

# VILLAGE OF PALESTINE

## RETIREMENT RECEPTION

**May 2, 2013 – 5:00 PM**

Retiring Chief of Police: Jim Clark  
Retiring Police Sergeant: Ed Myers  
Retiring Trustee: Larry Miller

## MEET AND GREET

New Police Chief: Jeff Besing  
New Patrolman: Joshua Green

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## MINUTES

### PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**May 2, 2013 – 6:00 PM**

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on April 4, 2013, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, J.R. Dunlap, Larry Miller, Greta Dennison and J.D. Kimberlin. Larry Surrells was absent.

Other Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeffrey Besing; Patrolman Joshua Green; Kathy Gonzalez, Police Dept. Admin. Assistant; Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent; Tom Herlocher, Sr., DPW worker; Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Rick Stork, Tina Stork, Todd Knoblett, Kim Lowe, 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 April 4, 2013, were accepted as presented.

## BOARD ACTION

**Swearing-in Ceremonies: Mayor Pat Schofield - Trustee Harry Gene Purcell,  
Trustee J.R. Dunlap - Trustee Ricky Stork**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1) Report on Spring Clean-up. Republic did ok but we are having an issue with appliance and metal pick-up. The Village contracts Mark Dennis to do this and people are picking up the items before Mark can get to them. Some of these folks are even from out of town. This is not fair to Mark. We are open to any suggestions for a way to solve this problem before the next clean-up. We need to honor our contractor.

2) Report on Election Canvas from County Clerk. Copies were given out to new trustees. The original certificates will be put on the wall in the Pioneer Room.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Elizabeth Wilson – Re: Sunday Law Enforcement. Since we now have Sunday liquor sales, she feels it would be good to have a policeman on duty every Sunday. Jeff said he and Josh will be working some Sundays. They will be alternating Sunday coverage with a mix of days and nights.

Re: Sheriff's Department coverage for Palestine-for Dog Ordinance complaints. The County and the Sheriff's Department can respond to complaints but then pass them on to our Police Department. In turn, if a complaint is signed, our Police personnel can enforce the ordinance and issue citations.

2) Formally approve Trailer for Rhonda Webster etal. A telephone poll was taken earlier. Gene Purcell moved to formally approve the trailer for Rhonda Webster etal. J.D. Kimberlin seconded motion. Motion unanimously approved.

3) Approve Paces for Pioneers. J.R. Dunlap moved to approve the 'run/walk' Paces for Pioneers to be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Discussion and approval of L.E.S.O. This is a program where law enforcement surplus equipment can be purchased at deeply discounted prices. The cost is \$150 annually. Kathy is getting information about a generator. Greta Dennison moved to approve the L.E.S.O. program. Rick Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5) Discuss and approve posting signs at both ends of alley – from Rt. 33 East to Bryant Street – "NO THROUGH TRAFFIC". This is being used as a road. It is intended to be a utility lane for people who live there. A big part of the DPW budget goes for upkeep on this alley. Greta Dennison made a motion to approve posting the signs "no through traffic" at both ends of the alley in question. J.D. Kimberlin seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Squad Car Discussion. The Oblong Police Dept. has a squad car for sale. It is a 2009 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, fully loaded with police equipment. The price is \$16,000. Kathy Gonzalez took pictures of it to pass around to Trustees. The Oblong Police Dept. rotates their squad cars every three years and this vehicle is in very good condition. Mayor Schofield said we could borrow money against our tax revenue like we did with Dodge Nitro in order to pay for it. We, in turn, would sell our Impala police vehicle. Chief Besing said he could put it on a law enforcement network or we could sell it through a bidding process. After further discussion, Greta Dennison moved to purchase the vehicle. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**DPW REPORT:** Kathy Clark, Superintendent. DPW has been working hard to repair the sink hole at the lagoon but have encountered many problems. Kiefer Brothers, out of Mt. Carmel, have evaluated the situation and they've given an estimate of approx. \$40,000 for them to do the repairs. After further discussion, Gene Purcell made a motion to have Kiefer Brothers do the job, if we cannot repair it ourselves. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

They've also been fighting ground water due to the flood. Kathy's trying to fix Kermit's problems also. Tom's been a great help with all of this.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. The new computer program has been installed and is working well. Josh Green starts tomorrow. He and Jeff will be going for training on 'mass casualty incidents' in Robinson tomorrow. Jeff has submitted grants through the Federal Bullet Proof Vest Grant Program for vests and the Mary Heath Foundation for another taser, lockers for evidence and help with the bullet proof vests.

**FYI:** Received Thank You letter from PDA for sponsoring the Golf-in-the-Park event. They raised almost \$1600.00 which will be used toward the \$58,000 Leaverton Park Playground Equipment Project.

**FYI:** If you have not signed the Resolution for Participating in the State of Illinois Federal Surplus Program, please sign it at our meeting.

**PIONEER ROOM – MAY – J.D. Kimberlin**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Budget Committee:** Shirley Adams, Chairman. March financial reports were handed out. Mayor Schofield and Shirley attended a CMS meeting at Mt. Vernon on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Our health insurance rates are not going to increase.

**Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance:** Larry Miller, Chairman. A building permit for 307 W. Grand Prairie was approved.

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

**FOIA Officers:** Shirley Adams, Preliminary: Greta Dennison, Secondary. Another reminder...please complete the 2013 FOIA/OMA training module.

**Ordinance Committee:** Larry Miller, Chairman. A couple of ordinances are still in progress.

**Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee:** Larry Surrells, Chairman.

**Sewer Committee:** Larry Surrells, Chairman.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mayor Schofield said she is going to call Republic concerning the "flood trash" and see what they can do for us.

Tina Stork asked about the sidewalk at the AmVets. J.R. said he hand delivered a letter to them last week concerning this. Rick will try and get more information.

With no further business to discuss, J.R. Dunlap moved to adjourn. Rick Stork seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

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MAYOR

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CLERK