

VILLAGE OF PALMYRA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

3-1-93

7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor James G. Elliott, Deputy Mayor Thomas N. Lynch, Trustees C. D. Gilmore, Daniel E. Wooden, and Kathleen C. Drews. Attorney Nesbitt arrived approx. 7:10 p.m. MHPC Representatives, Ken Scherrieble, Account Manager, and Steve Mance, Sr., Ex. Vice President.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with a moment of silence for Mrs. Wilcox, Bonnie Gilmore's Grandmother and George Johns a resident of Palmyra.

MHPC INFORMATION SESSION: Ken Scherrieble and Steve Mance addressed questions from the Village Board and residents concerning the contract for Full Service of the Water and Wastewater Plants. It was explained by Trustee Wooden that this contract was on the day to day operations of the two plants. The backround of the MHPC was given to those present.

Discussion on a number of issues followed. MHPC: Village would still own both plants, MHPC just working for the Village. No rates are set by MHPC, all done through VB as done now. MHPC could consult on special projects. The proposal given is a broad proposal which would need to be more specific. 150 facilities with 18 full service W/WW and 45 plants stated MHPC, the balance of which are private. 5 facilities interested between Syr. and Buff. Plants would be staffed with 2 full time while getting started and management from MHPC would assist, should more be needed this would occur at no extra charge. Using 2 full time would happen as long as needed. Cleaning and maintenance would be done by staff, someone being paid less than operators would probably do this type of work. Contractors would be approved by the VB. If VOP uses local contractor now this would remain the case if the VB requested. Reporting from MHPC to VB would be monthly or as often as the VB required. MHPC would be responsible for all fines due to none compliance do to action of employees. 60% of municipalities who hire MHPC because they are in trouble with permits. When asked what services are not provided, examples were given: specialty people will be called in as done now for problems needing advance workmanship, engineers and legal fees, samples with a certified lab. Who would do emergency repairs? The highway as done now. Too, early to tell what other savings can be realized such as sludge hauling and chemical costs. What would be done with the equipment the VOP owns and uses now? VOP would not need trucks since MHPC would furnish their own.

MHPC focused on benefits and growth to future employees with their company including training, opportunities, skills, and upward mobility. What is wrong with the W/WW now and why hire MHPC? Mayor Elliott explained that no one said anything was wrong with the W/WW, however, with an offer from MHPC to save money using them is worth looking into, we owe it to the taxpayers to at least check it out. Trustee Wooden explained that taking salary and benefits, trucks and foul weather gear costs would total about \$70,000 in savings if the VOP did not have to expend these costs. A question of monopoly by a single source of service giving an example of the current disposal services. MHPC explained that the VOP would have a 5 yr. contract with a 3% CPI increase yearly with a 90 day out clause for the VOP.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: An emergency executive session was called at 8:15 p.m. by Trustee Gilmore for matters of particular personnel, with P. Retan, and Attorney Nesbitt present, seconded by Depty Mayor Lynch, vote, 4 ayes, 1 nay by Mayor Elliott CARRIED. 4-1

Mayor Elliott moved out of executive session at 8:25, seconded by Trustee Wooden, 3 ayes, CARRIED. Trustee Gilmore and Depty Mayor Lynch were out of the room.

**CONTINUING WITH MHPC:** Trustee Wooden noted that people would not be losing their jobs but may have different jobs. The VOP would or could make the employment requirement with MHPC part of the contract to hire the VOP employees. Have any other municipalities been unionized? MHPC responded with a couple but this has not proposed problems with the municipalities. Could the VOP set the standards for MHPC to hire employees? MHPC responded with anything is negotiable. Would the VOP still have control of who works for the VOP? Yes, VOP will have VETO power. Can MHPC offer individual service as the VOP can do now? MHPC said yes they can and with 2 people. What about knowing who has a possible problem with water leaks, too high useage, or other individual problems which arise? The billing person as now will alert the workers to particular problems and the same course of action will happen as does now. When the worker's advance from this area, they will train replacements in the same methods as done now. If people are not happy the VB can use the 90 day out clause anytime within the 5 year period. The contract can be dissolved within 1 day if requested, however, no municipality has ever used this option.

Margaret DeNeef asked when the VOP started going into to homes to fix plumbing, toilets and pipes? Mayor Elliott said that this is not done now.

What about getting State and Federal grants if using MHPC? No problem, the VOP still owns all the plants so grants would not be problem. It was determined that the decision of using MHPC would be up to the VB and not a permissive referendum. A public vote would not be needed. Trustee Wooden reported that there was one (1) other interested company for contract services at W/WW. Trustee Wooden explained the savings according to his calculations in the budget saying that \$32,000 savings this year, \$39,106 next year and maximum savings could be \$60,000 which the VB is obligated to look at for the taxpayers. Noteable comments from the audiences are as follows: Watch for increased costs in 7-10 years, these types of things look good at first but after a while they start costing more and are not a savings. ( Wendy Wedman, Local Pres. CSEA). The water/wastewater is an income producing department stated H. Kruger. F. Rush, if it is not broke do not fix it. Mayor Elliott thanked all for coming and noted that this decision on MHPC is no easy decision and that a public meeting would be held to make a decision.

**J. HUDAK, PLANNING BOARD REQUEST FOR NO RESIDENCE IN THE STORE FRONTS OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS ON MAIN AND MARKET STREETS:** J.

Hudak noted that the Planning Bd. had discussed this problem and Chairperson, Marcia Robbins had sent a memo to the VB indicating an immediate need for such a regulation. J. Hudak noted there is no regulation at this time and once store fronts are turned into residences, they are difficult, if not impossible, to return to store fronts. Trustee Wooden asked what is considered a store front? Hudak said a commercial type bldg now on Main St. and

Market St. re. Sherburne Ford. J. Merrick expressed his concern about the landlords who have no choice when money is slow and a building is vacant and this is the only way to help in paying for the mortgage. It is the hopes that VOP will be a tourist Village with Canal Devel. Trustee Wooden noted that in the last 3 wks. 3 new stores have opened on Main St. J. Merrick noted that the average life of business on Main St. is 1 year. J. Merrick said it is very difficult to hang in and that his property in Pal. is less valuable now than when bought.

Trustee Gilmore read the letter from Chairperson Robbins.

A motion was made by Trustee Gilmore that based on the recommendation of the PL. BD. have a LL written and proposed after which a public hearing will be scheduled. LL to be reviewed at the next VB mtg. seconded by Trustee Wooden, vote, 5 ayes, CARRIED.

MINUTES: A motion by Trustee Wooden to approve the reg. mtg. minutes of 2-1-93 as written and table the minutes of the spe. board mtg. of 2-4-93 and reg. mtg. 2-16-93, seconded by Mayor Elliott, vote, 5 ayes, CARRIED.

HIGHWAY DEPT. THANK YOU!: Mayor Elliott thanked the Highway Dept for the fine job done on the Streets of Palmyra during the recent snow storms. Depty Mayor Lynch noted that a letter had been received and people had stopped in to note the fine job done. Mayor Elliott also thanked P. Retan and the Highway for assisting with the Library equip.

Mayor Elliott also thanked the Cemetery Crew for their assistance in cleaning off the walks for the Phelps Museum for Historic Palmyra who was showing it to the AAA for tourist information.

NYCOM: Mayor Elliott reported on the mtg. he recently attended in Albany. Noted that the State was going to eliminate the DEC from inspecting the flood gates so they don't collapse. This would let the municipalities be on their own. Which would cost them millions-- far more than the State is cutting.

ELECTION UPDATE: Registration Sat. 3-6-93 in Vill. Hall, Inspectors get the books in order, 3-4-93, Election Day would be March 16th at the High School.

SURPLUS DESK: A motion was made by Trustee Gilmore to declare a wooden desk in the P&C Rooms as surplus and donate it to the Historic Palmyra. Seconded by Trustee Wooden, discussion, a donation can be made to a non profit group but not a private person or business. Vote, 5 ayes, CARRIED.

ABSTRACT #17: Mayor Elliott moved a correction on Abstract #17 removing voucher #816 for \$45 which was not paid at that time making the total \$2,135.99, seconded by Trustee Gilmore, vote, 5 ayes, CARRIED.

ABSTRACT #19: Mayor Elliott moved to approve the Treasurer to pay the vouchers 890-930 totalling \$9,654.03 on which appear the initials of three (3) VB members, seconded by Trustee Wooden, vote, 5 ayes, CARRIED.

AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL DONATION: VB members decided not to personally donate to this at \$6 each.

SIGN FOR SCHOOL ON BASKETBALL: A motion was made by Mayor Elliott to allow the VOP to pay for the sign which was ordered by Trustee Gilmore to be given to the Pal. Mac. High School, seconded by Trustee Gilmore, vote, 5 ayes, CARRIED.

WCHS: Trustee Drews noted that there was a need for the VB to discuss the situation with the TOP on the kennels and a possible contract. Trustee Wooden asked if the TOP had offered. Trustee Drews said only savings would be mileage.

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**DEER WATCH:** A letter had been received by the Bd. of Supervisors on the restraining of dogs at night to protect the deer.

**SIGN:** Trustee Drews showed a design of the chosen sign with organizations signs on it. Many groups have taken an interest such as American Legion, Lions, Rotary, etc.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Elliott moved to go into executive session at 9:46 for matters of personnel with Scott Smith, Union Pres., and Chief Dalton, seconded by Trustee Wooden, vote, 4 ayes, **CARRIED.**

Motion was made by Mayor Elliott to go out of executive session at 10:35 p.m. seconded by Deputy Mayor Lynch, vote, 5 ayes, **CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Trustee Wooden to adjourn the mtg. at 10:36, seconded by Mayor Elliott, vote, 5 ayes, **CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie J. Hays, Village Clerk