

VILLAGE OF PALMYRA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 1992

7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor James G. Elliott, Deputy Mayor Thomas N. Lynch, Trustee C. D. Gilmore. Harold Kruger, Superintendent of Water/Wastewater was present. Trustees Drews and Wooden arrived at 8:15 and 8:19 respectively. Attorney Nesbitt arrived at approx. 8:01 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with a moment of silence for Alice Mae Cowell, longtime employee of the Vill. of Palmyra, and for all the soldiers, sailors, and marines at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

**MINUTES OF 11-17-92:** A motion was made by Mayor Elliott to accept the minutes of 11-17-92 with the correction of Mr. Straight's name which was spelled incorrectly in the Call to order moment of silence of the 11-17-92 minutes, seconded by Trustee Gilmore, vote, 3 ayes, **CARRIED.**

**FLOATING HOLIDAY AT CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S:** Mayor Elliott noted that the office staff requested two 1/2 days for the mornings of December 24th and December 31, 1992. The office will be closed at that time. No objections were given.

**LEHMAN ANNEXATION:** Mayor Elliott reported that the Lehman Petition resolution for annexation had been filed and recorded at the County Clerk's Office on December 7, 1992. H. Kruger reported that he and P. Retan had spoken to the developer of the Lehman land, N. Gerber, concerning the water and sewer hook up to VOP water and sewer. Mr. Gerber said that he would do the digging from the house to the curb including the curb to the main because the Village crew is busy which we would pay for and Mr. Kruger said that the VOP would also pay for the materials. K. Morrison would do all the work on Wednesday, all the necessary parties have been alerted to the road being dug up.

**ARC PARKING SPOT FOR BUS:** Mayor Elliott reported that Attorney Nesbitt will be making the necessary changes in the vehicle and traffic law. The ARC home agreed that one (1) space to the West of the driveway would be adequate with a space to the East of the driveway.

**ABSTRACT #13:** Mayor Elliott moved to allow the Treasurer to pay Vouchers #584 for \$100 and Vouchers #585 - #651 totalling \$44,834.38 on which appears the initials of three Village Board members, seconded by Trustee Gilmore, vote, 3 ayes, **CARRIED.**

**THEFT AT VILLAGE PARK:** Mayor Elliott reported that Cemetery Super, R. Weaver, had reported at least 137 light missing at the bandstand and a broken horse leg which happened in one weekend. This theft is very expensive to the VOP and the Mayor asked if the newspapers would print this and let the VOP residents know the expense in the decorations.

H. Kruger reported that the Rotary Booth had been broken into and a fire started on the counter creating much damage. Mr. Kruger will be getting an estimate on the repairs for the PD and Fair Assoc. Deputy Mayor Lynch asked what time the fire occurred. H. Kruger did not remember but a woman called and reported the crime to H. Baker of the Fair Assoc. but did not get her name. Mayor Elliott asked if the press would include a request for the woman to come forward that called in the complaint about the Rotary Booth. The PD had found three young men outside the fairgrounds but could not place them at the scene of the crime.

**LETTER FROM DEC ON GRANT FOR BUYING TREES:** Mayor Elliott reported on a letter received from the NYS D.E.C concerning trees. The letter is being turned over to R. Weaver of Cem. & Parks. Mayor Elliott said he is not sure if this program would be beneficial to the VOP.

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**DONEGAN'S CONTRACT FOR BUDGET WORK:** A proposed contract had been received for budget work 1994-1995 fiscal year. Work would be similar to last year's. H. Kruger suggested that Donegan's repre. sit with each dept. head and go over their portion of the budget, and then all would sit with the VB and discuss the budget requests. Deputy Mayor Lynch noted there would be additional expense in having to pay for this service, which is a problem.

Mayor Elliott noted that he and the VOP Treasurer developed a new form which will work well at budget time for capital projects, anything with a life of over 5 years or an amount over \$5,000.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor T. Lynch to accept the proposal and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract seconded by Trustee Gilmore, vote, 3 ayes, **CARRIED.**

**SARA PROJECT:** Village Clerk/RMO, Bonnie Hays, explained the SARA project to date and some of the work that was being done by the Highway Dept. to complete previous work done in the cellar. This work would be helpful in preparing the cellar for the storage of records. The basic inventory has been completed and the paper work was being completed to determine the amount of space needed for storage. The next step is planning a retention and disposition management program. Mayor Elliott noted that another grant would be applied for and that seminars would be attended to do a proper, acceptable grant which will be accepted.

**DEPUTY MAYOR THOMAS N. LYNCH REPORTS:**

**PROSPECT DRIVE, FAYETTE STREET CULVERT PROJECT:** Deputy Mayor Lynch reported that the project is done to date, as far as they can go. The balance of the work will be done in the Spring.

**FUEL MEETING:** Deputy Mayor Lynch reported on the joint fuel meeting held on November 19 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town barns. A tank is needed. H. Kruger reported that there is a buried tank at the Water Plant which has been there for at least 25 years. Trustee Gilmore voiced his concern on this tank and possible leaking. Maybe it should be removed, stated Trustee Gilmore.

The cost of the new tank would be split three ways which would benefit all three groups. The Pal-Mac School would furnish the engineer and the contractor and do all of the necessary work. The Town of Palmyra will deed over a small piece of land to meet the size of the tank to the School so that they own the land on which the tank is placed. This is a requirement from the State. The Highway Depts. would work together and assist with the tank installation and other necessary requirements. The new tank would cost about \$60,000, however, the school will get state assist. paying for this. The worst scenerio would be \$30,000 split three ways. The VOP would save money on the large quantity of fuel that is necessary to fill this tank. "A quantity discount." It may be just a little inconvenient for the VOP Highway and other crews to fuel up at the Town Barns. Mayor Elliott noted that each location and tank has to meet special requirements and specifications for design. Re. a licensed architect, engineer to do a environmental impact survey. The \$60,000 does not include these professionals. Again, the school will handle all engineering, architectural, and arrangements for the tank.

Trustee Gilmore noted that the TOP and SCHOOL and VOP and one other party would be involved. Deputy Mayor Lynch said that possibly the County of Wayne would be the other party and may be asked to get involved. Mayor Elliott noted that the Cty has not been approached yet. Deputy Mayor Lynch moved that the VOP agreed with the concept of a joint fuel tank facility for the fuel at an agreed site, seconded by Trustee Gilmore, vote, 3 ayes, **CARRIED.**

**TRUSTEE GILMORE REPORTS:**

No applications for firemen.

**PALMYRA HOTEL:** Nothing to report at this time, however, some work has been done.

H. Kruger noted that Mark Wolfe putting in a sprinkler system in the Hotel called and H. Kruger explained that the Fire Code requires a 6" line into the Bldg. Trustee Gilmore said that the Code Enforcement Officer, E. Dundas, should be contacted and an application should be made. Trustee Gilmore also instructed H. Kruger to get a report to E. Dundas. H. Kruger also noted that the property owner was required to pay for all materials and the project could not be done until after spring.

**TRUSTEE DREWS REPORT:**

**VILLAGE ENTRY SIGNS:** Trustee Drews reported that D. VanGordan of the PAL-MAC HIGH SCHOOL had put together a proposal which includes working with the English Dept., History Dept., and Dan Ganoung a private sign maker. The school has already done a lot of work on this sign and would like a commitment from the VOP that the VB will go ahead with this project. This sign making will be part of the second semester grade and projects for the above classes at the school. The sign estimate is between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

A motion was made by Trustee Drews that the VOP allow the PAL-MAC HIGH SCHOOL to go ahead with the sign design and that the VOP would be responsible for half of the payment while D. VanGordon would ask local organizations to contribute the rest. Deputy Mayor Lynch seconded the motion for discussion. Trustee Gilmore asked if the VOP had money for this project. Mayor Elliott said that the money is in contingency and explained that the Mormons had donated \$500 a few years ago which was set aside for a sign. This \$500 would also be used for the signs.

H. Kruger suggested that Am. Legion and VFW be approached using the reasoning that an emblem from the local organizations would be on the sign. Trustee Drews noted that there would be 4 signs and that Larry Russell at the N.Y.S. D.O.T. would like a design of the signs. Mr. VanGordon must know the VB decision by tomorrow.

Mayor Elliott amended the motion to say that the VOP would pay for the amount of the signs up to \$3,000 if not covered by other organizations donations, also the VOP Highway would dig the sign holes, vote, 4 ayes, Trustee Wooden abstain, **CARRIED.**

**VISIT WITH SANTA:**

Trustee Drews reported that over 100 children and approximately 25 adults attended the Visit with Santa. A big thank you goes to all that worked on the event, Mr. Kukupka(Santa), Mr. VanNorman(horses and sleigh), Village workers and special thanks to Clerk, Bonnie Hays. Harold Kruger reported that the Rotary will be asked to donate \$150 to this event.

**TRUSTEE WOODEN REPORTS:**

A formal proposal has been received from the MRB Group for the hydraulic gradient study which will give a better description so that the contract can be made up. Attorney Nesbitt will write up the contract.

**MHPC, WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATORS:** Trustee Wooden explained that a proposal had been received from MHPC concerning the privatization of the Plants. This company has approx. 150 plants throughout the State most operating to the South and Downstate. MHPC is beginning to do many proposals for this part of the state re. Corfu and Alba. The proposal states that this company would hire the VOP water/wastewater workers and that MHPC would hire contractors when there is a problem, including hiring the VOP Highway Dept. The MHPC would do regular maintenance and

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repairs, meter reading etc. Four men all past operators of plants and construction people to do any installation. Cost would be \$96,300 per year taking out the labor and benefits with a savings of about \$70,000 in the first year. Trustee Wooden would like the VB's agreement to look into this further and go over it with the present VOP affected employees. Trustee Wooden has spoken to other communities who have had nothing but good things to say about MHPC and their services. Trustee Wooden would like to decide by the middle or beginning of February which would assist the VOP with budget time. Two employees are on the VOP union contract and this may warrant checking. All three employees would be hired from the water dept.

H. Kruger, Superintendent of the Water/Wastewater dept. spoke of his concerns saying that there has been a great deal of controversy for the last couple of weeks. Kruger feels that his men (Corky and Forrest) should be given a detailed explanation of what is expected and offered. H. Kruger stated that he and his dept. has never had a late or negligent speedy ever or any of their reports in the 25 years that he has been in charge. H. Kruger noted that he has been interested in finding ways to save the VOP money. This proposal of privatizing is a concern about the employees, their medical and retirement, the welfare of their families and what affects them affects all persons in the community. Communication is necessary to each employee. Kruger continued by saying that there is much dejection with the employees and elected officials. That there are 1 or 2 officials that always look down on the employees and don't want the employees to be part of anything in the VOP. There are 3 or 4 things that are concerning the employees involved in the Water Dept. and there needs to be communication with them personally. H. Kruger noted that he was not a dumbbell and some officials do not accept anything he says or let him be a part of anything. Kruger loves the VOP and that he tries to give to something that he loves to do. It's time to bring everyone together. We are all brothers and sisters. Who is jealous of my 25 years and who wants me out of here? Mr. Kruger said that he doesn't understand, when he talks about the new tank, that those who don't know are listened to, no one calls on him or includes him in his business of Water/Wastewater. Privatization maybe fine but we need many more answers.

Depty Mayor Lynch thanked H. Kruger for his concerns. Deputy Mayor Lynch said that MHCP would hire the three employees of the WATER/WASTEWATER PLANT. Again H. Kruger brought up the concerns on civil service, retirement, labor factors, eliminating jobs and the possibility of the Wayne Cty Water Authority eventually shutting down the water plant. Dpty. Mayor Lynch said that this was never a discussion of WCWA taking over. Trustee Gilmore explained how KODAK sends people to work for other companies which is done frequently. Trustee Wooden understands what H. KRUGER is saying. H. Kruger said that it is demoralization to tell the people and the employees about cutting labor and reorganization. Trustee Wooden noted that if the contract is signed jobs, will be offered at current or higher salaries with a chance for advancement in a larger company. H. Kruger asked if the same benefits would continue with a higher salary? Trustee Wooden noted that the VB visit the closest place. Depty Mayor Lynch said H. Kruger should be involved and invite Forrest and Corky to be a part of this decision and make each employee part of the VOP. Mayor Elliott asked who would be responsible for repairs. Trustee Wooden noted that during business hours MHCP would take care of but after working hours work would be hired done which may mean that the VOP Highway Dept. could be hired.

Mayor Elliott said that this could be good for the VOP and maybe a profit making business. However, should look into what we are doing with our current employees and see the possibilities of stream lining the plants to compare with the proposal from MHPC. H. Kruger stated that the investigation of MHPC SHOULD be about 3 or 4 years with an additional 1-2 years of probation. The VOP should not get locked into something before total investigation.

The repres. from the VOP should go to 2-3 or MHPC run plants. This probationary and investigative period should last about 6 years.

Trustee Wooden noted that there are two waterworks which he contacted who are on a contract with MHPC, one company for 9 years and the other since 1989. All reports are good. MHPC is the only private company licensed by the Dept. of Environment to teach the operator's course. This warrants looking into said Wooden. H. Kruger said he was questioned pretty hard today by the employee involved and wanted to explain to the VB what people and the employees think. Deputy Mayor Lynch suggested that the MHPC Company be asked to come and talk to the water employees. Trustee Wooden said that he would set up a morning meeting with MHPC and the employees. H. Kruger suggested that if in fact the VB decides to work with MHPC the VB should pursue on paper each and every place and the dollars saved at those locations. Also the Village Attorney should look over the program, stated Kruger.

Trustee Wooden presented the question of, does the VB want to pursue this and all were in agreement to look into MHPC doing this project.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Elliott moved to have an at 8:45 p.m. executive session requested by himself and Deputy Mayor Lynch for matters of personnel and legal seconded by Trustee Gilmore, vote, 5 ayes, **CARRIED.**

Trustee Gilmore moved to go out of executive session at 9:18 p.m. seconded by Mayor Elliott, vote, 5 ayes, **CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. seconded by Trustee Wooden, vote, 5 ayes, **CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie J. Hays, Village Clerk

Next meeting is December 21, 1992, at 7:00 p.m.

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