

**MINUTES  
PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**April 3, 2014**

**5:30 PM – TOUR OF COMMUNITY FACILITY**

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on April 3, 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, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent, Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk, Shirley Adams, Village Clerk and Tanner Miller.

Visitors present: Peg and Red Waggoner, Larry Miller, Lloyd Dunlap, 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 March 6, 2014, were accepted as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1) Streetscape Project-Update. Mayor Schofield is getting weekly status reports from Matt Miller (Prairie Engr.). They are still busy trying to re-design and get approval from everyone. Information needed: Revised decorative rail design from Kennedy Hutson Associates and approval from IDOT/SHPO of the revised proposed streetscape plan.

Next Steps: Submit revised decorative rail design to IDOT/SHPO for review; Approval from the Village of Palestine of the revised proposed streetscape plan; and Finalize development of the pre-final streetscape plans and submit to IDOT.

They all have to be complete before IDOT will give their final approval.

2) Dollar General – Update. Work is moving quickly, weather permitting.

3) Update on apartment complex on Pike St. Boulevard-Stephanie Bond, Owner. Joe Dart is under contract to purchase Stephanie Bond's property in Crawford County. He has assured us that as soon as he gets title he will start cleaning it up.

4) Update – Matteson Property – 205 N. Rush St. – Court Date: April 8. Mr. Matteson met with our attorney and has agreed to have it torn down by September 1, 2014; therefore, the court date was cancelled.

5) Update – Matteson Property – 415 S. Main St. – Court Date: April 8. Mr. Matteson submitted a proposal to our attorney giving a time table for getting this property repaired and cleaned up by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. We agreed; therefore, the court date was cancelled.

6) REMINDER: Town-Wide Spring Clean-up - Wednesday, April 30 through Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This includes only trash and household items.

7) REMINDER: D & M Salvage (Mark Dennis) has been awarded exclusive pick-up of all appliances – hot water heaters; car parts; scrap metal; misc. metal items, lawn mower and parts; NO television or digital equipment.

8) Street Signs – Discuss selling the old street signs. Some residents have inquired if they could purchase the old street signs. The DPW have already put up the first installation. Kathy would like to have the time to accumulate them all and get them organized and ready to sell. The consensus was to sell them for \$5.00 each.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Officially approve Fiscal Budget for FY 2014-2015. Gene Purcell made a motion to approve the Village of Palestine General Fund Budget for FY 2014-2015. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Ricky Stork moved to approve the Sewer Maintenance Budget for FY 2014-2015. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Review and Adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 2014-O-02, whereby the penalties for \*fines will provide the assessment of our attorney's fees – include legal fees- (\*Defined as Minimum fines from \$50 to \$100). Greta Dennison made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2014-O-02 as written. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Review and Adopt Resolution No. 2014-R-01 – Authorizing the Execution of a Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement, etc. – See attached for information. Chief Besing explained that there is an organization called ILEAS (IL Law Enforcement Alarm System) based out of Salem, IL, which comprises of officers and deputy sheriffs from different departments to come together and train in tactical responses to assist other agencies. George Harrison moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-R-01 authorizing the execution of a Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, George Harrison and Ricky Stork voted aye. J.R. Dunlap voted nay. Motion carried.

4) PDA Official Request for approval of Wine and Arts Festival – October 4 & 5. Mayor Schofield said It will be exactly as it has been in the past. J.R. Dunlap moved to approve the Wine and Arts Festival. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5) Polly Ervin Property – 423 E. Franklin St. – Pictures will be provided. There have been three complaints received concerning this property. Chief Besing provided pictures showing the condition of the property. He also sent letters out to four property owners giving them 30 days to clean up their respective property or citations will be issued.

6) Mediacom – Home Security Alarm Systems – Discussion of Rules/Regulations/Fees – Proposed Rules and Regulations. The consensus was that the Village would not charge any fees at this time; however if, in the future, Chief Besing gets excessive false alarm calls, we may revisit this and a fee might be assessed.

7) AmVets request for Beer Fest – April 26 – Permission to close street to alley. A definite date has not been set at this time, according to Ricky Stork. This will not be open to the public; it will be for vets only and their guests. It is basically a membership drive. There will be a closed designated area with auxiliary police as security. The VFW in Robinson is providing a van for designated drivers. Ricky as been asked to request permission for them to serve mixed drinks in plastic cups and guests be allowed to take them into the designated area. J.R. Dunlap made a motion to approve the AmVets request for Beer Fest, closing street to alley if necessary and mixed drinks (in plastic cups) be allowed in the designated area. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Lagoon Fencing. Kathy Clark reported that there is 4750 linear feet of fence around the lagoon that needs replaced. Mayor Schofield spoke with Dan Jansen when he was here and he told her to send him a letter with information. He feels there might be a matching grant available and the interest rate is really low right now. We will have to get some new bids on estimates. Kathy Clark has been in touch with the EPA and they told her that since the lagoon is not in a populated area with children (like a school) there would be no problem with us putting up a new fence. Mayor Schofield will continue working on this.

**FYI: Good Energy:** Mayor Schofield gave out a copy of the signed contract with Good Energy with the new rates for Village owned property. It is a fixed rate for 36 months. The rate is .04656 cents and starts on July 2, 2014. This is only on the one lift station that we use more than 18,000 kWh hours and the other on the street lighting. Everything else we own has been included in our original contract.

**DPW REPORT:** Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Otie will be going through the start up operation of the new generator; he'll take it to the lagoon, hook it up, and check it out. Kathy has created a maintenance log for the generator.

Rick said we still need to get the culvert at the lagoon plugged. Kathy may call Superior Welding for help.

The DPW is taking the leaf vac out for the final time next week.

J.R. Dunlap handed out information on a grapple hook. He feels it would be advantageous for the DPW. The consensus was that one that could be put on our bucket on the tractor would work best. A grapple hook would make picking up sticks, limbs, etc. much easier and would save time. Kathy said a salesman from Vincennes Tractor says there is a grapple that would fit our John Deere Loader and she will be following up with him.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Chief Besing and Kathy Gonzalez completed their Haz-Mat & Blood-borne Pathogens recertification training in March.

He has submitted the Mary Heath grant paperwork and is working on other grants for the Police Department.

Letters will be sent out for trash and debris violations for some properties.

They have been dealing with more dog complaints. Residents are reminded to keep their dogs on a leash or other restraint device while they are outside. The owners are responsible for medical costs for any dog bites. They will get a citation with mandatory court date also.

Chief Besing has been asked what hours of the night are 'deemed' as quiet hours. After looking at the Ordinance, basically, if the noise that someone is creating is disturbing their neighbor regardless of the time of day or night, they can be cited for it.

## **PIONEER ROOM – APRIL – RICKY STORK**

**FYI:** Shirley Adams and Mayor Pat will be out of the office on April 23 & 24 to attend the Annual FY 2015 Benefits Choice Seminar (employee insurance package) in Springfield. Gene Purcell will be Mayor Pro Tem during that time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Budget Committee:** Shirley Adams, Chairman. March financials were handed out. The annual Appropriation should be ready for approval at May's Board Meeting.

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

**Employee Relations Committee:** Greta Dennison, Chairman. Greta and Gene Purcell worked on employee raises which were approved in the budget.

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

**Ordinance Committee:**

**Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee:** J.R. Dunlap, Chairman. A lot of sidewalks have been repaired or replaced. DPW have been working on alleys too.

**Sewer/Lagoon Committee:** Ricky Stork, Chairman. Ricky invited everyone to come out and see the new generator when Otie starts it up.

Greta Dennis made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) and 2(C)(5)-Property. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried.

Regular session resumed at 8:05 pm. The executive meeting centered on the resignation of J.D. Kimberlin and that we will be filling the vacancy he has left.

In addition, Chief Besing advised the Board that he is in the process of starting an application process to replace the vacancy in the Police Department.

With no further business to discuss J.R. Dunlap moved to adjourn. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

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MAYOR

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CLERK