

**PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**  
**GENERAL MEETING**

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The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Chairman Thom Lee, Vice-Chairman Liam Brohan, and Member Richard Bulette. Cheryl Nielsen and Darryl Keckler were absent. Also, in attendance were Dan McKinney, Director of Parks and Recreation and Robert Smith, Palmer Township Board of Supervisors Member.

**1. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approval of Minutes – October 2020.

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of October 2020.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Liam Brohan, Seconded by Rick Bulette  
Passed. 3-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Brohan, Bulette, Lee

Thom Lee called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Field House Review

INFORMATION

Lee informed everyone that all the Recreation Board members attended the special information meeting last month about the Field House and stated they did a really good job on presentation. They met all the objectives of all the organizations and were confident that all the revenue can be raised, and they claimed they are moving forward. Bulette commented that it was all very impressive. Brohan commented that they will be breaking ground next year. Smith commented that it all depends on what happens this year. Pidcock is doing mechanical drawings that will tell us how much. Brohan stated that it will be a huge improvement on the property. Lee asked if there was anything else that was needed from the Recreation Board and they answered, “keep coming up with non-traditional sports”.

### **3. Director's Report/State of the Union** **INFORMATION**

Smith stated he wanted to come before the Recreation Board and explain the budget meeting, not a pretty picture and wanted to review the numbers. Just the covid cleaning part of the bathroom buildings, is \$380,000 plus out of the general fund and no money was set aside. Brohan commented that this is not the end, going to continue. Smith continued that the storm hit us hard too and the pool loss. He continued to explain that he wanted to keep the Recreation Board updated with what Dan is going through. The loss of \$413,786 hurt the budget. It was never intended to create a profit but wanted to sustain and can't predict what is going to happen, McKinney agreed. The pool revenue, additional staff to clean, operating loss of 106,000. The loss of camp and programs picked up a tiny bit with the PTAA but also the loss in grant money for recycling. The combination of everything together is not putting the township in a good position. 1.265 operating reserve recreation fund and 250,000 out that to sustain loss. No tax increase, people have enough on their plate. Smith stated, that's where we are in the budget. Dan and his staff have done great to reduce what needs to be but must take a hard look of how things will continue, take a hard look at opening the pool? Brohan commented that real estate has been good, construction still going on. Smith relayed that full taxing until tiff is paid off. It is moving at a fast rate and once that tax revenue hits the township, this would be a different conversation. Basketball CBL League is cancelled so the PTAA got a small group together to form a league and are planning on cutting off registration soon. Wrestling postponed until January 1, 2021. McKinney stated that if there is no wrestling, we can move fitness classes for more gym time, everyone begging for gym time, groups always asking, we are doing what we can. Brohan commented that the CBL is not a good thing, for the last ten years the play from November through March. McKinney explained that if they come out of this in a different league, that would be a positive. Brohan said could be state regulated and different in all areas. McKinney explained that he heard just today that winter sports would continue, and they are very specific with questions and answers. PTAA is moving forward and I applaud them, wearing masks in the stands and on the courts. Lee questioned the turf field and how much time it is using. McKinney responded that now that the PTAA soccer season is done, it is rented six days a week. During the winter it is rented every weekend. We will not be renting the sod field due to damage. We don't remove snow from the turf field so that would lose income. The Community Center is looking at all ways to make things work. There is a panic in the air. We are going to stop our Before Care/After Care Program starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. It is not feasible at this time; it will allow us to open doors later and we have all kinds of ideas. Smith explained that the first of the year, we will reevaluate. After talking to the PTAA president, this defunding came at the worst time, regular numbers

way off, they said they will make it through the Xmas Tree Sale. They did finish the inside of the new equipment room next to the pole building, equipment now at a central location. Lee asked if there was any information from other municipalities moving ahead and seeing what's down the line? Smith stated they have absolutely looked at all ways, issues like opening the pool will have to be looked at sooner. McKinney explained that the hiring process for the pool and camp. Brohan stated that we are in good shape as a municipality. Smith went on to explain that bond money and refinanced projects that we stalled, and Bond money has a time limit but trying to stagger. Brohan asked if there anything we can do as a community, for the people that are struggling? Smith responded that the Fire Department is trying to protect citizens and staff. Well hopefully when the vaccine comes it will turn the curve. I just wanted to present to you what was going to happen, by transferring into the Recreation Fund to go into next year, it will give us a full boat. I will continue to keep you in the loop. I do suggest you to a Zoom Meeting in December. Lee thanked Smith for all the good news. Smith apologized for not so pleasant news but assured that we will get through this together. There is a lot of great projects in the work. Smith wished the Recreation Board a safe holiday and commented on how things have changed.

#### **4. New Business - None**

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Richard Bulette made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 7:35 pm, the motion was seconded by Liam Brohan.

Board Members voting Ayes: Brohan, Bulette, Lee  
Passed. 3-0.

Next meeting December 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus  
Corresponding Secretary