024.

Second: Doug DeRue Vote: 3 Ayes. Carried

ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance: Mike Catalano (EMS Advisory Board), Chuck & Julie Hartman, Don Wilkins, Casey Carpenter (Times of Wayne County), Sheila & David Koeberle, and Highway Superintendent Mike Boesel.

HEARING

There was no official hearing this evening.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mike Catalano, our representative from the Wayne County EMS Advisory board, reported that FLA is about 90% coverage for us first (over Manchester) and that there were approximately 68 calls in the month. Discussion ensued and Mr. Catalano stated that our numbers may have been better because of coverage from the newly established Wayne County Ambulance that is also assisting.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Kim Lucianovic, Cambier Rd, regarding proposed incentives available for volunteer fire fighters, we will look at this exemption later this year during the budget process.

Kim Lucianovic
Member of East Palmyra Fire Department
2859 Cambier Rd, Newark NY 14513

Town Clerk, Patty Peterson
Palmyra Town Office
1180 Route 21S
Palmyra, NY 14522

Re: Real Property Tax Law § 466

Dear Town Officers,

In recent months, I read that the county has approved an incentive for Volunteer Fire Fighters that NY State has offered. The incentive was for Volunteer Fire Fighters, home owners living within their town's fire districts to receive up to 10% off their Town and/or School Tax bills. I have looked into this arrangement, and the school districts and towns would not lose revenue, since the amount of the credits would be redistributed throughout the taxpayers in the district.

As of my last research, only a few towns have taken advantage of this provision for their volunteers, and Palmyra was not one of them. I wonder if Palmyra has considered this?

In view of the loss of one Wayne County Volunteer Fire Fighter, I felt this was the time for us to consider it again. The county mourns his death, and some officials attended the funeral, as I did, with at least 150 Fire Fighters.

I am a member of East Palmyra Fire District, so when this is brought to committee for consideration, please remember that there are 2 fire districts and departments in our town. In my company, there are maybe 22 members, however only half of them respond to emergencies. The town can decide whether to provide for all those (former supporters) or just those who currently serve. Some are lifetime members, having served for decades, but now aging has prevented active participation. And of those members who respond to calls, half of them either rent or pay taxes to other townships. So for us, we are talking a benefit for maybe 6 or so members, but we don't want to be forgotten.

Palmyra Fire Department is larger than East Palmyra, and though we respond to calls with them often, I do not know the numbers who could benefit from this Tax Law § 466 provision. Even if we are considering 20 in total between the two fire departments, the benefit would be greatly appreciated! We risk our lives, we leave our warm homes in the winter or in the middle of the night, and a couple members take time off work (losing earnings) to help our community. Our only financial benefit is a \$200 credit on our state tax return.

Paid Fire Districts cost the community much more than citizens want to pay for taxes.

Volunteer Fire Districts, though more cost effective, are struggling. All through the nation we find that districts are unable to attract new volunteers. Drive from town to town and see the signs at fire stations asking for new members. The economy is a major factor. Making better incentives, like tax breaks might tip the scales.

Where my thoughts go is, "If the town truly appreciates the vital emergency service rendered to the community by unpaid volunteers, and there is a provision that costs the town nothing (except some extra paperwork), why doesn't the town take the option seriously?"

Please give this some thought and research the possibilities. I and my team mates would be very grateful for such an incentive!

Sincerely,



Kim Lucianovic

PUBLIC INPUT

None for this evening.

Board Note - the following will now appear on all agendas.

**If you are attending a Town Board Meeting have not signed up for Public Participation Section of the Town Board Meeting pursuant to the rules which have been established (24 hrs prior to start of meeting), then you will not be able to express your opinion. As a courtesy to those who attend the Board Meeting, you are requested not to interrupt the meeting, and refrain from conversation that would interfere with those attending being able to hear the Board transact its business. If in fact someone interferes with the meeting or the conversation with other spectators should require a warning and it is ignored, the person could be charged with Disorderly Conduct. For public hearings, speaking will be limited to topics on the agenda.*

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**Supervision: Animal Control, Human Resources, Justices, and Finance:**

- Supervisor Gary Rose

1. Debris removal in the Town: Possible proposal that we open leaf and brush pickup in the town for the 2024 year to one week in spring, again one week in fall, (lawn debris, not clearing woods!) and then revisit this proposal to see if we can continue this way of handling brush or discontinue it completely. The board feels that this should be revisited annually to be sure it is not being abused. Supervisor Rose asked for a motion to approve this.

AGENDA ITEM (out of order)

Jim Welch made the motion to approve town highway department to provide brush and debris pickup, townwide, for one week in the spring 2024 and one week in the fall of 2024, timing, and dates to be determined by the highway superintendent, with the understanding that this will be revisited to see if it is to continue.

Second: Todd Pipitone Vote: 3 Ayes. Carried

2. Old Landfill Update: We have met with LaBella this week and learned that the final investigatory reports have been submitted to the DEC on time, and we are now again waiting for the DEC response which could take weeks to months.

3. LED Street Lighting for the Town: On agenda later is the LED Conversion Agreement between NYSEG and the Town of Palmyra. This includes the unexpired life of the lights cost to the Town to be \$1,278.22 for a total of 33 lights. The annual savings is estimated at \$5,202.00, with a return on investment after only two months!

Public Works: Highway Department, Equipment and Facilities:**-Councilman James Welch****1. Highway report for February:****HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
FOR TOWN BOARD MEETING
2/22/24**

Since the 1/25/24 Town Board meeting we have completed the following work:

- **Plowing/Sanding** –To date this winter season we have made a total of 40 trips out of the barn.
A comparison to this point of the past 5 winter seasons is below:
 - February 2023 – 41 trips.
 - February 2022 – 71 trips.
 - February 2021 – 66 trips.
 - February 2020 - 78 trips.
 - February 2019 – 99 trips.
- **Salt Orders** – So far for the month of February we have ordered 300 tons of salt. For the winter season we have ordered 1013 tons of our 2500-ton allotment, or approximately 41% of our allotment.
- **Tree Work** – On 1/25 and 2/2, we performed tree removal with Empire Tree assistance. These were dangerous, dead or leaning trees over the road that were too big for our crew to handle. We performed this work first on Hazen Lane, Cambier Road, Harris Road, and Parker Road. The second date, we were on Hanagan, Galloway and Garnsey Roads. On 2/14, we also cleaned-up down trees on S.Townline Road and P.Gibson Road.
- **Hauling** – The week of 2/6 was mild and we took advantage by stripping 3 trucks and starting to clean up our lower lot from various material piles. We hauled various materials with 4 trucks for 3 full days, including nearly half our spoil pile to help with more recoverable side slopes on S.Creek Road.
- **Ditching** – We started several ditching projects, including on Vault Road, S.Creek Road and Leroy Road.
- **SAM Grant** – Late last month, Supervisor Rose, CEO-Sheridan and I met with vendors regarding our Sprinkler/Fire Alarm project. At this time, we still don't have all the information we were looking for but should have more information for next month's meeting.
- **E.Foster RAW Water Project** – On 2/7/24, the Village held a Public Information Meeting on the E.Foster water project. On Monday 2/12/24, the crew started installation work. As of today, the first phase of the

project is complete, from Hse #354 to the Water Plant, which is about 650 LF of the roughly 1500 LF project. Next week, the crew will continue with Phase 2, which starts within the Town limits near Hse 3226 back into the Village to Hse #354.

- **Sanitary Sewer Project Update** – Over the past several weeks, Villager has been working on the canal crossings for the 8” and 24” pipes. They are nearing completion of this task. This week, the Villager intends to start fusing both 8” and 24” pipe, stringing it out along and utilizing the northbound lane of Kent Street for this pipe to be installed under the canal. They also continue with manhole structure installations on Rt.21.

Any questions, comments or concerns I will be glad to answer.

The payloader that was ordered last year is in Rochester waiting for the highway guys to go over it, and we should have it within a few weeks. Also, there will be approval asked for computers on the agenda later this evening.

Human Services: Town Clerk, Archives, and Town Hall Facility

- **Councilman Bradley Cook (absent)**

1. Town Clerk Report for February: The Town Clerk is attending the Association of Towns meeting and will combine her February and March reports.

Town Building and Grounds Committee: – Councilmen Cook & DeRue and Town Clerk Irene Unterborn

1. Building Update: Councilman DeRue reported that the town hall committee has had several meetings, getting quotes and will hopefully present to the board at the March meeting. Mike Boesel and Mr. Cook spoke to discuss what project the highway department will be able to accomplish themselves, for things like tree trimming and removal of bushes. Mr. Cook also spoke with contractors regarding concrete work that will need to be done on the front entrance. Mr. DeRue met with two different painting contractors to paint the large meeting room, assessor’s office, and tourism room.

Town Development: IT & Phones, Strategic (Comprehensive) Plans, Code Enforcement/Planning Board and Security: - Councilman Todd Pipitone

1. Comprehensive Plan: Public Workshop #1 is scheduled for March 6th, from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at the Palmyra Community Library. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is also a survey about your community, and your visions for the Town and Village of Palmyra. Hard copies of the survey are available at the Town & Village Halls, or by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/PalmyraCommunitySurvey> or by scanning the QR code:



2. CEO Report for February: Code Enforcement Officer Pat Sheridan submitted a report to the Board Members that includes a list of building permits and certificates of compliance for January 24th, 2024, through February 20th, 2024.

3. Minutes from Zoning Board Meeting from February 8, 2024: Minutes from the February 8th, 2024, Zoning Board Meeting were shared with the board.

4. Minutes from Planning Board Meeting from February 12, 2024: Minutes from the February 12th, 2024, Planning Board Meeting were shared with the board.

Mr. Pipitone pointed out that both boards voted not to change the RV law that was discussed at the January town board meeting.

Government Operations: Assessor, Fire Protection Contracts, Youth & Aging, and Historians: - Councilman Doug DeRue

1. Assessor’s Report for February:

**REPORT TO THE TOWN BOARD
FROM THE ASSESSOR’S OFFICE
February 2024**

We collected about 50 % of the Limited Income Senior Exemption Renewals and sent a second reminder notice on 02/14 to those who have not responded.

We also sent letters to Seniors that NYS identified as possibly being income-eligible to remind them of this exemption and asked them to contact our office to see if they qualified. We were able to meet with several residents and review the new income changes. About a third of them did qualify and will be able to take advantage of the exemption.

We have received 83/122 Agricultural Renewals, 68%.

We have processed the January sales. 3 Village and 8 Town sales. There are 2 Parcel split requests.

The following are the sales/transfers for January.

January 2024 Sales/Transfers						
MAP #	HS #	STREET		SALE \$	SALE DATE	TAV 2024
65113-00-408746-89	3147	Route 21 N	**	0	1/17/2024	190,900
67113-00-205020-89	2084	Hydesville	**	512,000/5	1/24/2024	37,400
67112-00-2256-89		Hydesville	**	512,500/5	1/24/2024	47,900
64111-11-584682-01	146	West Main		165,000	1/18/2024	107,600
64111-11-633673-01	113	Canandaigua		135,000	1/10/2024	100,300
64111-12-835671-01	113	Mill	**	130,000	1/17/2024	102,300
64111-10-394660-01	121	Stafford	**	35,000	11/22/2023	124,400
64111-12-760595-01	312	Prospect		155,000	1/5/2024	130,900
64111-11-	134	W Charlotte		202,500	12/29/2024	143,700

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594508-01					
64111-11-728525-01	217	Walker	167,500	1/19/2024	135,800
64111-15-670448-01	123	E Foster	170,000	12/05/2023	134,800
TAV - Total Assessed Value			** Indicates a Non Arm's Length sale/Transfer		

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Paula Ruthven

INFORMATION

There is another Electronics Recycling Event scheduled and hosted by the Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District. This will work a little differently than ours did as you will have to call them at 315-946-7200 to reserve a spot on either February 25th or February 29th, 2024.

TOWN AGENDA ITEMS

1. Purchase of 2 Dell Computers: Jim Welch made the motion to approve two Dell computers, and 4 monitors for the highway department, not to exceed \$2,252.00. (\$1760.00 for the computers and \$492.00 for monitors).

Second: Todd Pipitone Vote: 3 Ayes

Councilman Welch explained that the computers are very old and troublesome, and the necessary double monitors for each will not work with them. The money comes from the \$1,252.00 garage equipment line (which will be adjusted) as well as \$1,000.00 that was budgeted for computers.

2. Approve: LED Conversion Agreement between NYSEG and Town of Palmyra: Todd Pipitone made the motion to approve the Supervisor to sign the LED Conversion Agreement between NYSEG and Town of Palmyra, with the cost for 33 LED Style Streetlights not to exceed \$1,280.00.

Second: James Welch Vote: 3 Ayes

MOTION TO APPROVE CLAIMS AND EXPENDITURES

Todd Pipitone made the motion to approve claims and expenditures for February 2024: Vouchers #2024-144 through #2024-258 totaling \$651,605.82.

Second: Doug DeRue Vote: 3 Ayes. Carried

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 7:18 PM, Todd Pipitone made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Doug DeRue Vote: 3 Ayes. Carried

Respectfully submitted,
as reported by Deputy Clerk Heidi Jarvis,

Irene Unterborn
Palmyra Town Clerk

NEXT Meeting:
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 28th, 2024
7:00 PM – Palmyra Town Hall