

VILLAGE OF PALMYRA BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Workshop meeting      April 20, 1998      6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wilson, Trustees Celentano, Salomon, DeVogelaere and Gunkler. Sewer rate review committee representative, Jamie Black. Approximately 30 residents in attendance.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ABSTRACT #14:** Motion by Trustee Gunkler to approve vouchers 1046-1055 for \$1,069.95, vouchers 1056-1059 for \$6,245.20 and Abstract #14, vouchers 1060-1167 for \$84,050.27. Second by Trustee Celentano. Vote, 5 ayes. CARRIED.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Trustee Gunkler to approve the minutes from March 30th and April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 1998. Second by Trustee Celentano. Vote, 5 ayes. CARRIED.

**CORRESPONDENCE/TRUSTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Environmental Assessment Review from Stu Brown's office for the CCI projects has been received and is on file at Village Hall.

Motion by Trustee Celentano to declare the airflow sand/salt spreader surplus so that it can be recycled. Second by Trustee Gunkler. Vote, 5 ayes. CARRIED.

Trustee DeVogelaere reported that Cemetery Superintendent, Roger Weaver has been in contact with Wayne County Social Services. They would like to provide us with a worker at no cost to the Village. The worker would work a regular 40 hour week. Motion by Trustee DeVogelaere to allow Roger to "hire" this worker pending approval by the Village attorney of the WC Social Services' contract. Second by Trustee Celentano. Vote, 5 ayes. CARRIED.

As a result of the recent bid opening, Trustee Gunkler offered the following resolution:

**PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM**

BE IT RESOLVED that a sum up to and not to exceed ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$180,000) shall be expended from the Capital Reserve Fire Equipment HR2 for the purpose of purchasing a new Rescue truck.

Following publication, the foregoing resolution shall be posted in six (6) conspicuous places and in accordance with Section 9-902 of Village law, shall take effect in thirty (30) days.

Second by Trustee Celentano. *Discussion:* The truck being replaced is quite old and will be sold at the municipal auction in May. It is used to carry the equipment and extra men. Resident Julia Toombs addressed the Board. She thought the Fire Department's motor vehicles equipment had all been replaced within the last 15 years. She suggested that the residents be provided a list of all the equipment and the year purchased before pushing through the permissive referendum. Further discussion was tabled until Warren Frederick reported back with the year of purchase for the old truck.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS:** Mayor Wilson reported that the American Legion would like to replace the flag pole in the cemetery at the Veterans' memorial as well as complete some other repairs. All costs incurred will be paid by the Legion. Motion by Mayor Wilson, second by Trustee Celentano to approve the work plan as submitted by the American Legion. Vote, 5 ayes. CARRIED.

**DELINQUENT WATER/SEWER BILLS:** Motion by Mayor Wilson second by Trustee Celentano, that notification is hereby given: Pursuant to Village Law Section 11-1116 and 11-1118, that delinquent water and sewer rents, plus accrued penalties as of

April 30, 1998, will be added to the 1998 Village Tax Roll. Voting as follows:

Mayor Wilson	aye	Trustee Gunkler	aye
Trustee Salomon	aye	Trustee Celentano	aye
Trustee DeVogelaere	aye		

**Unanimous / Carried / Defeated**

**MAY FESTIVAL:** Mayor Wilson also reported that the Economic Development Committee is putting together the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual May Festival. It is planned for May 30<sup>th</sup> and will include a “clean-up effort”, concert in the park and a street dance. Motion by Mayor Wilson, second by Trustee Celentano to approve the events planned for the May Festival. Vote, 5 ayes. CARRIED.

**RESCUE TRUCK:** Warren Frederick returned to the meeting with the dates of the trucks that are being replaced. The rescue truck being replaced is a 1968. Mayor Wilson called for the vote on the \$180,000 Permissive Referendum. Voting as follows:

Mayor Wilson	aye	Trustee Gunkler	aye
Trustee Salomon	aye	Trustee Celentano	aye
Trustee DeVogelaere	aye		

**Unanimous / Carried / Defeated**

Resident Herb Joyce expressed concern over the price; maybe we would be better off buying a dozen pick up trucks. He also thought the Village Board should do a little more homework. Mayor Wilson reported that this truck has been re-bid three times in order to get a better price. Unfortunately, this type of equipment is very expensive.

**TWO - IN ONE TRUCK:** The 1966 Pumper truck and 1971 snorkel are also need of replacing. This will be done with the purchase of a Ladder Pumper truck with a 100’ ladder. Motion made by Trustee Gunkler as follows:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Palmyra adopt a resolution on April 20, 1998, subject to permissive referendum.

BE IT RESOLVED the sum of and not to exceed \$550,000 (Five hundred fifty thousand dollars) for a Ladder pumper truck for the Fire Department subject to bond resolution by bond counsel and permissive referendum. Second by Trustee Celentano. *Discussion:* As there were a couple of comments from residents, Mayor Wilson explained the procedure for a permissive referendum, ie. 30 days to respond by petition with required number of registered voters. Mayor Wilson called for the vote. Voting as follows:

Mayor Wilson	aye	Trustee Gunkler	aye
Trustee Salomon	aye	Trustee Celentano	aye
Trustee DeVogelaere	aye		

**Unanimous / Carried / Defeated**

#### **WORKSHOP TOPIC: SEWER RATES**

Mayor Wilson introduced Jamie Black of the Sewer rates review committee and asked him to identify the committee. The committee included Margaret Lotyczewski, Dorothy & Ted Veit, Elaine Hartnagel and Mayor Wilson. Mayor Wilson gave some background about the committee and why it was created. Following a Board meeting in which several residents attended to protest the increase in sewer rates, the Board asked for volunteers to study the method for calculating the sewer rates. The committee presented their proposal at the Board meeting on April 6.

Jamie explained how the sewer rates had been calculated in the past and how it was done for the March billing. The committee favored a method which was based on the premise that a certain percentage of the annual sewer cost is fixed and should be shared evenly across all sewer units. The remaining cost would be shared based on the level of water usage. The rates they have proposed are \$27.00 per unit minimum (no usage allowed) and .64 per hundred cubic foot.

The process for calculating the sewer rates in the future will be much less complicated. The per hundred cubic foot rate can be adjusted easily based on the operating costs of the sewer plant.

Several residents had comments regarding the wisdom associated with contracting the operation of the water and sewer plants with an outside company. Resident Agnes Griffith urged the Board to take a long hard look at these costs when the contract with ST Environmental is up for renewal. Mayor Wilson explained that when the method for calculating the rates was reviewed and subsequently changed, the contract was not an option that was considered in the process as the contract had long since been in place. The Board will study all costs associated with plant operations when the contract is up for renewal. Trustee Celentano explained some of the added values the contract and ST Environmental provides such as infrastructure maintenance.

Dr. Griffith inquired if the committee had considered that not all water consumed is returned to the sewer, ie. lawn watering. Jamie reported that the committee had discussed this and what is being proposed is much better than what was in place in March. There will be a procedure for computing water used for pools and when in place, will be published in the paper.

Resident Dick Lawrence commented that he very much liked the March rates. He also wondered how many people complained about the new rates to compel the Board to review again. Mayor Wilson reported that at the public hearing there were perhaps two residents and after the new rates went out there were half a dozen. If and when the proposed rates go into effect, Mr. Lawrence wondered if the Board won't be facing the same issue again. Mayor Wilson feels that with the elimination of the huge discrepancies, the Village will finally have the most equitable way to compute the sewer rates. Further, the rate changes were never intended to raise revenue only to more fairly distribute the costs which Mayor Wilson believes this proposal does.

Mayor Wilson thanked the committee for their hard work and the public for their comments. The public hearing will be May 4, 1998 at Village Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Trustee Celentano at 8:05 pm. Second by Trustee DeVogelaere. Vote, 5 ayes. CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia M. Lynch