

VILLAGE OF PALMYRA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 5, 2025 6:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Perry, Denniston, Luke and Parkison. Trustee Leo and Attorney St. Martin was absent.

OTHER ATTENDEES: David Augustine, Kammy Catchman, Ryan Darling (Fire Dept), Kyle DiNardo (Police Chief), Wayne Eidman (Fire Dept),, Douglas Fogal (Fire Dept), Georgeann Graham, David Husk, Mary Anne Smith-Williams, Linda Valley, Tracy Vanderwall (Ann Guest left after she spoke) Others were there but did not sign in.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Perry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Husk- American Flag and Playground

Thank you for the three minutes to discuss two topics. Why is this flag discussion placement trying to divide our community on social media? That's the big question. I have done research on the last 37 years and five months going back to Mayors Elliot, Wilson, Gunkler, Daly, Piccola, myself, and you, Rick, for five months, and their boards. Where the flag has been displayed behind the judges's bench. In 2008, the room was reconfigured because of an egress for judges. So even some board members don't realize that was where the judge was, that's where we sat. Mayor Perry, have you ever denied moving the flag? But obviously, I answered my own question, No, you haven't. We have had senators, assemblymen, United States Congressmen, numerous Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, VFW, American Legion members and Commanders, that attended or presented at board meetings. All turned to Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. No disrespect was ever attended. I served 12 years on the Palmyra-Macedon Board of Education The meetings were held in the LGI room. The flag was at the side of the room. Again, no disrespect intended. I was proud to serve the United States Navy in a special unit. that only a few people knew what I did. Some are in this room. It was an honor to represent falling members who served this great nation. Under no circumstance would I ever disrespect the flag or the memory of our servicemen and women, or what the flag stood for. What I do find disrespectful to our flag and what it stands for is for those that cannot recite the pledge or remove their coverings when it be reciting. I believe that those that lie underneath the flag rest with honor, and our respect is 100% deserved. Is it an inconvenient system that they may have to turn to pledge allegiance? That's up for them to answer. I believe most veterans, gold and blue Star family members, would be honored just to show the respect of the flag and say the pledge of allegiance, no matter to where it's placed. If you'd like to fact check some of my issues, you can go to you know, it's like United States flag code, Title 36, Chapter 10, Sections 175 and 176, the word shall is a mandate, should, is a recommendation. The second topic did, I'd like to talk about is the proposed playground. Sometimes grants, as we all know, aren't what they appear to be. If the board is looking for private fund raising, instead of taxpayer dollars, good luck, and hopefully, hopefully you will achieve your goal. Thank you for your time.

Ann Guest- American Flag

I was asked to come tonight by Mr. Husk. Apparently, there's been a little bit of discord about where the flag is and so forth. When George Washington was president, the first thing he did was the established an organization called the Old Guard, and that's still exists today. The Old Guard is the one who sets the requirements for the American flag, even to the point of when a serviceman dies, the flag is folded, it's in a tri-corner. It's done that way to represent the hats that Washington and his men wore during the Revolutionary War. To me, and I'm a Navy veteran and also a Gold Star mother. To me, it's a darn privilege to be able to say a pledge of allegiance. We are very lucky we are not in the country where we've got handcuffs on and leggings on, and we cannot not even see the flag of our country. It has always been under the Legions idea that as long as the flag can be seen whether you have to turn sideways, which we have to do the Legion sometime, or whether it faces you had on, you do it. It's a darn privilege to salute the flag, no matter where it stands. It's all I have to say. Thank you.

Kammy Catchman- American Flag

Good evening. I'm Kammy Catchman and I'm here tonight. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My topic, centers around the American flag, so I'd like to give a lesson on the meeting sewn into our American flag. American flag's designed is rich with symbolism, each element carrying a deliberate meaning rooted in the nation's history and values. The 13 horizontal stripes, seven red and six white, represent the original 13 colonies that declared independence from Britain. Red symbolizes valor and

bravery. White signifies purity and innocence, and blue stands for vigilance, perseverance and justice. These colors drawn from heraldic, tradition, were described in Charles Thompson's 1782 Report to Congress on the Great Seal, which influenced the flag's design. The blue canton, or the Union, in the upper left-hand corner holds 50 white pointed stars, each represented in one of the current states. The stars are arranged in nine offset rows, alternating between six and five stars, symbolizing unity and federal structure of the nation. The number of stars has grown with the country from 13 in 1777 to 50 today, reflecting territorial expansion and statehood editions with occurrence design set by executive Order 1834 and 1959. The flag evolution governed by the continental Congress and later acts, for example, the Flag Act of 1777, reflects a balance of tradition and adaptation. It embodies ideals of liberty, self-governance, and resilience. Though its meaning can evoke varied interpretations, patriotism, sacrifice, or even protest, depending on the context. I speak of the rich tradition, the American flag symbolizes, and of the sacrifices made defending our country under our American flag, because it is important to give the respect that's due. And I also had a brother that served in the Coast Guard, and I also had a father-in-law that was part of the National Guard at Fort Drum. I emailed Ms. Wetherby on April 16th, asking if the board would consider bringing the flag to the front of the room, where board members presented. I've always wondered why it wasn't at the front of the room during the public meeting. It has bothered me why community members had to salute the flag at the back of the room courtside. I figured my request would be honored, an oversight that would be immediately corrected. However, it seemed like this wasn't something the board was willing to address. Needless to say, after hearing nothing out of any board members, I subsequently reached out to the James R. Hickey Post 120 in Palmyra and asked them what the protocol was for the American flag placement during the local government meeting. A member gave me a detailed explanation on the flag placement. The first being that the American flag should always be placed in a position of honor, typically to its own right. viewers left. This means that if you are facing the flag from the audience's perspective, it should be on your left. There were a list of guidelines on general placement, which I forwarded on to Ms. Wetherby on April 22nd, asking that she passed it along to board members. Furthermore, I emailed Senator Pam Helming on April 22nd, and Assemblyman, Brian Manktelow on April 23rd, with regard to flag protocol. On April 24th, I emailed both the Mayor and the Village Clerk asking for the courtesy of a response regarding my request that our flag be properly represented during local government meetings. Again, I received no response from the board members or Ms. Wetherby, the Village Clerk. Finally, I received a message from Senator Pam Helming on April 25th, and I want to play this for you.

Mayor Perry: It's over three minutes, the three minutes are up. Ms. Catchman we have three minutes for everybody. **K. Catchman:** Okay, but I'm gonna play this anyways, so I'm sure that nobody will mind if I hear. **Mayor Perry:** You'll be asked next time when you want to talk, it's three minutes. That's the way it works. Out of due respect for the rest of the people.

K. Catchman played a voice mail message she identified as Pam Helming. (Only pieces of the message were caught by the recorder based on the quality and distance. The message said she would reach out to the Mayor to discuss the issue.)

K. Catchman: That was all I wanted was just some response, and you couldn't even give me a response acourtesy of a response. So that's on you.

Georgeann Graham- WWTP and Playground

I just had some questions on the wastewater, project. came to my attention that the wastewater has a million dollars of village residents money, because we were collecting too early. We've been paying for five years already, and I just wanted to know what's going to be done with that money. and how much money is in our reserves that we already have for the sewer? I don't think all that million dollars needs to go into the reserves. On the website for the wastewater, it mentions nothing of financing, which you keep saying that it's updated, which it's not. because I reached out to Marty Aman, and our term hasn't even started for the 30 years. We've been paying five years, we haven't even started the 30 year term yet. We have no idea how much is going to cost us. Also, they don't have the interest rate, they will not secure the interest rate on the loan, and all these calculations were done with the interest rate of 2 to 3%, because I went to talk to Marty Aman back in 2023. talked to him and all these figures were projected within two to three interest rate. And right now, the interest rates are much higher than that. Okay, so the playground. Is there a secured grant, and will it cost to taxpayers money? All I keep hearing is if you've got the grant, as far as I know, you don't have the grant. The last I knew, you got that money for a proposal, not a grant for the whole playground. Two, was there ever a study done on the ages of children in the community? I know that the enrollment for next year for pre K is down. So do we need to have that one to three year old playground in there? Will there be cameras installed at this? And is that going to be a cost for the taxpayers? What is the liability that the village will have in the new playground, especially with a zip line? Is the insurance gonna go up because you're putting a new playground in. Will there be lighting installed? Will this be a cost of taxpayers? Will there be set hours for this playground and will the bathrooms be open? Who's going to monitor that? Who's going to open the bathrooms? If you have a playground, you're probably going to have bathrooms. Will older kids be allowed to do this. Was there ever a study done asking the community what they wanted to do with that playground? I mean, it's great to have it for children, but what about the older kids, 10 to 15 year olds? And what about adults who want to have a pavilion?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion was made by Trustee Parkison, seconded by Trustee Denniston to approve the minutes from April 21, 2025. Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED.
Motion was made by Trustee Denniston, seconded by Trustee Parkison to approve the minutes from April 24, 2025. Vote, 3 ayes, abstain, Trustee Luke. CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT Motion was made by Trustee Luke seconded by Trustee Denniston to approve payment of 12A vouchers 25-00805 to 25-00851 for \$135,138.89 Vote, 3 ayes, CARRIED. (\$56, 285 will be reimbursed through CHPS)

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

On 5/3 the Board was given: April Reserve and Capital Project Reports
Revenue and Expense report
Bank account and CD balance report

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Leo: Excused

Trustee Luke: spoke with Irene Unterborn and the plan is to do a Movie in the Park on June 20th of the original Snow White. She will not update on WWTP as it is under old/new business
Trustee Denniston: Fire Department 38 calls and 11 mutual aid call. The Average response time, six minutes, seven seconds, The two new members, Chris Kendrick, and Dylan Fogal. were outfitted yesterday and actually got toned out for a chimney fire so they were able to first hand. As mentioned at the last meeting, the Farmers' Market will be starting June 4th, from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Posters are done for this, as are the applications for the vendors. We are starting to get vendors signed up. We'll run through October 29th and for any questions, Trustee Parkison and Sheila Koeberle at the library have been very involved.

Trustee Parkison: Code Enforcement- There were five building permits issued. one C of O issued, one special permit request, five property violation letters sent out and eight field inspections done. There was some advertising signs removed from utility poles. Veterans- American Legion Mother's Day Chicken BBQ Fundraiser is on May 11 make sure to support. Also, May 17th, is Armed Forces Day. On this day, Americans are encouraged to think and honor current and form of military members and to recognize the contributions to the defense of our nation. Armed Forces Day is a reminder of the importance of our military and the sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms in way of life. On May 22nd, 23rd and 24th, American Legion will be due distribution of Poppies. It's another way that they do fundraising. They are still working out details for the Memorial Day Parade and are hoping to have more information once plans are finalized at the next meeting.

Mayor Perry: Building and Grounds-The Cemetery had tree damage as well as two or three trees around the village. Full mowing on all the locations, getting ready Memorial Day. Town cemeteries have all been mowed. Gary's been working on the playground project, and they've been mulching. Highway department-Throop Street and Fayette Street's catch basins and storm sewers are just about done. The last thing we have left to do is paving. The raw water line that we talked about several weeks ago, they got 400 feet of the first part of it done, and I believe, next week, they'll be working at the remainder of that, weather permitting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief DiNardo: April had 609 call for service, 181 traffic stops and 2 DWIs.

There were complaints of people passing school buses on Thursday. We had officers out there every day and at least one ticket was issued every day since Thursday. There is some State grant money left so he will have details coming up this week and next week. An arrest was made on the damage to our patrol vehicle, and restitution was requested. The 24 tires surplussed at the last meeting are listed on the public auction website with the Highway Department. Playground by Design was a big success and he thanked the Mayor and Officer Bryant for being part of that. Coffee with a Cop took place Saturday and seemed to be going pretty well. It was with Macedon as well as the Fire Department.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

ADDENDUM #2 TO IMA FOR PROPOSED PARTIAL RETURN OF COLLECTED FUNDS (WWTP) RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Macedon, Town of Marion, Town of Palmyra, Town of Walworth and Village of Palmyra (collectively, the "Participating Municipalities") and the Wayne County Water And Sewer Authority (the "Authority") previously entered into that certain Amended And Restated Wastewater Treatment System Improvements And Services Agreement, dated and effective as of April 1, 2020 (the "2020 IMA"), which provides for the design, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of a regional wastewater collection and treatment system (collectively, the "Project") by the Authority for the benefit of the Participating Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 IMA was modified by Addendum No. 1, dated and effective as of November 4, 2022, to, among other things, approve an increase in the estimated Project Cost to \$110 Million, authorize the Authority to close on a Replacement Funding Package with EFC and proceed with implementation of the Project based on an extended Project schedule (the 2020 IMA as amended by Addendum No. 1, the “IMA”); and

WHEREAS, based on the current Project schedule, closing on the Permanent Project Financing and the need for the Authority to commence debt service payments to EFC in connection with the Permanent Project Financing have been extended with the result that (i) the Authority began collecting Capital Charges earlier than needed and (ii) the amount of Capital Charges that the Authority has collected and is currently holding exceeds the amount that is necessary for the current anticipated debt service schedule with EFC (collectively, “Excess Capital Charges”); and

WHEREAS, the Participating Municipalities have requested, and the Authority has agreed, with the consent of EFC and the approval of the Authority’s bond counsel, to refund to the Participating Municipalities a portion of the Excess Capital Charges collected to date, by entering into Addendum No. 2 to the IMA (a copy of which is attached to these Resolutions), with the intent that such amounts may be used by each of the Participating Municipalities to establish reserves for the payment of future Capital Charges; otherwise provide for the future payment of the cost of Required Repairs in excess of the applicable Funding Thresholds under their respective sewer system leases with the Authority; or for any other lawful municipal purpose consistent with the character of such funds and the manner in which they were billed and collected by each of the Participating Municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver Addendum No. 2 to the IMA, to be effective June 1, 2025.

Motion to approve this addendum was made by Trustee Luke, seconded by Trustee Denniston Vote, 3 ayes, CARRIED.

Mayor Perry asked C-T Wetherby to explain what the addendum means. By us accepting this resolution, the Village is in favor to have the funds returned but all five municipalities must agree. Informally, all five municipalities seem to be in agreement with this addendum but not all have passed the addendum as far as she knows. It is meant to be used towards future WWTP payments or sewer reserves for those municipalities that have depleted them.

The financing for the WWTP can’t be set until the project is finished. When that happens, the WCWSA qualifies for ½ off the current interest rate at that time. The accounting firm working with WCWSA has always been very conservative about the financials.

Mayor Perry said even though discussions need to be had, that C-T Wetherby and his thoughts are to use the funds, should they be returned, towards future WWTP payments. This way we can keep payments at \$325 for as long as possible. If we get back what they are proposing, it would enable the Village to continue collecting at \$325 for another five, maybe six years. We are currently the lowest payment right now in the five municipalities.

MOTION TO MOVE JUNE 2 BOARD MEETING TO THURSDAY, MAY 29 to assist with fiscal year end was made by Trustee Luke, seconded by Trustee Denniston. Vote, 3 ayes, CARRIED. This will be sent to the Time of Wayne County and be posted on the Village website.

MOTION TO GIVE CLERK-TREASURER WETHERBY PERMISSION TO WRITE A LETTER OF INTENT FOR WATER METERS to Schmidt’s Wholesale for the purchase of meters/endpoints was made by Trustee Parkison, seconded by Trustee Luke. Vote, 3 ayes, CARRIED. As discussed previously the Village’s water meters are 15 years old when they typically last from 10-15 years.

DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE COURT the current Village Justice’s term is up at the end of December 2026. C-T Wetherby wanted to discuss the proposal to abolish the Village Court Justice position so that it would go into the Town. It would save the Village about \$60,000-\$70,000. The current Village/Town Court Clerk is going to be retiring at the end of this December and they will have to be replacing that position. The Village Justice is the sole decision maker in hiring and is trying to get someone to start in October for training. Though it isn’t the point of the Court, we’ve seen a real downturn of any kind of income due to NY State laws. The Court can’t suspend somebody’s license for not paying the fine.

The Mayor asked Chief DiNardo his insights. He said it doesn’t matter to the department if they are writing tickets to the Village or Town. It would save a significant amount of money and there would be no downside.

MOTION TO CHANGE VILLAGE CLERK’S OFFICE HOURS ON FRIDAYS TO APPOINTMENT ONLY STARTING JULY 1 was made by Trustee Parkison, seconded by Trustee Denniston Vote, 3 ayes, CARRIED. The Clerk-Treasurer will still be working in the office and answering the phone, but the office will not be open to the public unless by appointment. This will save on payroll for a day in which Court offices are already closed and is currently low traffic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting will be May 19, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Village Hall. Motion was made by Trustee Luke and seconded by Trustee Denniston to adjourn at 6:41 pm. Vote, 3 ayes. CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Wetherby
Clerk Treasurer

NEXT MEETING: May 19, 2025- Regular Meeting

**Please see handout at sign in table with information on Public Comment Rules for Village Meetings