

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 5, 2013

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on September 5, 2013, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, J.R. Dunlap, J.D. Kimberlin, Ricky Stork and Larry Surrells. Greta Dennison was absent.

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeffrey Besing; Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent; Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk; Shirley Adams, Village Clerk; and Bobby Rollins and Tom Herlocher, Sr. from DPW.

Visitors present: Steve Mitchell, Bob Taylor, Red and Peg Waggoner, Barbara Miller and Chris Forde (WTYE).

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of August 1, 2013, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Approve Ordinance 2013-O-10 – Amending Traffic Chapter 41. Ricky Stork made a motion to accept the final Ordinance as written. J.D. seconded motion. Gene Purcell, Larry Surrells, J.D. Kimberlin and Ricky Stork voted aye. J.R. Dunlap voted nay. Motion passed.

2) Approve Ordinance 2013-O-11 – Amending Streets Chapter 5. Gene Purcell moved to approve the final Ordinance as written. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Update on Perrine Property. Our attorney says we cannot do what was suggested at the last Board Meeting. The trailer is in the hands of Crawford County Trustees in Edwardsville. We could initiate condemnation proceedings. Her animals were picked up by Crawford County Humane Society.

4) Update on apartment complex on Pike St. Blvd. The property owner has yet to answer Mayor Schofield's request so we will have to continue to pursue this as well.

5) Further discussion of annexation of Murphy Convenience Store. Our attorney says that once we determine if we are going ahead with this, we will have to petition owners of record and get 100% to sign up. We would also have to have 51% of electors to be on board. Our engineering representative estimates between \$3,000 to \$5,000 to complete legal descriptions and plat. This is a State requirement. We would have to update abstracts and do title searches. Letters would be sent to owners by our attorney. Larry Surrells doesn't feel we would get enough tax money to compensate for the expenses that would have to be incurred; however, Mayor Schofield reminded us that Mr. Murphy said that he would be willing to help with the expenses. Larry Surrells made a motion to table this until the October Board Meeting. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Village-Wide Fall Clean-up – Tentatively scheduled for October 30th. This is for paid up customers of Republic Services.

2) Sewer Plant Discussion. Kathy Clark gave Trustee Ricky Stork a tour of our sewer plant recently. Rick said that at the West levee, at the big pond, it is too steep to mow safely. We actually did have an incident this past summer. Tom Herlocher says “it is hair raising to mow”. Steve Mitchell is getting blue prints and will be talking to Tom Hose about this. Steve said we could possibly take two feet off the top and Larry Surrells said he thought three feet off the top would make it even safer. Steve also had some other suggestions for the Board to consider. Rick also said there is a culvert at the levee with no gate. The DPW will be working on getting it capped.

3) Discussion: Chapter 42: Offences Against Public Peace, Safety, and Morals. It was suggested by Chief Basing that this section needs clarified. He presented a rough draft with the change to read “No person shall *carry or* discharge a BB gun, pellet gun, bow & arrow/crossbow or any other object or device which propels a projectile which can cause damage to property and injury or death to an animal or person”. J.R. Dunlap moved to accept the draft. It was then suggested that we omit the verbiage “*carry or*” in the statement and all agreed. J.R. rescinded his original motion and then moved to accept 42:03 Weapons draft as written with the ‘*carry or*’ omitted. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Barbara Miller - Discussion re: Miller Junction Building on Main Street and the Village Responsibilities - Barbara Miller addressed the Village Board of Trustees regarding the awning that was torn off their building by a windstorm in March while she and Larry were in Florida. She received several calls regarding the awning having been torn down by the storm, and in her opinion the way that the Village DPW apparently handled the situation. She was told by someone in Palestine that the statement was made that “if it was Larry Miller’s building, they would help, but if it was David’s building, they would not help”. Also, her granddaughter, Kacee, asked a Village employee for a shovel and broom and was told we didn’t have any. Mayor Schofield, at Kacee’s request, then supplied what she needed to finish cleaning up. Barbara’s granddaughter moved some debris between the caboose and their building and placed one of the barricades that the Village had provided in front of it and was told it could not be used for that, and it was taken away. Her main complaint was how her granddaughter Kacee was treated. Barbara then said that she had asked for a copy of our discrimination policy, sidewalk control policy, list of our small tools owned by the Village and the barricade policy. She did not get these. Since the Village did not comply, she assumed the Village must not have them, or she just didn’t get a copy.

Village DPW Response: The DPW immediately put up several barricades around the damaged awning, etc., and the sidewalk, as soon as they received notice of the damage. This was done to provide safety around the building. Kathy said there is no set of rules for use of the barricades, and are always made available when they will be used reasonably and logically. Once they saw that all the barricades had been put up by the building, they stopped and picked them up. When the lady first asked Bobby if he could take the awning down and haul it to the dump, he told her that we couldn’t because it was against Village policy. At which time Kathy confirmed that because we do not allow metal, or nails, screws, etc., to be taken to the dump, because of the damage it causes to our expensive equipment. She was also asked about a scoop shovel and broom to use to clean up the rest of the debris (after the awning had been taken down) and Kathy told her they didn’t have at that time, but she could get it for her, and the lady said ‘never mind.’ As to Barbara’s remark, both Kathy and Bobby said there was nothing ever

said about whose building it was. Kathy assured Barbara and the Village Board that she never made any discriminatory statement about Larry or David, and that she did not even know who owned the building. She had only dealt with David Matteson one time. Kathy felt they did everything they could in this situation. They were busy cleaning up after the storm and their first responsibility is for the safety and health of the public.

Barbara also complained about the graffiti that was put on the caboose last Labor Day (2012). Barbara felt the Village should have done something about it. Larry Surrells reminded her that the caboose is not the Village's responsibility, that it belonged to the Chamber of Commerce, and he understood that they took care of getting the graffiti removed fairly soon after they learned about it.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Kathy has proposed to change the DPW hours for Fall & Winter from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday through Thursday and 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday and will become effective September 30th. It was the consensus that this would benefit the Village. She reported that the tractor is being repaired.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Police report was distributed. Josh is back to work with full release. Chief Besing thanked the DPW for setting up barricades for the Labor Day parade. It's been a very busy time.

PIONEER ROOM – AUGUST – J.R. DUNLAP

FYI: A business person who is a professional at yard work feels that our moving weed sprayer is getting onto the 'residents' grass. We did the spraying work for him. Kathy said this does happen occasionally but she does her best not to 'over' spray.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. The July financials were distributed. The Village received their 2nd Property Tax Distribution.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. Gene said he approved a building permit for a carport recently.

Employee Relations Committee: Greta Dennison, Chairman.

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

Ordinance Committee:

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. Larry hopes we can get some alley work done soon.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman.

Other Business:

Mayor Schofield gave an update on grants for Streetscape and Safe Routes to School.

Ref: Streetscape: J.R. Dunlap feels we should clarify to the public what's happening with the grant. Red Waggoner said he is against the railing, except in front of the Fife. He's also concerned about his business being shut down while the work is being done. Gene Purcell is also against the railing. After a lengthy discussion, Larry Surrells made a motion to table this until next month's Board Meeting. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Larry suggested that in the meantime we put together some kind of public information so everyone understands it's a coalition and not one group involved.

Ref: Safe Routes to School: We've received last approval. Bid letting should start by the first of the year.

J.R. is interested in adding temporary permits for Neighborhood Vehicles. He also suggested that we put information in the Chamber's packets informing folks that temporary permits can be obtained for golf carts and neighborhood vehicles.

Larry Surrells wants to get on next month's agenda a discussion of creating a demolition permit. The permit would be for the demolishing or tearing down of building structures.

With no further business to discuss, Gene Purcell moved to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK

