

VILLAGE OF PALMYRA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 21, 2026 6:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

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

OTHER ATTENDEES – Rev. Preston Smith household, Cindy Youngman Schuth, Patricia Wilson, Sharon Schall, Harry Banker, Nick Dandino, David Trombino, Sarah Wimer, Peter Wimer, Debi Price Murray, Kathryn Woodlock, Tracy Murphy, Rachel Henning, Kathleen Catchman, Linda Valley, Tracy Vanderwall, Derick Baker, Cortnie Baker, Rob Downey, Kathy Pray, David Ondra, Augie, Lee Spencer, Kailey Kinslow, Robin Knorr, Joe Popino, Don Valley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

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

REGULAR MEETING –

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Lee Spencer – Tree in front of home: Mr. Spencer expressed concern regarding a tree in front of his residence that appears to have areas of rot and has dropped large limbs near a sidewalk frequently used by students. He requested that his concern regarding the potential safety risk be placed on public record.

Mayor Perry advised that the Clerk's Office had forwarded the concern and Gary Hopkins had since spoken with Mr. Spencer. An arborist is expected to inspect the tree and the Village will follow any recommendations resulting from the assessment.

Mayor Perry also followed up on Mr. Spencer's previous concern regarding difficulty hearing Board discussions. He stated that the Village is exploring the possibility of adding a microphone and will make an effort to speak more clearly and loudly in the meantime.

Tracy Vanderwall – Police budget: Ms. Vanderwall asked about Police Department vehicle use, staffing, and the current SRO arrangement. Mayor Perry stated that the Officer in Charge would not routinely take a police vehicle home, except when necessary for training. He confirmed that no Sergeant position is planned and the goal is to maintain one Chief or Officer in Charge, four full-time officers, and approximately two part-time officers to assist with coverage and reduce overtime. OIC Tim Bryant is currently also serving as SRO, with school and Village hours compensated separately. The arrangement will be reevaluated with the school in November.

Ms. Vanderwall also questioned recent legal expenses and asked why the Village hired two new attorneys, specifically noting Coughlin & Gerhart on the abstract report provided. Mayor Perry clarified that the Village has hired one new attorney, not two; Matt St. Martin has served as the Village's regular attorney for approximately three years and handles general legal matters, while Candice Geller has been retained from Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP and serves as separate counsel for labor and personnel matters. Ms. Vanderwall asked if continued legal expenses are expected. Mayor Perry confirmed that some additional legal expenses are anticipated for a period of time as current matters are addressed, but he does not expect them to continue indefinitely. He noted that further details could not be discussed due to the personnel-related nature of the matters.

Lastly, Ms. Vanderwall requested clarification on the Tremont Street project and was advised that the previous update referred to the water-line work, overall progress remains ongoing with several connections still to be completed.

Linda Valley, on behalf of Mary Ann Smith-Williams – Traffic on Canandaigua Street: Ms. Valley spoke regarding ongoing efforts to address speeding on Canandaigua Street/Canandaigua Road. She shared results from 2025 and 2026 traffic studies showing significant speeding violations and advised that a petition with 126 signatures has been circulated. Residents are asking NYS DOT to extend the 30 and 40 MPH zones and consider additional pedestrian and traffic controls at Foster, Jackson, and Canandaigua Streets.

Mayor Perry stated that the Village is actively supporting these efforts. OIC Tim Bryant has arranged for a radar speed trailer from Macedon, increased police presence is planned, and the Village is considering periodically positioning a police vehicle in the area as an additional deterrent. The Village will continue supporting efforts to improve safety along the corridor.

Ms. Valley provided the Board with copies of the correspondence and petition.

Suzie Smith – Traffic on Canandaigua Street: Miss Smith addressed the Board regarding traffic and pedestrian safety in her neighborhood. She shared her concerns about vehicles and tractor trailers traveling at high speeds near homes and the school zone, creating excessive noise and causing her family and neighbors to remain especially cautious around the roadway. She asked the Village to continue working toward slowing traffic before someone is hurt.

Mayor Perry thanked Susie for speaking and asked permission to include a copy of her remarks with the information being compiled in support of the Canandaigua Street safety efforts and shared with Senator Helming and Assemblyman Manktelow.

During the discussion, Ms. Catherine Woodlock added a concern regarding pedestrian safety on Halloween due to the large number of children who trick-or-treat in the area. She requested a police presence at the intersection that evening. Officer in Charge Bryant

confirmed that officers would be assigned to the area, with additional assistance from Fire Police.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

MOTION TO APPROVE September 14, 2026 minutes as submitted made by Trustee Leo, seconded by Trustee Parkison. Votes, 4 ayes, CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT –

MOTION TO APPROVE 4B Vouchers 27-00234 through 27-00253 for \$27,039.51 made by Trustee Denniston, seconded by Trustee Leo. Votes, 4 ayes, CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION –

“Thank You” letter recognizing Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Gary Hopkins: Clerk-Treasurer Shaffer shared a thank you letter received from a Fairport resident recognizing Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Gary Hopkins for going above and beyond to assist with locating information about family members. The writer expressed appreciation for his assistance, noting that Mr. Hopkins represents the Village very well and acknowledging the value of a good employee.

“Thank You” letter from Palmyra Senior Citizens Club: Thank You Letter – Palmyra Senior Citizens Club: A thank you letter was received from the Palmyra Senior Citizens Club expressing appreciation for the Village’s annual contribution. The Club shared that the funds help support activities including local luncheons, an informational presentation by Sheriff Milby on scams targeting seniors and the Yellow Dot Program, a lunch cruise aboard the Canandaigua Lady, and other social outings. Mayor Perry noted that this donation is a line item that gets budgeted for each fiscal year.

Celebration Citation received from Assemblyman Brian Manktelow’s office: The Village received a Celebration Citation from Mr. Manktelow recognizing the grand opening of the Village’s new Wastewater Treatment Facility.

TRUSTEE REPORTS –

Trustee Parkison: Two Code Enforcement inspections were completed, one CFC was issued, and two violations were sent.

Trustee Denniston – Highway Department: Progress continues on Throop, Fayette, East and West Jackson Street projects, parking lot sealing was completed at the Village Park and the Marina. Three catch basins were rehabilitated on Gates Street, weeds were cleared from the Division Street west-side sidewalk and guardrail, and most of the west side of the Village saw brush pickup last week. The Village is also working to fill the vacant Highway Department position.

Trustee Luke: The Water Department is continuing efforts to flush fire hydrants throughout the Village this month. Trustee Luke also reminded residents that Trick-or-Treat on Main Street will be held October 24th from 2:00–4:00 p.m. and discussed planning for upcoming holiday events, including horse-drawn wagon rides and the Village Holiday celebration. The Board agreed to continue holding the tree lighting and Holiday celebration in conjunction with Small Business Saturday.

Trustee Leo: Reviewed Fire Department calls for August, which included hazardous conditions and motor vehicle accidents. Also noted was a significant gas leak at a local mobile home park that required evacuation of a portion of the park as a safety precaution while NYSEG repaired the damaged underground line.

Mayor Perry – Buildings & Grounds: Reported continued mowing and shrub maintenance, work at the Fire Hall, tree removal and road maintenance at the cemetery, removal of downtown hanging baskets, and inspection of fire extinguishers in Village buildings.

Mayor Perry also discussed a request from a Fayette Street resident for the Village to contribute \$400 toward paving a 40-foot section along the roadway in conjunction with the resident's driveway paving. Following discussion, the Board agreed that Village funds should not be used for the requested work, particularly as the roadway is expected to be milled and repaved in the coming weeks, weather permitting, as part of the ongoing project.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS –

Nick Dandino – Palmyra Fire Company: Reported an upcoming battalion-wide heavy rescue training with surrounding fire districts and recent calls involving gas, smoke detectors, and CO detectors. He reminded residents that if they are unsure whether their smoke or CO detectors are functioning properly, they can call 911, as the Fire Department has the proper equipment to check them. Members will also visit the Primary School on October 8th at 9:30am for a Touch-a-Truck event.

Timothy Bryant (*Officer in Charge*) – Police: Officer Bryant requested to enter Executive Session with the board to discuss personnel matters.

MOTION TO ACCEPT Letter of Resignation for Officer Scott Peters made by Trustee Luke, seconded by Trustee Denniston. Votes, 4 ayes, CARRIED.

Aubrey Shaffer – Clerk's Office: Efforts continue with processing of water payments and ongoing training with Deputy Clerk Liz Gage, including check printing and payment processing. Clerk-Treasurer Shaffer also clarified that recent newspaper summaries of Village Board meetings are independently written by newspaper reporters and are not the Village's official meeting minutes. Official approved minutes are available on the Village website or by contacting the Clerk's Office, directly.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS –

Tracy Murphy (Historic Palmyra) – Proposal regarding parking revisions:

Requested one designated handicapped parking space near the museum on Market Street to improve accessibility for visitors with mobility concerns. Following discussion, the Board agreed to explore establishing two handicapped spaces and will consult with Attorney St. Martin regarding the necessary local law and public hearing process.

Ms. Murphy also raised concerns regarding vehicles regularly parking near the Coverlet Museum on Williams Street and blocking pedestrian access near the mural and stairs. The Village will look into adding appropriate no-parking signage or other measures to keep the area clear.

Sarah & Peter Wimer – Drumlin’s Brewing: The Board discussed the request to place two outdoor tables in cordoned seating areas in front of the business. Mr. and Mrs. Wimer explained that the seating would remain close to the building to maintain adequate pedestrian access and that the tables will likely remain in place year-round, noting they would continue efforts to clear and maintain the surrounding sidewalk during the winter months.

The Board expressed support for the outdoor seating, subject to any applicable legal or zoning requirements, and noted that a letter of support from the Village may be required as part of the State approval process.

MOTION TO APPROVE two sets of sidewalk tables with chairs in front of Drumlin’s Brewing made by Trustee Luke, seconded by Trustee Leo. Votes, 4 ayes, CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

As there were no further regular items to be discussed, a motion was made by Trustee Luke, seconded by Trustee Denniston to enter Executive Session for discussion regarding personnel matters at 6:42pm with no vote to be held after Executive Session. Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED.

Mayor Perry declared the return to public session at 7:23pm.

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion was made by Trustee Leo, seconded by Trustee Denniston to adjourn at 7:24pm. Vote, 4 ayes. CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Aubrey Shaffer, Clerk-Treasurer

NEXT MEETING –

Next meeting will be October 5, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Village Hall.

Please be courteous to those who are speaking and not talk amongst yourselves. If you need to have a conversation, please step into the hallway so that you do not disturb others who are trying to listen.

I will try to take just a minute of your time.

- I am Suzie Smith, I am here to speak about traffic safety. I am 7 years old
- I live on Canandaigua Street
- my mom and dad are Preston and Emily Smith and I have 4 younger siblings.
- my father is Reverend Preston Smith of the Reformed Church of Palmyra.
- I am here to help the people who live on Canandaigua Street and ^{the children} who go to school on Canandaigua Street. Many in our village have been doing the best they can to help make it safer, and I am here to help too.
- The cars have been going very fast.
- Tractor trailers shake our house coming up to the school zone.
- It is so noisy! And our neighbors agree.
- my family and I are on high alert with the traffic!
- I have been hearing cars go by that sound like jet planes and air planes! And it hurts peoples ears!
- * And this is not loving your neighbor as yourself!

!!! Something must be done to slow down the traffic!!!
Before it's too late and someone gets hurt.

- Please consider what I have said. And I pray you will make our street safer! Thank you for letting me speak.