

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 5, 2015

Palestine Board of Trustees met on March 5, 2015, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were George Harrison, Ricky Stork, J.R. Dunlap, Rob Byrley, Larry Miller and Gene Purcell.

Staff Members present: Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk, Shirley Adams, Village Clerk, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent, Tom Herlocher, Sr., DPW, and Kathy Gonzalez, Admin. Assistant for Police Dept.

Visitors present: Chris Tanner, ILEAS Regional Coordinator, Len Daugherty, Larry Tedford, Peg and Red Waggoner, Tim McDaniel, Janice Fuller, Jim Snyder, Jim Clark, Bob Taylor, and Christopher DeWitt (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 February 5, 2015, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Discussion and update on Streetscape. The final plans submitted by Prairie Engineering have finally been agreed upon by IDOT and IHPA. Ricky Stork opened the discussion. Even with the new plans, there were still too many concerns voiced by the majority of the Board. After addressing the concerns, Gene Purcell made a motion that we stop all Streetscape activities. J.R. seconded motion. Motion passed with Gene Purcell, George Harrison, Larry Miller and J.R. Dunlap voting aye and Rob Byrley and Ricky Stork voting nay.

2) Reminder: Budget Workday-March 28 – Breakfast served at 8:30.

3) Reminder: Spring Clean-up. Scheduled for 3 days, April 29, 30, May 1. Items cannot be set out any earlier than 24 hours prior to April 29th!

4) Update on the completion of the Lagoon fencing. Construction is complete. There is a little more clean-up to be done and disposal of the old fencing.

5) Larry Tedford – Presentation of lot layouts for proposed RV Park on 3 lots. Larry was unable to get his presentation ready. This may be on hold for a while as he is working on another project at this time.

6) Matteson property updates. Mr. Matteson has agreed to complete the repairs on his South Main St. property. He was requested to keep the Village informed about the sale of his property on N. Rush St., but we have not heard anything as of this date.

7) Spring Fling: Hosted by Nicole Martin – Saturday, April 11, 2015.

- a. Approval for closing Main to Alley on W. Grand Prairie St. already in place – 2013.
- b. May need more space in front of Fife, as needed (same as last year).

The consensus of the Board was to approve the closing of Main Street as shown above and to allow for more space if needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Discussion and Approval of Resolution for FULL FUNDING of LGDF Revenues. Many of the Village Staff have sent letters to Governor Bruce Rauner, Senator Dale Righter, and State Representative Reggie Phillips opposing the 50% cut to State Income Tax Revenue for municipalities. It would mean that our Income Tax revenue would be cut by \$67,735.50. This would be devastating to our small municipality. Larry Miller made a motion for the Board, in its entirety, to approve Resolution, 2015-R-01, providing for full funding of LGDF revenues. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Dollar General (remainder property) – Lots donation to Palestine Food Bank. The Village received the deed for the lots behind Dollar General. After reviewing the lots, the suggestion was to deed to the Food Bank Lots 17, 18, 19; half of Lot 20, and only that portion of Lot 21 that is contiguous directly North of Lots 17, 18, 19, and ½ of Lot 20. Ricky Stork made a motion to donate the necessary lots to the Food Bank. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Final Approval Phone/Email – purchase new pump for E. LaMotte Lift-Station. Gene Purcell made a motion for final approval of the phone poll to purchase a new pump. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4) ILEAS – Chris Tanner, Regional Coordinator; Presentation for the Certification for Agency Preparedness status for Police Department. Chris presented Chief Jeff Besing and Kathy Gonzalez with the Certificate for completing the Agency Preparedness Program. Chief Besing said that Kathy was instrumental in getting it completed in a timely manner.

5) William Myers – Driveway off Main Street. Mr. Myers is asking the Village to provide him with a driveway for access to his property. The driveway that is there next to Verizon is owned by Brian Nethery. Ricky Stork made a motion that the Village present Mr. Myers with a letter of denial because he does not own any part of the driveway. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6) Snow Emergency(ies) – Signage – When to call – Who to call. Although we've received many kudos to the DPW on the snow removal, we've also had some disgruntled folks. Kathy Clark is ordering some signs that are needed to counteract some problems we have had. It was suggested that the Chief, DPW and J.R. be involved to declare a snow emergency. Kathy feels it should be her responsibility. Our snow emergency route would be Main Street. When a snow event takes place that is 2" or more of snow, those folks on Main Street need to find alternate parking. Mayor Pat said she would see to it that the media was informed in order to get the word out to our residents. Ricky Stork made a motion that we proceed with the snow emergency as presented and approve an overnight winter parking ban. J.R. seconded motion, extending the dates from November 1st to April 15th. Motion passed unanimously.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. State plumbing inspector will notify the Village when Llama's has installed a grease trap/interceptor.

DPW have a pump in for repair but it is taking longer than expected due to their shop overload. The new pump has been ordered. As soon as weather permits, they will start on street maintenance and resurfacing.

REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. We have received the “go ahead” to order our new squad car that was made possible through USDA grant. The new police vehicle is a 2016 Ford Interceptor SUV and the estimated delivery date is the middle of June. The cost of the vehicle is projected at \$36, 099.00. Chief would like to advertise the vehicle on their ILEAS website, and if no other department is interested, then we could go through a “sealed bidding” process. We also have a 1999 Chevy Malibu that we seized from a drug related arrest and we will be able to auction it off in November. The final cost to the Village for the new squad car, after selling the Dodge Nitro and the seized drug car, should be around \$6,000.

He also has around \$5,520 in other grant money and donations to be used for other equipment related items for the new squad car.

Chief Besing is working on another grant to be used towards updating our Tasers and obtaining body camera’s, which will soon be mandated to be worn by all law enforcement officers.

PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREET PARK – MARCH - ROB BYRLEY

FYI... Palestine PTO; Paces for Pioneers, will be held on May 9, 2015.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. February financials given to Trustees. February financials distributed. In the process of working on the FY 2016 budget.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman

Employee Relations Committee: Patricia Schofield, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Trustees were reminded to complete their annual OMA training.

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman. Larry is gathering information for Larry Tedford.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: J.R. Dunlap, Chairman.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman.

Other Business:

George Harrison from Crawford County Spay/Neuter Foundation requesting a contribution. It was the consensus that this is good for our community. George Harrison made a motion that the Village donate \$500 to Crawford County Spay/Neuter Foundation. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Miller moved to adjourn. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK