

## MINUTES

### PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 6, 2014

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on March 6, 214, 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, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent, Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Carol Holbert, Red Waggoner, Rodney Bond, Larry Miller, Jim Clark, Lloyd Dunlap, Ed Brannon, Lamara Shultz, Bob Taylor, Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News), 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 February 6, 2014, were accepted as presented.

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#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1) Streetscape Project – Update. Mayor Schofield received a letter from Matt Miller which she sent to the Trustees. They have promised a redesign. They will probably take it to IDOT and SHPO before they bring it to us. We must stay committed and need to consider what we will accept as a compromise. The Mayor feels that the cost for the re-design should not come out of the grant money.

2) Dollar General – Update. It is most certainly a go! Steve Mitchell has got the ground prep almost completed and IDOT has approved the driveway entrance.

3) Update on apartment complex on Pike St. Blvd.-Stephanie Bond, Owner. Our attorney informed Chief Besing that the owner has paid her fines.

The question was raised as to why Robinson's fines (for the same violation) were more costly. We were told that their fines also include any legal fees related to that citation and we don't have an ordinance to pass on those extra fees. Mayor Schofield said our attorney will be preparing a new ordinance for the Village in order to recover those extra costs.

4) Update – 400 N. Lincoln St. Property. This is now our property. As soon as possible Tom Woodard will be in to pay the difference for the payoff and the property will be turned over to him. We are waiting for the title to the trailer.

5) Update – Matteson Property – 205 N. Rush St. - Court Date: March 11. The court date is March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

6) Update – Matteson Property – 415 S. Main St. – Court Date: March 11. The court date for this is also on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

7) Approve Supplemental Resolution for 2013 MFT. The final amount was more than the initial resolution. George Harrison moved to approve the Supplemental Resolution. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Budget Workday- March 22 or March 29. The consensus was to have it on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast at 8:30 AM with budget meeting to follow.

2) Spring Fling hosted by Nicole Martin – Saturday. April 12<sup>th</sup>.

1. Already approved Main St. to Alley on W. Grand Prairie St.

2. May need more space in front of Fife in the parking area in the street; she has many vendors who are signing up this year to participate in this great event.

J.R. Dunlap made a motion to allow for more room in front of the Fife. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Then after further discussion, it was the consensus of the Trustees that due to safety issues, it was suggested we block the entire block off during this time. J.R. Dunlap amended his original motion to allow the entire block between Market & Grand Prairie be marked off during the Spring Fling. Rick Stork seconded this amended motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Town-wide Spring Clean-up. Spring clean-up will be held on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>; and Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will make sure that everything is picked up by Friday. This includes only trash and household junk items – paid up Republic customers only.

4) D & M Salvage (Mark Dennis) will be picking up all appliances during the spring Clean-up – hot water heaters, car parts, scrap metal, and miscellaneous metal items, lawn mowers and parts; No televisions or digital equipment.

5) Mediacom – Home Security Alarm Systems – discussion of rules/regulations/fees. Mayor Schofield has received a request from Mediacom to obtain information regarding rules/permits/regulation/fees of alarm systems for the Village. At this time we do not have any in place. There are some homes in the Village that have the ADT system. Mayor Schofield asked that the Trustees think about this and be prepared to discuss it further at our next meeting.

6) CEFS – Community Action Agency for Youth – ages 16-21. See attached. CEFS is a non-profit community action agency providing services to low income youth, adults, and dislocated workers. They are asking if we would have a place for one of these workers. CEFS pays the worker's wage and workman's Comp. It would be for approximately 6 months. Mayor Schofield said that the Village did participate in this program back in the 90's.

7) Discuss/approve energy services for Village owned properties – Comparing extension of Liberty Power (current energy service) vs. Good energy rates – see comparison sheet attached. Liberty Power has not sent us their rates yet. Mayor Schofield wrote Good Energy and they feel they can get us a much better rate than Liberty. As soon as she gets the rates, she will be in touch with each Trustee.

8) Approve a contract for the audit of the Village of Palestine for FY ending April 30, 2014. We received bids from Kemper CPA Group and Holbert & Phipps, LLP. Although the bids were similar in what they would do for the Village, the bid from Holbert and Phipps was quite a bit lower. After reviewing both bids, Ricky Stork made a motion to go with Holbert & Phipps for the annual audit for FY 2014. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Carol Holbert was present and thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with the Village.

**DPW REPORT:** Kathy Clark, Superintendent. The roof has been replaced on the sand shed and the barn roof was repaired.

We've received some complaints from a couple of our sewer customers who believe the Village should be responsible for part of their sewer repair bills. The rule of thumb is that if you have sewer problems from your home to the main line, that is the owner's responsibility; however, Mayor Schofield is waiting for further information before a decision is made. Mayor Schofield reminded everyone, once again, to make sure if they hire a plumber, electrician or roofer, be sure they are State Licensed.

Ricky Stork made a motion that we put an ad in the local newspaper to the Palestine residents informing them about the fact that plumbers, electricians and roofers should be properly licensed, insured and bonded. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The DPW is back to their regular hours of 6:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday, and 6:00 am to 10:00 am on Friday.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Although we've had lots of snow recently, Chief Besing said they have not worked any weather related accidents in the Village. He complimented Kathy and the DPW crew for doing a good job on our streets.

The Chief will be working on the Mary Heath grant for two new AED's for the squad cars and two new extra portable radios and a new base station radio for the office.

He had a cardiac call on Tuesday and had to use our AED. The patient is in a Terre Haute hospital at this time.

They will be working on trash, debris and vehicle ordinances within the Village when weather permits.

Josh and Chief Besing will be participating in the donkey Basketball fundraiser next Friday. He encouraged everyone to come.

## **PIONEER ROOM – MARCH – GRETA DENNISON**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Budget Committee:** Shirley Adams, Chairman. Financials for February were given out. The Trustees were given a Statement of Economic Interest form that is to be completed and returned to the Village Clerk for filing.

**Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance:** Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. Two permits to put up fences were issued this month.

**Employee Relations Committee:** Greta Dennison, Chairman.

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

**Ordinance Committee:**

**Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee:** J.R. Dunlap, Chairman. J.R. is looking for more information on rules or regulations concerning dry wells within the Village.

**Sewer/Lagoon Committee:** Ricky Stork, Chairman.

Ricky Stork made a motion to go into Executive Session referencing 2(C)(5). J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

The Board returned to regular session at 7:35 PM. The possibility of the Village of Palestine taking ownership of the Regions Bank building in Palestine was discussed. At this time, we do not have enough information to call for a vote.

With no further business to discuss J.R. Dunlap moved to adjourn. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

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MAYOR

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CLERK