

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 5, 2012

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on January 5, 2012, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Larry Miller, Larry Surrells, J.R. Dunlap and J.D. Kimberlin. Greta Dennison was absent.

Other Staff members present: Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk; Kathy Fuller, DPW Superintendent; and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News) and Chris Forde (WTYE).

Meeting called to order by Mayor Schofield.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of December 1, 2011, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update: Condemnation of property at 205 N. Rush St. Discussion: Proposed Agreement from property owner. The property owner chose to go to court over this matter. He has signed an agreement to tear down the buildings on the property and to have it all cleaned up by spring. The trustees do not believe the owner will honor the agreement. They feel if he was truly interested in getting the property cleaned up, in all good faith he would have already been working on it as weather conditions have been favorable. It was the consensus of the trustees to set a deadline of April 1st. The matter goes to court February 14th.

2. Update: Telephone/Internet Installation Progress. We have had no update and the people in Texas had no record of the agreement.

3. Availability of Salt. Although there is no salt available from our main source at this time, Kathy Fuller has an alternate plan in place in the event the Village needs more this winter.

4. Review and Discussion: Neighborhood Vehicle Issue – Illinois Statute 625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1 – Sec. 11-1426.1. Operation of non-highway vehicles on streets, roads, and highways. The board approved amendments to an ordinance to allow the use of neighborhood vehicles on the Village streets. J.R. Dunlap made a motion to accept the amended ordinance as written. J.D. Kimberlin seconded motion. Motion passed with four ayes (J.R. Dunlap, J.D. Kimberlin, Larry Miller, Gene Purcell), and one nay (Larry Surrells). Greta Dennison was absent. The amended ordinance will be sent to our attorney for review and final approval.

5. Update: Animal Control Issue for Palestine. Mayor Schofield reported that there has

not been a meeting with the County Board yet on this matter. We are using Jada Spinner's service in the meantime and it seems to be working well.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion: Municipal Engineers – Re: Contract with Neikirk Engineering. Our current contract with Neikirk Engineering expired on January 1 and they have made no offer of extending the contract. Lamac has been in contact with the Village frequently this past year and are very interested in being the engineers for our municipality. Mayor Schofield and Larry Surrells will be meeting with Lamac tomorrow and Larry would also like to meet with Connor and Conner. We will follow up with this at the next board meeting.

2. PGS Character Ed Committee have concerns regarding the speeding on Washington St. and outer W. Lamotte St. For safety reasons, they would like the Village to paint spaces on each side of the crosswalk so no one can park there. When there is no police presence, people still speed. Another suggestion was to put a 'lighted speed sign' up, maybe on a trailer that can be portable. After some discussion, Larry Surrells moved to make at least two parking spaces, one on each side of the crosswalk marked for 'no parking' and put up a 'no parking' sign. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion passed.

3. Discussion/Approval – USDA Wildlife Service Contract Renewal - \$1500. Mayor Schofield gave the Trustees letter from James Butler giving a Summary Report from May 18, 2010 to December 16, 2011. After reviewing the report, Larry Surrells moved to approve the USDA Wildlife Service Contract for \$1500. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion passed.

4. Hotel/Motel Tax. Larry Surrells has been talking with Rick Catt and his advice to Larry that the Village consider passing a Hotel/Motel Tax. We have several rooms in the Village rented on a daily basis and a tax would bring needed revenue to the Village. The hotel/motel tax would not cost the owners any money; it would be tacked on to the renters hotel/motel charge. Rick offered to give us a copy of their ordinance for us to review. It is believed there is a minimum/maximum percent that can be charged. More information is needed before we go forward with this. Larry Surrells made a motion to discuss the feasibility of the Village to have an ordinance to cover a Hotel/Motel Tax. J.D. Kimberlin seconded motion. Motion Passed.

DPW Report: Kathy Fuller, Superintendent. When weather permits, the DPW will be painting/stripping the parking spaces on Main St. and at the grade school. The temperature has to be 50 degrees for it to dry.

Police Report: Jim Clark, Chief of Police. Mayor Schofield presented Jim's month report to the Board. The main item was a burglary of \$1180.

Pioneer Room – January – Larry Surrells.

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. The balance of our Citicapital loan, for the lagoon expansion, is \$15,719.00. It should be paid off by year end.

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman. Larry will be working on an ordinance regarding parking of motor homes on streets and terraces.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. Larry said the sidewalk

work for 2011 has been completed.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. The DPW have been working on a system to pull pumps in an emergency.

J.R. Dunlap asked about the Verizon tower. Mayor Schofield said she has not heard anything new. J.R. is going to contact Verizon to see if they will give us an update on the progress of getting the new tower put up.

Larry Miller moved to go to an Executive Session at 7:14 PM, for the purpose of reviewing the last 6 months of executive minutes.

Regular session resumed at 7:16 PM.

Larry Miller made a motion to approve the Executive Minutes of December 2, 2010 and March 3, 2011 to be put in the public minutes. J.R. seconded motion. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Gene Purcell moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

PRESIDENT

CLERK