

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 8, 2009

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on January 8, 2009, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Walter Fritchie, David Branson, J. D. Kimberlin and Larry Surrells.

Chief Jim Clark and Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk, were also present.

Visitors present were Bob Taylor, and Robinson Daily News Reporter, Tom Osborne.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

The board was reminded that the Peoples' Party will hold their Caucus on Monday, January 12, 2009, at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Schofield reported that through the efforts of Tom Woodward, who is a veteran and a member of the Flat Rock American Legion, approximately \$1300.00 has been accumulated for a serviceman/women sign/memorial project. She further advised that a suggested site for the sign, in recognition of all those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, could be in the east/front of the Municipal Building. The appropriate lighting and the flag are already in place. The large shrub could be removed to make a place for the sign. Tony Madlem of T-Graphics has agreed to come and make sure the sign will fit in that space. The sign will be very similar to the ones that he has built and placed on the Crawford County Courthouse lawn. This proposal was approved by a consensus of the board members.

The cost for the demolition of the Kasinger was approximately \$2,000 less than the original estimate, plus the fill sand and dirt to level the lot, and complete the project.

The owners of 205 N Rush St. have been making progress in the repairs and improvements, and are continuing to work on the list of requirements as presented to them. They have started the removal of the outbuildings, hauled at least 11 loads of trash, and have repaired or covered all broken windows. Upon inspection, it appears that a roof has been put on the front part of the house. The board has agreed that an inspection of the property will be made monthly, until the property is completely restored.

NEW BUSINESS

Mitchell's Backhoe Service has presented their annual proposed cost sheet for 2009 Equipment/Labor Usage. The only increase was deemed fair and reasonable and was approved by consensus.

Clerk Fuller reminded the board that not all contractors doing any kind of work for the Village, construction and/or maintenance work have been providing Contractor Liability Insurance Certificates. This is an absolute necessity to make sure that the Village will not be held liable for accidents while on the job. Larry Surrells moved, seconded by Gene Purcell, that we require such Certificates of Liability from each contractor. In further discussion, David Branson added that in addition to the Certificates of Liability, they should also be made to sign a Waiver of Liability from anyone acting as a sub-contractor working under them. Motion passed unanimously.

In early December, Mayor Schofield received a letter from the Illinois Fire Protection Association, as did Harry Purcell, the Fire Chief, advising that the Village Board must pass an Ordinance to adopt the National Life safety Code. Our Village Attorney was contacted to research this and he responded by suggesting that we pass an Ordinance to include the 1999 BOAC (Building Officials and Code Administration International, Inc.), the 1991 National Life Safety Code, the 1993 Illinois Plumbing Code and the 1990 National Electric Code. This effort would be much more cost effective and would cover all facets of the various requirements for our Village codes. Gene Purcell moved, seconded by Greta Dennison, to adopt this Ordinance. After some discussion, it was also determined that our ordinance should be designed to exclude some of the existing properties, especially for repairs and maintenance. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Clark gave the summary report for the year of 2008, along with the report for December. The report gave the percentage of decreases and increases within each category.

Mayor Schofield reported that we had received further notice from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency that they, along with the Illinois Pollution Control Board, still regulate open burning, with the proviso that local authorities may also regulate open burning in some areas where they have jurisdiction. It is illegal to burn anything except for landscape waste for any Illinois towns, or within one mile of a town, with a population of 1,000 or more. Local ordinances must be the same, or more restrictive than the Illinois EPA. They are continuing to work towards NO OPEN BURNING within the entire State of Illinois. Each local county and/or municipality is responsible for their smoke management by monitoring the air quality in their area.

Greta Dennison, Chairman of the Personnel Committee reported that the Employee Handbooks are now completed and it is her recommendation that they be prepared for distribution to all concerned.

There being no further business to come before the Board, David Branson moved for adjournment, seconded by Larry Surrells.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 P.M.

President

Clerk