

## MINUTES

### PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

October 3, 2013

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on October 3, 2013, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Surrells, J.R. Dunlap, and Ricky Stork. J.D. Kimberlin was absent.

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

Visitors present: George & Tina Murphy, Michael Fulling, Red & Peggy Waggoner, Tim & Linda McDaniel, Cinda Nelson, Brian Nethery, Polly Rapp, Lisa Clark, Steve & Carol Magahey, Brett & Sarah Callaway, Max & Joan Fulling, Josh McNair, Janice Fuller, Kelly Miller, Lloyd Dunlap, Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News) and Krista McLaren from Kemper CPA.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of September 5, 2013, were accepted as presented.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Approve Final Ordinance 2013-O-12 – Amending Chapter 42: Offences Against Public Peace, Safety, and Morals – 42:03 – Weapons. The draft was approved at the Sept. Board Meeting; however, to approve the final completed ordinance, a roll call was given and it was approved unanimously.

2. Update on apartment complex on Pike St. Boulevard – Stephanie Bond, Owner. Discuss the possibility of filing a Public Nuisance on the property. Mayor Schofield asked how the Trustees felt about filing a Public Nuisance on the property, which would give Ms. Bond 60 days to act on the property. Hopefully, that would keep the Village from going to the expense of condemnation proceedings. Ricky Stork thought that was an excellent idea. The consensus was to go ahead and file a Public Nuisance on the property.

3. Remove from table – Discussion of annexation of Murphy Convenience Store. J.R. Dunlap made a motion to remove this from the table. Larry Surrells seconded motion; motion carried unanimously. Mr. Murphy does not want to be annexed into the Village without the assurance that they could sell packaged liquor. He would be willing to reimburse the Village for expenses incurred to get the annexation. Larry Surrells moved to proceed with investigating the possibility of annexing Mr. Murphy with further investigation. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Remove from table – Discussion re: Information to Village Residents Re: Streetscape. Mayor Schofield said the engineers will be here sometime during the last two weeks of October to meet with Main Street people and the public. In order to discuss this further, J.R. Dunlap moved to remove this from the table. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Schofield said we need to encourage everyone to read our 'Notice Board'. It has information of any upcoming meetings. Our Board Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month and all residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Red Waggoner said business owners need to know about Streetscape meetings as they are the most affected. Peg Waggoner suggested that the meetings be

held in the evenings. Mayor Schofield said we will try to do a better job at informing the public, especially Main St. folks.

5. Streetscape Discussion – Michael Fulling; Red Waggoner. Michael and Red have been working together to present suggestions to the Board as to what they would like the architects or engineers to consider on the Streetscape plans.

Michael addressed the Board: He had marked up some blueprints showing suggested revisions. He said he feels business owners overall support the idea but some changes are needed. Mayor Schofield said the engineers are willing to listen and might be able to make some changes. The handrails seem to be the major problem. Michael said with the handrails need addressing as there is not good access points and it would cause people to use the street and create safety issues. Michael said he realizes that some places are going to have to have handrails due to elevation differences and ADA accessibility. As it is, it may make snow removal a problem. Also, some drainage issues may occur.

Larry Surrells feels that the way the railing is planned will create a terrible inconvenience for everyone. He said “we have to get people here to make the changes”. However, we can’t dictate to the engineers, we have to present our suggestions and then trust the engineers will do what is right.

Steve McGahey agrees the plans should be modified. He said “it’s the last thing the PDA wants is to get all the merchants upset”.

Mayor Schofield said there will be two biddings, one in April and one in November but they must be submitted before the first of December.

Larry Surrells said the Board is helpless as far as making these changes without engineering approval. That is why the engineering meeting that we will have is very important to the whole project. We are willing to make concessions to make everyone happy.

Steve McGahey said that safety for wheel chairs and wheel chair assessable is very important. Not only do we want to make everything handicap accessible but we want it aesthetically pretty as well.

Red addressed the Board: Red handed out pictures that He and Peg took on a recent trip to Monticello. The design of Palestine’s Streetscape is very much like theirs. He said the way it was set up made it almost impossible for folks to walk side by side. Someone in a wheel chair, using a walker or even pushing a baby stroller would have to walk in the street to get to the end of the block to get on the sidewalk. Red believes if we get rid of the fence, we would be better off.

Red said Monticello had no support awnings like we have and asked what we were going to do. The Mayor assured him that we are not taking the awnings down and Steve McGahey reiterated that they are not changing the awnings.

Mayor Schofield asked Red if he saw any elevations that they had changed in Monticello. The elevations would come up to meet the thresholds of everyone’s business. Red said it showed it on Page Two of the pictures. It wasn’t anything that anyone would stumble over but would be like a washboard because one building is flush and the next one is a difference of 10” in a space of 15’.

Larry Surrells and Steve McGahey thinks that Monticello was done on a “beautification grant” unlike ours that is for beautification but mainly for ADA purposes.

Red said he didn’t want everybody to think they were against the whole thing, because they are not and said “it wouldn’t hurt Palestine to be dressed up”. However, he believe the fence must go; it is unacceptable..

The Trustees said they appreciated everyone's concerns; however, there is nothing they can do about any of it until they meet with the engineers again.

6. Reminder: Village-wide Fall Clean-up for all Republic paid-up customers-Scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup>. Mark Dennis will be picking up metal scrap at the same time. Police Chief, Jeff Besing, said items should not be put outside until the night before the pick-up.

7. Update – Sewer Plant. Ricky said the DPW is working on a cap to cap off the sewer line that was mentioned at our last meeting. They are also entertaining ideas on different grasses that might help with the problem at the levee. Kathy said as she suspected we are going to be met with resistance on the idea of lowering the levee because of the way it was designed for expansion as the population increases.

. Update on Perrine Property – Discuss proceeding w/condemnation of the property. Ms. Perrine has vacated the property and the property is not in a livable condition. Crawford County Trustees now own the trailer. Greta said we just can't let it sit there. The consensus was to file a Public Nuisance against the property, like we did with the Pike St. property.

9. Update on Matteson Property – N. Rush St. We've been back to the attorney's office. and been given a list of what we need to provide, in addition to what we've already provided. They also want more photographs for evidence. When we deliver what has been requested, we should be close to going to court.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Annual Audit Report – Kemper CPA. Krista McLaren from Kemper presented the Trustees with a draft of the FY 2013 audit. She is waiting on some documents from the state in order to finalize the audit. She feels it should be complete before the next Board Meeting. Krista reported that it was a good audit and everything went well. The Village is in good financial shape.

2. Discussion – Approve rough draft amending Chapter 21: Building Regulations Amending 21:09: PERMIT FOR REMOVAL – Demolition permits. After Trustees reviewed the draft, Larry made a motion to accept the rough draft and to send it to the attorney. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Halloween Trick or Treat – Suggested date: Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Trick or Treating would be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and only done to residents with their lights on. Larry Surrells moved to approve the suggested date and time. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approve purchase of 20KW Detroit Diesel Generator Set Complete - \$3,899.00. Larry Surrells reported that the generator has already been sold.

**DPW REPORT:** Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Kathy was pleased to announce that she passed the Wastewater Treatment Operator's exam. She has worked long and hard on this and we are all proud of her.

The DPW is working on repairing the drainage problem on W. Grand Prairie. Steve Mitchell will be assisting with this.

Leaf season is here so they are beginning to use the leaf vac around the Village.

Reminder: DPW hours have changed (effective 9/30/13) for Fall and Winter from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday thru Thursday and 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM on Friday.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Chief Besing reported that we were

awarded \$519.42 from the Federal Government (before the shut down) towards our bullet proof vest purchase. With this and the Mary Health Foundation grant, the cost to the Village was \$130. The actual cost for the two vests was \$1300.00.

Chief Basing has applied for grants with the Claypool Foundation, Wal-Mart Foundation, Start Farm Grants and Marathon Refinery for the purchase of 2 AED's and 9 CPR mask kits , 2 portable breath test units and a hand held radar unit.

Kathy Gonzalez attended training to receive updates for the IUCR crime reporting system which they required to do monthly. This is a criminal statistic reporting system for both federal and state levels.

Reminder: Please make sure to lock your vehicles at nights to prevent thefts!

## **PIONEER ROOM – OCTOBER – GENE PURCELL**

FYI: Municipal Aggregation – Mayor Schofield and Shirley Adams attended the meeting held on 9/25/13 in Charleston, IL. The rates will be slightly higher under the new contract.

FYI: IDOT Multi-year planning – Mayor Schofield reported that she and Shirley Adams attended the meeting held on 10/1/13 in Decatur, IL. Our area is not scheduled for any repairs..

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Budget Committee:** Shirley Adams, Chairman. August financials were handed out. We were very pleased with the outcome of the audit.

**Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance:** Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. There has been one request for demolition. From now on there will be a separate demolition application for anyone that requests one.

**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.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Surrells moved to adjourn. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

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MAYOR

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CLERK