

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 6, 2014

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on February 6, 2014, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, George Harrison, Ricky Stork and J.R. Dunlap. J.D. Kimberlin was absent.

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeff Besing, Tanner Miller, DPW, Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Peg and Red Waggoner, Rodney and Lugene Bond, and Chris Forde (WTYE).

Meeting called to order by Mayor Patricia Schofield.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of January 2, 2014, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Update - Streetscape Project. Mayor Schofield received an e-mail from Matt Miller from Prairie Engineering informing us that the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) has determined the proposed improvements would create an "adverse effect" on the historic resources. The SHPO has suggested an additional meeting with the involved parties in order to come to an agreeable solution. Mr. Miller is working with IDOT to schedule a meeting. He will provide us with an update as soon as he hears from IDOT.

2) Update - Dollar General. Work is underway to prepare site for construction. The Building Committee has approved and signed off on the road sign and the building sign for the new store. Construction is expected to start by early spring.

3) Update - Apartment complex on Pike St. Boulevard-Stephanie Bond, Owner. Chief Besing mailed certified letters to Stephanie Bond (which was returned undelivered) and to John Blair (which was accepted by Janice Hughes). A court date was set for January 14, 2014. No correspondence from courts has been received.

4) Update - 400 N. Lincoln St. property. This matter has been resolved. We've received notification that everything has been paid in full and we are just waiting on the title. We'll then contact Tom Woodward and he'll proceed with the demolition of the trailer and cleaning the property.

5) Update - Matteson Property – 205 N. Rush St. Bench trial is set for March 11, 2014 at 9:00 AM. Mayor Schofield would like as many Trustees to attend as possible. Their support is important.

6) Update – LaMotte Creek Watershed meeting. Mayor Schofield and Rick Stork attended the meeting and said it was very informative. During the meeting, Mayor Schofield advised them that the Village is not in a position to take care of maintenance of the high school tributary any longer because of the safety risk, and lack of funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Officially approve the Phone Poll of 1/7/14 for the purchase of a new snow plow. Our snow plow completely broke down recently and needed to be replaced as quickly as possible. A company in Evansville said they could order and install the plow on our frame for \$4700. Mayor Schofield conducted a phone poll and received unanimous approval. Ricky Stork made a motion to officially approve the purchase and George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Approve Resolution for Maintenance of Street and Highways – by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code. Gene Purcell moved to approve the Resolution for Maintenance of Streets & Highways and J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Carol Holbert, CPA, possible bidder for Village Accountant/Audit. Carol has requested that we consider her to be the Village's CPA. She would like to bid on our account. Carol has been a CPA for over 26 years and has worked with many Municipalities, including ours when she worked for Kemper CPA Group. She is opening her own business and is excited about the possibility of working with us again.

It was the consensus of the Board that we go forward with this. In addition they would like to invite Kemper to bid for our continued business.

4) Approve bid for roof replacement on Salt Shed & repair to barn roof/skylight. We've received a bid from Kessler Construction in the amount of \$1700. George Harrison moved that we accept the bid from Kessler Construction. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5) Approve replacement of furnace at the barn. The furnace at the barn completely quit working and it was determined that we needed a new one. We've received an estimate from Biernbaum Plumbing & Heating to remove the existing furnace and install a new Bryant Model 9155A42100521, 100,000 BTU, 95% efficient furnace for \$2500.00. Gene Purcell made a motion that we have Biernbaum order the new furnace for the barn and install it. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. The DPW has been busy lately with snow removal.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Chief Besing issued an ordinance citation for "Dilapidated Building" on the Matteson property at 415 S. Main Street. A warning letter was sent on July 19, 2013 with no response. The court date for this citation is on March 11th, same time as the bench trial for the 205 N. Rush St. property.

Chief Besing presented the Board with a Police Dept. Master Activity Report for 2013. It included 184 verbal citations; 38 ordinance violations; 2 criminal cases and 4 DUI arrests. The report for the month of January was also disbursed.

Jeff commended Steve Mitchell for his service to the Village. Not only does Steve take good care of us when we call him but he's also helped the Village at his own initiative and at no expense to the Village. A big thank you to Steve!

PIONEER ROOM – FEBRUARY – GRETA DENNISON

FYI: Mediacom rate increase. This is the second increase this year.

FYI: Mitchell’s Annual Bid for equipment use. A Copy of the bid was given to Trustees.

REMINDER: Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Dinner 2/19/14.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Financials for December 2013 and January 2014 were handed out. The audit from Traveler’s Insurance (Workman’s Compensation) went well and the result from the audit was a substantial decrease in the annual premium.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. A building permit for a fence was issued. The road sign and building sign for Dollar General were approved.

Employee Relations Committee: Greta Dennison, Chairman. A meeting will be scheduled in March.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Greta Dennison, Secondary.

Ordinance Committee:

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: J.R. Dunlap, Chairman. Dave Maxwell is going to start work on Grand Prairie when weather permits.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman. Ricky said we are in need of a more powerful sewer jet/rodder. Some of the tree roots in some sewer lines are so large that ours will not get the job done and we have to call Robinson for help. Some of the old sewer tiles are in bad condition. In addition, some manholes are going to have to be replaced soon. Mayor Schofield said she is planning to apply for a grant(s) for help with the sewer issues.

With no further business to discuss Greta Dennison moved to adjourn. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK

