

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 7, 2013

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on November 7, 2013, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Surrells, J.R. Dunlap, Ricky Stork and J.D. Kimberlin.

Staff Members present: Patrolman Josh Green, Kathy Gonzalez, Police Dept. Administrative Assistant, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent; Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Lloyd Dunlap, Carmen Stone, Ed & Melinda Brannon, Jim Kent, Larry Miller, Bill & Nina Richardson, Jim Ellis, Susan Goodwine, Carol McGahey, Adam Moraga, Twyla Davis, Steve Ulrey, James & Rhonda Webster, Tim & Linda McDaniel, Bob Taylor, Jim Snyder, Red & Peg Waggoner, Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News), 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 October 3, 2013, were accepted as presented.

Mayor Schofield presented Larry Surrells with a plaque honoring his eight years of dedicated service to the Village.

George Harrison was sworn in as new Trustee until April 30, 2015, replacing Larry Surrells. Mayor Schofield administered the oath of office.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approve Final Ordinance – 2013-O-13 – Amending Chapter 21: Building Regulations- Amending 21:09 PERMIT FOR REMOVAL – Demolition permits. Ricky Stork moved to approve Ordinance 2013-O-13. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve Final Ordinance – 2013-O-14 – Amending Chapter 21: Building Regulations – Amending 21:16; PERMIT FEES – Construction/Removal. Greta Dennison moved to approve Ordinance 2013-O-14. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Update on apartment complex on Pike St. Boulevard – Stephanie Bond, Owner – Discuss the possibility of filing a Public Nuisance on the Property. The Board had agreed to have the Mayor contact our attorney to get a Public Nuisance Order issued. Frank said this is covered by the Palestine Village Code and he believes we should issue a non-traffic citation against the property owner. Chief Besing will follow up.

4. Update on Perrine Property – Discuss proceeding w/condemnation of the property. We will have Chief Besing issue a non-traffic citation, like we are going to do with the Pike St. property. The neighbors are complaining of serious roach problem from this property. The Village has had it sprayed by Anewtrufax and it has helped a little but the problem still exists. Gene Purcell says the Fire Dept. is not able to burn it due to EPA Regulations.

5. Discussion of annexation of Murphy Convenience Store. This is still ongoing but does not appear to be moving very quickly. Some owners are not in favor of the annexation, especially those on the North side. If we continue to pursue it, it will take considerable time and money.

6. Update on Matteson Property- N. Rush St. Everything requested has been submitted to our attorney. We are just waiting for a date to be set to go to court.

7. Discussion of Streetscape Project – follow up of Village Board final approval. Discussion on the Streetscape Project continued. A big concern is that buildings may be damaged during construction due to the age of the buildings. The Trustees would like better clarification on who would be responsible if damages do occur. They would like to see it spelled out and put in writing. Business owners want more access in the railing along the blocks. Mayor Schofield said the plans on display were not final and that we are asking for more access. When all recommendations are submitted, the architects will take everything into consideration when making revisions. Some folks were concerned about the street lamps being moved but were told the plans do not include moving the street lamps. Although the Trustees had similar concerns, they voiced their vote of confidence and are in favor of moving ahead. Even after the plans are approved by the Village and the architects, the Illinois Dept. of Transportation has final say before work can begin.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve appointment of Harry Gene Purcell as Mayor Pro Tem. George Harrison made a motion to approve Harry Gene Purcell as Mayor Pro Tem. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried with five ayes; Harry Gene abstained.

2. Discussion – Deer processing in the Village – re: EPA/Dead Animal Act/Disposal. This issue does not apply to deer hunters that do their own processing but with for hire processors. We will try to obtain more information on the Dead Animal Act. Mayor Schofield admonished everyone to continue to do it in a very safe way.

3. Employees Christmas Party – December 6, 2013 at 6:00 PM.

FYI: Notice from Mediacom – Re: Franchise Agreement. We'll have to wait and see how this plays out this year. If we have to have it, they will propose what we will be getting. The cable and video competition law will determine how we proceed with the franchise agreement.

FYI: Marathon requests Trustees to fill out a short survey in your packets. Mayor Schofield asked the Trustees to complete the surveys and get them mailed in as soon as possible.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. The repair to the storm sewer on W. Grand Prairie was successful. Kathy signed up the crew for general standards testing for mosquito spraying. Kathy and Tom will test to be applicators. An access road and turn around at the influent station was added and a guard rail was put up. Kathy said the new hours are working out well.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Chief Besing was absent so Josh and Kathy gave the Activity Report. A new printer with copier/scanner/fax capabilities was purchased for the Police Dept. They will have a dedicated fax line which Kathy was able to arrange at no cost to the Village.

The Crawford County Sheriff's Dept. has requested a \$150 donation to help offset the cost of maintaining their weapon's firing range where our officers do yearly weapon qualifications, which is required by our State Training Board. The donation was approved by consensus.

Our Police Dept. has been asked to participate in a county wide DUI saturation patrol

detail along with other Crawford County law enforcement agencies at a date to be determined. Chief Besing would like the Board's approval to participate. Ricky Stork moved to approve this request. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried with Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, George Harrison and Ricky Stork voting aye and J.D. Kimberlin and J.R. Dunlap voting nay.

PIONEER ROOM – NOVEMBER – J.D. KIMBERLIN

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. September finances were handed out to Trustees. The Motor Fuel audit for 2012 was completed and went well. No concerns or problems were noted. Our 2014 IMRF rate will be 10.53%.

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

Employee Relations Committee: Greta Dennison, Chairman.

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

Ordinance Committee:

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: J.R. Dunlap, Chairman.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman.

Other Business:

Susan Goodwine, representing the Palestine Development Association, presented a \$400.00 donation to the Village Police Department for external police vest carriers for Chief Besing and Josh Green. Josh and Kathy accepted the donation on behalf of the Police Department.

A three phase generator was purchased by the Sewer Department. This generator has the capability to run longer without power and could prove invaluable in case of a long power outage.

J.R. Dunlap requested that we add to December's Agenda a discussion concerning the Concealed Carry Law which is effective January 1st.

George Harrison asked for update on the Verizon tower. Mayor Schofield said Verizon is saying it will be operational by the end of the year or sooner.

Ricky Stork asked about an update on the Dollar General Store. Mayor Schofield said it is still ongoing. There was some activity on the property last Sunday. We are staying positive.

With no further business to discuss, Ricky Stork moved to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK