

**VILLAGE OF PALMYRA**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**APRIL 21, 2025      6:00 PM**  
**PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** David Augustine, Chris Bucknam, Nick Dandino, Ryan Darling, Police Chief Kyle DiNardo, Georgeann Graham, David Husk, Jayden Shulla, Tracy Vanderwall and Caroline Grasso of the Times of Wayne County

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC HEARING** The following items were read aloud to the attendees by Clerk-Treasurer Wetherby.

What is a Public Hearing? Many statutes require the holding of a public hearing before a public body (Village Board) may take a specific action. Perhaps the most well-known public hearing requirement is for enacting or possibly changing local laws.

Why are public hearings required? When attempting to divine the requirements for conducting public hearings, it is necessary to consider the two most important reasons for requiring public hearings.

- To ensure that the Village Board charged with taking action on a particular issue is fully aware of the public's sentiment about the proposed action.
- To give the public an opportunity to voice their concerns, opposition, or support for the proposed action.

The difference between a Regular meeting and a public hearing meeting is a regular meeting, is the convening of a quorum of a board for the purpose of conducting business in public. A Public Hearing is a meeting of the board, at which the public must be allowed to comment only on the matter of the public hearing.

May restrictions be placed on public comment? Anyone who wishes to speak at the public hearing must be given the opportunity to speak. However, there are some restrictions that the board may place upon participation at the public hearing. The Board generally must limit comments to the topic of the public hearing. Also, the board may impose reasonable time limits on those requesting to speak on the topic of hearing.

Answering questions at the Public Hearing: Members of the village board do not have to answer questions or give analysis at a public hearing. It is to hear comments regarding the topic, in order to make a decision moving forward.

Guidelines for Public comments at a Public Hearing are as follows:

\*Speaker must be recognized by presiding officer to approach the podium.

\*Speaker must give their name and address.

\*Speaker must limit their remarks to 3 minutes privilege of the floor,

\* Speaker may not yield any remaining time they may have to another speaker.

\* Board members may, with the permission of the presiding officer, interrupt a speaker during their remarks for clarification purposes only.

The following was published in the April 12<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Times of Wayne County*.

The Village of Palmyra will hold a public hearing (in conjunction with the regular board meeting) on Monday, April 21st, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The hearing will be held in the Trustee's Room of the Village Hall, 144 East Main Street, Palmyra, Wayne County, New York.

The hearing is for the purpose of allowing the Village residents to provide the Board of Trustees written or oral comments or ask questions on the tentative 2025-2026 Budget of the Village funds.

Annual compensation proposed to be paid to each member of the Village Trustees is \$5975; and to the Mayor \$7470. The Trustee serving as Deputy Mayor receives a \$500 annual stipend for the additional duties. A copy of the "Tentative 2025-2026 Budget" will be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Village Clerk during normal office hours.

Mayor Perry opened the Public Hearing at 6:34pm and asked if anyone wanted to speak.

**Georgeann Graham:** I still am not happy with you guys giving yourselves raises. Right now, with the budget, expenses that exceed the revenues with this budget. So why would you give yourself a raise? Why aren't the clerk hours going down in the Village if part of the work that they performed is being sent to the Wayne County Water Authority? Why are taxpayers paying health insurance for part time employees? Nobody, I mean in the private sector, there's nobody that pays 100% anymore. I don't believe this municipality should be paying 100% for healthcare. And I don't believe we should be paying for part-time people that only work 20 hours. And also, where is the revenue line A2665 on the budget. The one that you have on the meeting for tonight

**Trustee Luke and C-T Wetherby** both located it on the budget saying it was for the old Fire Truck that was sold under Sales of Equipment A2665(FIRE)

**Mayor Perry:** Rebecca, can you tell me what village employees have 100% of insurance, because I'm not aware of any of them. Unless I missed something. **C-T Wetherby:** Zero. No, you didn't miss anything. There are no there are none with being paid at 100%. **C-T Wetherby:** One, because they were hired before the union contract was changed. **Mayor Perry:** Where do the rest fall? **C-T Wetherby:** 80%.? **Mayor Perry:** Can the % ever go higher? **C-T Wetherby:** No. **Mayor Perry:** what do they start at? **C-T Wetherby:** 70%. **Mayor Perry:** Thank you for the clarification. Would anybody else like to speak?

**G. Graham:** What about part time employees?

**C-T Wetherby:** We have one who has been here 21 years and didn't get health insurance paid for at 80% until she was here 15 years, and she will not be here much longer. There will be nobody replacing her that will get health insurance.

**Mayor Perry:** So, are there any other part time employees that received any health insurance?

**C-T Wetherby:** No, it's strictly in the handbook that the only {part-time} people allowed are after 15 years in the same position that you are eligible for health insurance.

**Mayor Perry:** Capped at 80%?

**C-T Wetherby:** Correct.

**Mayor Perry:** Thank you for the clarification.

Mayor Perry asked if anybody else would like to speak.

**David Husk:** I'm not gonna dwell on any personal issues. It's not that kind of place. My understanding that the state's tax cap that you represented was \$10.24 before the budget season. That's what the state says you could go to. You worked hard; you brought it down to \$9.99. Now tonight, I just heard Rebecca say it's down to \$9.93. That's 31 cents. Well, people don't understand. That's 31 under the tax cap, which relates to probably \$3 per thousand dollars assessed value. I know you all know that. I'm not a social media CPA. I'm not gonna pretend that I am, but the budget work is not just a two-month ordeal. It's a whole year that you all deal with every month of every year, every week she's working on figures. People talk about my tax rate is gonna go way up because of the assessment. People gotta realize this budget doesn't reflect an assessment because you don't do the assessment. The town does, not the village. And showing that you're 31 cents under the tax cap, in my mind, is what I've repeated two weeks ago or two meetings ago, you're fiscally responsible, you have been fiscally responsible for the last 18 years that I'm aware of, and I'm just appalled reading some of the social media posts bashing the Village board about not being fiscally responsible. It's easy to sit in the cheap seats and say it until you sit there and work it. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Perry asked if anyone else would like to speak as no one else spoke the Public Hearing was closed at 6:10pm.

**MOTION TO APPROVE 2025-2026 BUDGET** at the rate of \$9.938794 was made by Trustee Denniston, seconded by Trustee Luke. Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED. \*\*

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT\*\*\*** Georgeann Graham

I'm asking about the village property rentals, especially the Sexton building. I see in the budget, that \$6,400 been received. I was told that that a Village of Palmyra employee rents it for \$800 a month. That started last July, I would say, and the numbers don't add up for what I have. Why is it so low below average? I believe everything is included and if you talk to anybody else who rents properties in this town, that would be \$1,000 to \$1200 a month because everything's included. Also, why isn't the money for the Sexton Building in its own account? That was not supposed to be put into the General Fund. That was supposed to be kept separate, because it's for the community. So any of the rents received should be in their own account and that should be saved for improvements for the Village and for that building. Also, how many units for the wastewater in their building. You have the nutrition site, you have the code, you have an apartment, because I can charge three different units. C-T Wetherby said she would check with the assessor but the Village doesn't pay EDUs. There are only 2 bathrooms in the Sexton building.

**Mayor Perry:** So we're clear, you're claiming that somebody hasn't paid enough rent for the year? **G. Graham:** Well, by this, what says in the budget says we received 6,400 for the Sexton Building for the apartment. And it was moved into last July. from July to March is nine months. Nine times eight 7200. 6400 has been received. Either somebody got free rent or you didn't calculate right. **Mayor Perry:** Rebecca, when did you move in. **C-T Wetherby:** I moved in mid-July, which is creepy and the because the most recent rent for April isn't in there. It's in there now, but we do it every week. We put money{revenue} in every week.\* **Mayor Perry:** When you wanted to move in there both David and I asked you to do two things, one is to reach out to Matt (our Village Attorney) and find out what his take on it was, What was Matt's take on it? **C-T Wetherby:** That no one should be living there, that isn't {employed here} because of the records that were across the hall, so basically it was me or no one lives there.

**Mayor Perry:** Who lived there prior to you.

**C-T Wetherby:** Jeff Williams, who worked for the water Authority.

**Mayor Perry:** Who lived there before that?

**C-T Wetherby:** Jill Hart, who used to work for us.

**Mayor Perry:** I also asked you to do something else, what else did I ask you to do?

**C-T Wetherby:** You asked me to reach out to a realtor and ask what the fair market value would be for rent that including everything.

**Mayor Perry:** And did she do it?

**C-T Wetherby:** Yes. and I'm paying \$50 more than what she recommended based on the age and condition of the building and the apartment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Motion was made by Trustee Parkison, seconded by Trustee Leo to approve the minutes from April 7, 2025. Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED.

**APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT** Motion was made by Trustee Luke seconded by Trustee Denniston to approve payment of 11B vouchers 25-00774 through 25-00804 for \$54,553.34 Vote, 4 ayes, CARRIED. \$29,990 of these expenses will be reimbursed by a JAG grant.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION**

The Constitutional Tax Cap form for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2026 was submitted to OSC (Office of the State Comptroller).

### **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

**Trustee Luke:** The water department located a main leak around Hathaway that they need to work with the Highway Department with on making the repair. They did their bi annual oil changes at the pump stations. She reminded everyone who might be interested in the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that the updates are on their website.

**Trustee Leo:** he passed on that Chief Shulla mentioned that members are doing a thorough checklist of all apparatus and tools so they can address the situation before anything significant arises. Chief Shulla also mentioned that members will be making their way around to businesses and apartment facilities to assess locations for keyholders and lock boxes for emergency access. Fire Department will be doing their update of CPR, First Aid as well as the Stop the Bleeding training.

**MOTION TO APPROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP FOR CHRISTOPHER KENDRICK** pending any necessary background checks and physicals was made by Trustee Leo, seconded by Trustee Luke. Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED.

**Trustee Denniston:** announced that the Palmyra Community Library is working with us in the creation of a Village of Palmyra Farmer's Market. It will be held every Wednesday starting June 4-October 29 from 4:00-7:00pm in the Village Park. The Farmers Market will offer fresh produce, baked goods, honey, food trucks, and live music. Additionally, there will be information tables available, for example, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, that's type of thing, and currently the only expense of the Village is the cost of the banner. **Mayor Perry:** The Village has been working on this the past few months. We want to get all the local merchants involved in this event.

**Trustee Parkison:** There were 5 code permits issued this month and 25 so far this year. Veteran-Honor Flight is May 4th, June 1st and June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Rochester airport. He explained that Honor Flight is a non for-profit organization that flies American veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials in their honor. The program offers veterans a trip of a lifetime free of charge, funded through community donations. Samantha Wilson is the new Wayne County Veteran Service Agency director. She is a member of the Palmyra Legion and Honor Guard and a very dedicated, passionate individual. As he has personally been helped by her, he can vouch if there's any veterans in need of assistance or VA benefits to reach out to her office.

**Mayor Perry:** Buildings and Grounds are working on their mowers and string trimming. They are in their spring cleanup mode. NYSEG was able to take down a tree on Gates Street saving the Village \$5000. This is the third tree they have helped us out within the last year.

The Highway Department is working on storm drains and catch basins on East Foster, Fayette and Throop Streets. They are also taking the salters and plows off of the trucks.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**C-T Wetherby:** Explained that budget is balanced even though the expenses are more than the revenues. But as we are closing on fiscal year end it is apparent there will be funds that can be moved into next year so that the tax rate doesn't go up. This is different than reserve funds. It's fund balance being used in place in place of revenue for next year. So any unexpected revenue we see next year will help pass this along. This next year we can start seeing more trends so that that if we're seeing more consistent numbers, we can more accurately reflect those numbers in the budget.

**Ryan Darling, Fire Department Lt.** I am Ryan Darling, Vice president of the Palmyra Fire Company. And a Lieutenant with the Fire Department. At the last meeting there was some concerns of where the money for our banquet came from. I would like to address this matter for the people that don't know the difference between the company and the department. The Company holds the membership of the department. They are completely separate. The company money comes from fund raising as well as 2% money from insurance. This is only to be spent on the members not the equipment or trucks, strictly members only. This can consist of the banquet, tee shirts, dress pants, hats, and dinners, such as our yearly holiday party for the members.

We hold 6-8 pancake breakfasts a year with great turnouts. We also last year started the clam bake at the Wayne County Fair, which was a huge success, which we're set up to do that again this year. The company is 100% volunteer. We wake up at all hours of the night to respond to the calls of need. We are family people, we leave our hot meals with family. Holidays, birthdays and family events. As we sit right now we have 26 active members within the company. which, after tonight, 27.

The Palmyra Fire Company is not funded by the village residents.

On behalf of the department, I would like to educate what an AMA response is. AMA stands for automatic mutual aid

East Palmyra and Palmyra hold an AMA for 24/hours a day 365 days a year. These two departments train together. Work well together and a lot of us hang out together outside the fire grounds. This has been one of the best things for Palmyra and East Palmyra as two departments come together as one.

We get faster response times. We have members that live in the east pal district as well as east pal that has members living in our district. We cover all of our calls with an average during the daytime hours of 3 palmyra members and 3 east pal members, this making for a team of fire fighters. The same thing for East Palmyra as our members make it so they have a full crew during the day also.

Every department in Wayne county has an AMA for structure fires. Ours being Marion. They automatically get toned out with us from 6am to 6pm. We are also AMA for Marion in the event they have a fire we supply AP1(ladder truck) 24 hours a day. We work together as #1 no department covers palmyra other than palmyra.

Ryan explained that Marion and the Village have mutual aid regarding the ladder truck and they have the same agreement with Williamson for calls North of Route 441.

**Mayor Perry:** So with the shortage of volunteers there is a shortage, correct? Correct. I mean, daytime we struggle. at night time, we can generally fill a truck or two, I mean, any department, there is huge benefit work together. Absolutely. saves more lives.

**Chief DiNardo:** Requested Executive Session to discuss a pending police case with no action taken after Executive.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE RELEVY FOR 2024 TAXES WITH UPDATED NUMBERS**

**FROM THE COUNTY** was made by Trustee Luke, seconded by Trustee Parkison, Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED. C-T Wetherby explained that this was approved in November but as Wayne County did not accept November payments this year the amounts approved were based on 9% not 8% interest.

### **RETURNED VILLAGE TAXES**

The undersigned, Village Trustees of the Village of Palmyra in the Town of Palmyra, County of Wayne, hereby certify

Principal: \$ 89,333. <sup>38</sup>	9% interest: \$ 7146.73	Total Unpaid: \$ 96,480.11
	\$ 8040. <sup>04</sup>	\$ 97,373.38

is an account of unpaid taxes assessed on the real estate in said Village, delivered to the Trustees by Rebecca Wetherby, Collector of Taxes therein, and that we have compared the same with the original tax list for 2024 and found it to be correct.

Mayor Perry asked when the Village will see the results of the Town's reassessment on their Village taxes. C-T Wetherby explained that it won't be a couple of years, depending on when it is completed.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** was made by Trustee Leo, seconded by Trustee Denniston\*\*\*\*

Add \$14,745 to revenue line A-2665-FIRE (Sales of Equipment-FIRE) and expenditure line A3410.4 (Fire-Contractual) \$14,745. These offset each other. Decrease A1990.4 (Contingency) by \$1750.25 and increase A5182.44 (Street Lighting) by \$1750.25

Mayor Perry asked C-T Wetherby to explain the checks and balances with the paying of the abstract (invoices). The invoice needs to be signed by the department head and they need to have the account line where it is being charged to written down. At that point, the invoice goes to the clerk, Mary, who enters it in our accounting system. I then verify the invoice amounts and account numbers for accuracy. The abstract and POs are printed off and attached to the invoices. The PO and invoices are given to the Board to approve. Three of the four Trustees must be the ones that sign off on them as the Mayor signs the checks. When they are approving them, they are verifying that what they are reading matches what is in the backup attached. The next day, Mary prints off the checks. I look them over to make sure they match the invoices. Then the checks are given to the Mayor to sign. Trustee Luke said I'll take it another step further because whoever is printing and signing the checks should not be reconciling the bank statement, and Rebecca reconciles the bank statement. So she doesn't have a hand in printing the checks or signing them it's on Rebecca to reconcile against the bank statement. Mayor Perry asked with Trustee Luke's many years as an accountant does she feel this process is a safe. Trustee Luke said she does.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** As there were no further regular items to be discussed, a motion was made by Trustee Luke, seconded by Trustee Parkison to go into executive session for discussion of personnel at 6:40pm. Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED. There will be no action taken after Executive Session.

Mayor Perry declared the return to public session at 7:00pm

**ADJOURNMENT:** Next meeting will be May 5, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Village Hall. Motion was made by Trustee Luke and seconded by Trustee Leo to adjourn at 7:01 pm. Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Wetherby  
Clerk Treasurer

**NEXT MEETING:** May 5, 2025- Regular Meeting

\*\$6400 was what was received on the budget that was handed out on a month or so ago. The current revenue in A2410 is \$8000. July-April is 10 months.  $10 \times \$800 = \$8000$

\*\*A special meeting was held on April 24, 2025 to approve the correct rate of \$9.916198

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

\*\*\*\* <https://www.osc.ny.gov/local-government/required-reporting/chart-accounts-query>  
(Account lookup)