

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

December 5, 2013

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

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeff Besing, Patrolman Josh Green, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent; Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Lloyd Dunlap, Nina Richardson, Tazra Ash, Melvin Richards, Lamar Schultz, Tanner Miller, Red & Peg Waggoner, Larry Miller, Adam Moraga, Twyla Davis, and Ed & Melinda Brannon.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of November 7, 2013, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update – Annexation of Murphy Convenience Store. The process of getting his store annexed into the Village has been canceled. Mr. Murphy is now trying to go through the County.

2. Update – Streetscape Project. Mayor Schofield forwarded an email she received from Lisa Kramer to the board members. They had sent information to IDOT for definitive review and to IHPA. IDOT has given them preliminary approval based on whether we approve it. We will be discussing this in full session at the January Board Meeting.

3. Dollar General – Site Plan – Approved by Building Committee. A site plan was in the Trustees' packets. They anticipate hooking on to our lift station on Porter and running their own line. Their engineers believe that can take care of that within the confines of the contract, so will not be responsible for that expense. They should be in touch with Mayor Schofield within a month. The National Evaluation Association has done all their work for Dollar General and they have approved everything.

4. Approve bid on the Safe Routes to Schools - \$22,577.40 under estimate. The bid ended up being less than the original estimate. Greta Dennison moved to approve the contract for the Safe Routes to Schools Grant. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Employees Christmas Party – Friday – December 6, 2013 – 6:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Concealed Carry – Discussion of possible ordinance. Chief Besing has researched this new law and presented the Trustees with some 'high points' of the law. We will probably have to build a new ordinance with help from our attorney. We will be in contact with him to see if it is necessary. There is more information on the Illinois concealed Carry Law on the Illinois State Police website.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Otie is getting a cord for our new generator, which will enable our lift stations and water treatment plant to be self sufficient during an extended power outage. Kathy said the winch on the 4-wheeler needs replaced.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing.

Chief Besing and Josh participated in the Crawford County DUI task force detail last Saturday with 15 other law enforcement officers resulting in several citations for various violations.

Josh attended a two day training seminar this week in Carterville on Tactical Investigative tracking for Law Enforcement. The training was on the techniques used to track fleeing suspects or missing children or elderly people who become disoriented.

The Circuit Judge of Crawford County is requiring that our department start registering Sex Offenders in our jurisdiction, effective January 1, 2014. Chief Besing and Kathy Gonzalez will be attending a training session on the registration procedure on Dec. 17th in Carterville. A new program may have to be installed on their computer for this registration process.

Beginning January 1, 2014, a new cell phone law takes effect which will require all motorists in the state of Illinois to use a 'Bluetooth device' or a mounted 'hands free' speaker in order to talk on your cell phone.

Chief Besing reported that he had issued ordinance violation citations to David Matteson and Paula Perrine for their respective properties. Copies have been forward to the Village Attorney.

Chief Besing also gave out Holiday Season Safety Tips.

PIONEER ROOM – DECEMBER – GEORGE HARRISON

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. October and November financials were given to Trustees. We've received notification that our Unemployment rate for 2014 will be 4.55%, down from 4.85% in 2013.

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. Rick said things are running smoothly.

Other Business: J.R. said that Melvin Richards had been in contact with him to report that there was a large hole in the street by his driveway which needs attention.

Kathy Clark asked if anyone had any ideas about what could be done to help the DPW when trying to keep Main St. cleared of snow when cars are parked in front of businesses. After some discussion, the consensus was that they would have to continue to work around the vehicles as best they could.

With no further business to discuss, Gene Purcell moved to adjourn. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK