

## **Town of Palmyra – Minutes for 1907**

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Board held at the Village Hall on Saturday, January 19, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. c. Finley, E. H. Clark, C. F. Griswold, and J. M. Sutphen, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor R. N. Backus; and minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

B. W. Farnham, Engineer and Attorney McFarlane representing the New York Central Railroad appeared before the Board and asked permission to change the grade of the West Shore tracks where the same cross three highways in the town of Palmyra; and after the matter had been thoroughly discussed, the following resolution was offered and adopted: Resolved, that consent be, and the same hereby is given, too the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company to change the grade of its West shore tracks where the same crosses Palmer's Highway (No. 428) in said town, by raising said tracks about one and three tenths (1.3) feet above their present level; also to change the grade of its West Shore tracks where the same crosses Port Gibson Highway (No. 429) in said town, by raising them about seventy-five hundredths (0.75) feet above the present level; also to change the grade of its West Shore tracks, where the same crosses Galloway's highway (No. 430) in said town, by raising them about three and two tenths (3.2) feet above the present level.

The said Railroad Company to make the approaches to said tracks as so changed, not more than a six percent (6%) grade from the present level of the highways to the level of the tracks as so raised, and to properly surface said approaches and the part of the highway so changed by it with sand, gravel, or other good road making material.

On motion, it was voted to hold the regular meetings of the Board on the third Saturday of each month, instead of the third Friday until further resolution.

On motion, Supervisor Backus was empowered to take \$125 from the General fund and add to the Highway Fund.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

H. L. A

Meeting of the Town board held in the Village Hall on Saturday, February 23, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. C. Finley, Charles F.

Griswold, J. M. Sutphen, and E. H. Clark, Justices of the Peace; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Backus; minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Harry G. Chapman, representing the Cator Dump Wagon, appeared before the Board in the interest of the company and asked the Board to purchase one or two Cator Dump Boxes for work on the highways; and after a thorough discussion, a resolution was unanimously passed authorizing the Board to purchase two Cator Dump Boxes, if the same were recommended by Highway Commissioner Hedden.

No further business appearing, the minutes of meeting were read and approved; and the meeting adjourned.

H. L. Averill, Clerk

Meeting of the town board of Palmyra held at the Village Hall on Saturday afternoon, March 16, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. C. Finley, E. H. Clark, J. M. Sutphen, and C. F. Griswold, Justices of the Peace; C. H. Hedden, Highway Commissioner; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Backus, and minutes of last meeting read for information.

Mr. Pliny T. Sexton appeared before the Board in relation to back taxes on the G. R. Brown property on Fayette Street; and on motion, a resolution was passed appointing a committee consisting of Backus, Finley, and Clerk to investigate the said tax question and report at the next meeting.

Mr. Backus reported that Mr. Hedden, the Highway Commissioner, had recommended the purchase of two Cator Dump Wagons according to a resolution adopted at the last meeting, and the order for the machines had been given.

On motion of Mr. Averill, a resolution was passed authorizing the Highway Commissioner to expend the sum of \$35 per mile for fifty miles of road throughout the township the coming year.

On motion of Mr. Griswold, a resolution was passed authorizing the expending the sum of \$700 for four miles of road on the Town Line or Spur Road.

On motion of Mr. Finley, a resolution was passed authorizing the expenditure of \$200 for one-fourth mile of road on the Marion-Palmyra Road north from Central Station.

On motion of Mr. Griswold, a resolution was passed authorizing the expenditure of \$300 for three miles of road on the Jeffery Road.

On motion of Mr. Finley, a resolution was passed authorizing the expenditure of \$400 on the Vienna Road.

No further business appearing, the minutes of the meeting were read and approved; and the meeting adjourned.

H. L. A

Regular meeting of the Town Board held at the Village Hall on Saturday afternoon, April 20, 1907. Present: Supervisor, R. N. Backus; Justices E. H. Clark, J. M. Sutphen, Charles F. Griswold, M. C. Finley; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Backus, and minutes of last meeting read for information.

On motion of Mr. Finley, the Board authorized the employment of S. N. Sawyer to look after the interest of the town in the damage claim filed by Joseph Warner, and Mr. Sawyer appeared before the Board and stated that he had asked Mr. Warner and his attorney for a copy of his complaint.

On motion of Mr. Griswold, the committee appointed to investigate the claim of Pliny T. Sexton for back taxes on the G. R. Brown property was discharged.

On motion of Mr. Finley, a resolution was passed leaving the matter of investigating the Sexton tax claim to Supervisor Backus with power to act.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved, and the meeting adjourned.

H. L. Averill, Clerk

Regular meeting of the Town Board held at the Village Hall on Friday, May 17, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. C. Finley, C. F. Griswold, E. F. Clark, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Backus, and minutes of last meeting read for information.

On motion of M. C. Finley duly seconded, a resolution was adopted empowering Supervisor Backus to purchase a carload of lumber at the best possible advantage for us on the various bridges.

On motion of Mr. Finley, duly seconded, a resolution was adopted appointing the Supervisor and Clerk as a committee to confer with the Village Board regarding the town and village boundary near the New York Central Station.

No further business appearing, the minutes were read and approved, and the meeting adjourned.

H. L. Averill, Clerk

Regular meeting of Town Board held at the Village Hall on Friday afternoon, June 21, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; C. F. Griswold, M. C. Finley, J. M. Sutphen, and E. H. Clark, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Backus, and minutes of last meeting read for information.

On motion of Mr. Griswold, a resolution was adopted authorizing the publication of the Sanitary Laws and Regulations in both village papers for three weeks.

The complaint of Joseph Warner for \$5000 damages against the Town of Palmyra was recorded, and on motion of Mr. Finley, the Board authorized Honorable S. Nelson Sawyer to defend the action.

The subject of corrugated sewer pipe was discussed at some length by the Board and Highway Commissioner Hedden, who was present at the meeting; and Mr. Hedden was instructed to write the state authorities regarding the pipe and report at some future meeting.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

Regular meeting of Town Board held at the Village Hall on Friday, July 26, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. C. Finley, J. M. Sutphen, and E. H. Clark, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Backus, and minutes of last meeting read for information.

The committee appointed to confer with New York Central Engineers and the Village Board regarding the corporation boundary near the Central Station made necessary by the changing the course of Mud Creek reported that the boundary lines had been settled upon, and that the

same had been made plain with steel markers at the expense of the Central Railroad Company.

No further business appearing, the minutes were read and approved, and the meeting adjourned.

Copy of letter sent to State Department on Friday, August 2, 1907:

State Board of Health  
Albany, NY

Gentlemen:

The Town Board of Health of the Town of Palmyra this afternoon received the resignation of Dr. L. B. Darling as Health Officer for this township. The Board did not take any action in the matter, waiting until it could hear from your department. The Board will, however, recommend the resignation being accepted and that Dr. William J. Hennessy, who is now serving as Village Health Officer, being named as his successor.

In the judgment of the department, would not Dr. Darling have to look after the cases now in his hands until his successor's appointment can be confirmed? Please advise the Board in this matter.

Very truly  
H. L. Averill  
Secretary

Regular meeting of Town Board held at the Village Hall on Friday, August 16, 1907. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Backus, and minutes of last meeting read for information. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. C. Finley, Charles F. Griswold, J. M. Sutphen, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Griswold, a resolution was passed authorizing C. C. Congdon, attorney, to see to the collection of the delinquent poll taxes with power to prosecute where necessary.

On motion of Mr. Griswold, a resolution was passed authorizing the Highway Commissioner to publish a suitable notice to cut weeds along the highways in each of the village papers three weeks.

No further business appearing, the minutes were read and approved, and the meeting adjourned. H. L. Averill

Special meeting of Town Board of Palmyra held on Tuesday, September 3, 1907, in the Village Hall for the purpose of designating polling places. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. C. Finley, C. F. Griswold, E. H. Clark, and J. M. Sutphen. Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Backus.

On motion of Mr. Finley, duly carried, the Justice Room in the Village Hall was designated at the polling place for District No. 1.

On motion of Mr. Sutphen, duly carried, the vacant store in the west end of the Sanford Block, north side of Main Street, was designated at the polling place for District No. 2.

On motion of Mr. Clark, duly carried, the C. C. Jagger residence on the south side of the road in East Palmyra was designated as the polling place for District No. 3

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

H. L. Averill, Clerk

Regular meeting of the Town Board held on Saturday, October 5, 1907, in the Village Hall, Palmyra. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; J. M. Sutphen, C. F. Griswold, and E. H. Clark, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting called to order by supervisor Backus, and minutes of previous meeting read for information.

On account of renting of the C. C. Jagger residence in East Palmyra, designated as polling place in District No. 3, the Board designated the Fred Smith property located on Main Street in East Palmyra as polling place for that district and ordered the clerk to make the change in the official election and registration notice.

A communication was received from Judge Sawyer enclosing a letter from W. C. Ellis, Esq. relating to the damage action of Joseph Warner against the Town of Palmyra. The letter stated that Mr. Warner would settle the case for the sum of \$300. The matter was thoroughly discussed; and on motion of Mr. Griswold, a resolution was passed authorizing Judge Sawyer to settle the case out of court, providing the same could be brought about by the payment of a sum not to exceed \$200.

On motion of Mr. Griswold, a resolution was passed appointing George G. Throop Attendance Officer for the town of Palmyra for the coming year at a yearly salary of \$50.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

H. L. Averill, Town Clerk

Regular meeting of the Town Board held at the Village Hall on Friday, October 18, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. C. Finley, C. F. Griswold, and E. H. Clark, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Backus, and minutes of last meeting read for information.

On motion of Mr. Griswold, a resolution was passed authorizing the Supervisor to draw a check of \$175 to pay the settlement of the Joseph Warner damage suit against the town. Mr. Warner and his attorney, having given notice that they would accept that sum in full settlement of the case.

No further business appearing, the minutes were read and approved, and the meeting adjourned.

H. L. Averill, Clerk

Meeting of the Town Board held at the Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, November 6, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; J. M. Sutphen, M. C. Finley, C. F. Griswold, and E. H. Clark, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk. Meeting called to order by Mr. Backus and organized as a Canvassing Board to canvass the votes for town officers at town election on November 5, and the canvass resulted as follows:

	Dist. 1	Dist. 2	Dist. 3	Total	Majority	
<b>Supervisor:</b>						
C. F. Griswold – R		226		144	67	437
T. L. Reeves – D		67			98	28
<b>Town Clerk:</b>						
H. L. Averill – R		235		150	68	453
J. Frahar - D	59			92	27	178
<b>Justices:</b>						
M. C. Finley – R		251		131	68	450
J. M. Sutphen – R	251	131		71	453	276
A. R. Gamble – D		64			89	26
T. B. Smith – D		63			90	24
<b>Assessors:</b>						
Thomas L. Cook – R	230			150	71	451
M. C. Finley – R.		231			151	68
C. Belty – R				232		151
W. S. Phelps – D		65			91	24
George McKnuth D	62			90	27	179
Frank Hammond –	62			90	22	174
<b>Highway Commissioners:</b>						
C. H. Hedden – R				231	148	74
George Galloway – D		63		92	20	175

Collector:			
Andrew Seeley – R	235	149	71
J. Benedict – D			39
Overseer of Poor:			
A. C. Hopkins – R			226
Frank Hooker – D			68
Constables:			
N. H. Dennis – R			218
Chas. Stubblebren – R	232		150
Isaac Vienna – R			224
A. H. Fuller	- R		
Martin Clancy – D			76
P. H. Bushnell – D			63
George Griffin – D			71
C. Henry Harrison – D	64		93

On motion, the ones receiving the largest number of votes were declared elected.

R. N. Backus, Supervisor  
 J. M. Sutphen  
 E. H. Clark  
 C. F. Griswold  
 M. C. Finley

Annual meeting of the Town Board as a Board of Auditors held at the Town Clerk's office on Thursday and Friday, November 7 and 8, 1907.  
 Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor, M. C. Finley, J. M. Sutphen, C. F. Griswold, and E. H. Clark, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Backus, the following bills were audited, and the Clerk was instructed to draw orders for the payment after February 15, 1908.

No.	Name	Service Rendered	Claimed	Allowed
1	A. C. Hopkins	Overseer of Poor		250.00
2	H. H. Scofield	Poll Clerk		
3	Claude Palmer	Election Inspector		14.00
4	C. H. Walton			Poll Clerk
5	Harry Braman	Special Police		
6	W. M. Parsons	Poll Clerk		
7	F. T. Boutall		Election Inspector	
8	Fred H. Durfee	Poll Clerk		
9	Edward J. Burns	Election Inspector		
10	A. T. Foskett		Election Inspector	
11	Henry M. Wood	Election Inspector		
12	G. A. Tuttle		Election Inspector	
13	W. J. Gorman	Election Inspector		
14	Kingsley Young	Election Inspector		14.00
15	B. H. Pyatt		Election Inspector & Work	
17	R. N. Reeves		Election Inspector	
18	Vincent Cronise	Poll Clerk		



19	Charles Haskell	Poll Clerk			4.00
21	Reformed Church	Rent			
22	Smith & Ziegler	Supplies			2.8
23	Anna T. Jackson	Insurance			12.5
24	A. R. Knapp		Insurance		
25	M. C. Finley		Assessor		
26	C. Belty		Assessor		
27	T. L. Cook		Assessor		
28	G. S. Tinklepaugh	Legal Services			30.00
29	George Throop	Attendance Officer			50.00
30	George Throop	Police Services			117.15
31	W. J. Jones		Police Services		94
32	W. J. Jones		Moving Voting Machine		12.00
33	S. N. Sawyer		Legal Services		10
34	C. H. Hedden	Highway Commissioner	512.00	512.00	
35	Village of Palmyra	Rent			10
36	L. B. Darling		Vital Statistics		5
37	L. B. Darling		Health Officer		13
38	H. H. Scofield	Legal Services			5.00
39	J. C. Feller		Board of Health		
40	Thomas L. Cook	Livery Hire			
41	Adam Ziegler		Repair Work		
42	S. D. VanAlstine	Copying Tax Books			35.00
43	Charles McLouth	Legal Services			2.00
44	W. H. Dennis		Constable Services		1
45	H. L. Chase		Vital Statistics		
46	Chas. D. Stepplebrun	Constable Services			31.80 31.80
47	J. E. Hartley		Vital Statistics		
48	G. H. Hubbard	Vital Statistics			.75
49	E. J. Brooker		Vital Statistics		
50	J. Mulendyke		Vital Statistics		
51	Peter McKenzie	Vital Statistics			3.25
52	E. F Towson		Vital Statistics		
53	Wmson. Law Book	Supplies			
54	Wayne Co. Journal	Printing & Advertising	131.00	131.00	
55	E. S. Horrill		Printing & Advertising		133.25
56	W. J. Hennessy	Vital Statistics			9.25
57	W. J. Hennessy	Health Officer			18.65
58	S. E. Braman		Insurance		
59	C. F. Griswold	Justice of the Peace			50.85 50.85
60	M. C. Finley		Justice of the Peace		188.13
61	E. H. Clark		Justice of the Peace		48.00
62	J. M. Sutphen	Justice of the Peace			48.00 48.00
63	H. L. Averill		Town Clerk		270.2
64	Abe VanHolden	Boarding Prisoners	71.00	71.00	
65	R. N. Backus		Supervisor		52.6
66	G. R. Stetson, Agt.	Rent-Election Room	18.00	18.00	
67	D. MacPherson	Vital Statistics	3.00	3.00	

68	L. H. Smith		Vital Statistics
69	W. J. Bott		Vital Statistics
70	A. R. Gamble	Taking Affidavits	2.00
71	Isaac Vienna		Constable Services

On motion, the following sheep were approved, and the Supervisor was instructed to pay the same from the Dog Fund.

John H. Walton  
 Dayton Smith  
 C. H. Rogers & Company  
 C. Bely  
 C. Stingle

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

H. L. Averill, Clerk

Regular meeting of Town Board held at the Village Hall on Friday, November 15, 1907. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; M. C. Finley, C. F. Griswold, J. M. Sutphen, and E. H. Clark, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

Meeting called to order by Mr. Backus, and minutes of Canvassing Board read and approved.

On motion of Mr. Clark, a resolution was passed authorizing the raising of the sum of \$3441.08 on all taxable property outside the village for highway purposes.

On motion of Mr. Clark, a resolution was passed authorizing the sum of \$100 to be raised by tax for Soldiers Relief and Memorial Day Fund.

On motion of Mr. Finley, a resolution was passed authorizing the raising of the sum of \$500 for a Contingent Fund.

On motion of Mr. Finley, the following Election Inspectors were appointed for the coming two years in the three districts:

District No. 1: S. D. VanAlstine – R  
 Claude Palmer – D  
 G. A. Tuttle – R

District No. 2 W. A Cady – R  
 Frank Boutall – R  
 A. T. Foskett – D

District No. 3 Kingsley Young – R  
 R. N. Reeves – R  
 Charles R. Harrison – D

No further business appearing, the minutes were read and approved, and the meeting adjourned.  
 H. R. Averill, Clerk

Meeting of the Town Board held at the Village Hall on Saturday, December 28, 1907, for the purpose of settling accounts of town officers and for the transaction of such other business as might properly come before the meeting. Present: R. N. Backus, Supervisor; C. F. Griswold, M. C. Finley, E. H. Clark, and J. M. Sutphen, Justices; and H. L. Averill, Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Backus, and minutes of last meeting read for information.

On motion of Mr. Finley, a resolution was passed authorizing the payment of the town's share of the purchase of formaldehyde by the Health Officer amounting to \$7.71.

The accounts of Highway Commissioner Hedden were gone over, and on motion a resolution was passed approving them.

The accounts of Supervisor Backus were examined and found to be correct; and on motion of Averill, a resolution was passed approving his report.

On motion of Mr. Finley, a resolution was passed authorizing the Supervisor to draw a check in payment of C. Belty's bill for sheep killed by dogs amounting to \$41.00

A resolution was offered by Mr. Griswold and duly carried, instructing Attorney C. C. Congdon not to prosecute poll tax in cases where delinquents can show a certificate of exemption, firemen's certificate, or over seventy years of age.

On motion of Mr. Finley, a resolution was passed fixing the amount of the supervisor's bond to be the same as the last two years: \$10,000.

On motion of Mr. Averill, a resolution was passed accepting the report of Overseer of the Poor, A. C. Hopkins.

On motion of Mr. Clark, a resolution was passed authorizing the clerk to appoint a committee of one to draft suitable resolutions on the retirement of Supervisor Backus and the same to be spread upon the records of the town.

The Clerk appointed Mr. Clark; and he offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:  
"In view of the retirement of Rufus N. Backus from office as Supervisor of Palmyra, we, the members of the Town Board of said town, desire to express our sentiments as follows:

“We thank Mr. Backus for many favors received at his hands. We are sorry to part with so wise a counselor and so genial a friend.

“We think him entitled to rank among the ablest and best of our Palmyra supervisors. We note in his favor the facts that the people especially invited him to accept the office, but did not invite him to leave it. In declining a third term, we congratulate him in finding himself in the illustrious company of George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt.”

We therefore direct that the above be inscribed upon the official record of our town. Palmyra, December 28, 1907.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

H. L. Averill, Clerk