

## **MINUTES**

### **PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**March 5, 2009**

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on March 5, 2009, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, and Larry Surrells. J.D. Kimberlin, David Branson, and Walter Fritchie were absent.

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

Visitors present were J.R. Dunlap and Jay E. Wilson.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The short business meeting included an update on the Kasinger property. The Village has now completely torn down the fire damaged building and restored the lot with several loads of sand and top soil. Now that the weather is warmer, the lot can be leveled and readied for seeding.

Mayor Schofield reminded the trustees of the upcoming budget workday which will be held on March 21, 2009.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Gene Purcell advised the Board that the battery in our AED machine needed to be replaced, and the machine put back in our squad car in case of emergencies. Larry Surrells moved that we order the new battery immediately and restore the availability of the machine. Gene Purcell seconded. Motion carried.

The No Jake Brake sign, which had been placed on Route 33 just south of Palestine, was stolen on Monday night by pulling it out of the ROW and removing it from the ROW. The investigation has determined that the vehicle that pulled out the sign incurred several hundred dollars damage when the sign hit the right front area of the vehicle. The police officers are looking for either a 2005 or 2006 F500 Ford truck, possibly white or black, with a missing right front head light assembly and a damaged grill. If anyone has any knowledge of such a vehicle, please notify the Palestine Police Department.

By unanimous consensus, the Board approved the request from the Palestine

Development Association to hold their annual Wine and Arts Festival on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Clark reported a few less traffic tickets and several traffic warnings. Five youth were ticketed for smoking, and the only criminal damage reported was to the PHS football field where someone tore it up with their vehicle. The damage is estimated to be \$300-500. The investigation is continuing.

Village Clerk Floyd Fuller reported that we have received notice from the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund that the Fund investment return for 2008 is estimated to be -24.8%. The Village current contribution rate is 13.69% of qualifying employee's gross salary. IMRF expects to increase the rate for the balance of 2009 by 10% or more. This will increase the cost to the Village about \$2,500 for 2009. Any salary increases will move the total cost higher.

Mayor Schofield reported that Otie's Electric completed the retrofit of all our lighting in the Municipal Building and the Village Barn. The total cost of \$1,423.25 was \$28 below estimates and was done by a local contractor. This cost is expected to be recovered in lowered utility bills.

Gene Purcell mentioned that we needed to either replace or repair the door to the Pioneer Room. It will not close properly. Sometime ago the hinges were replaced. The repair lasted only about 6 months. Larry Surrells said that he would take of getting the door replaced.

Larry Surrells reported that he has met with the engineers in February to survey the needs of the streets, alleys, and sidewalks for this year. The engineers report will be completed soon.

Gene Purcell move, seconded by Greta Dennison, to go to executive session to discuss opening prior Executive Session minutes to public access. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 6:20 PM.

The Board reconvened at 6:30 PM.

After the brief executive session to review the minutes of prior executive sessions, Gene Purcell moved seconded by Larry Surrells to open all minutes prior to October, 2008. Motion carried.

The Board unanimously approved by consensus the purchase of two new truck tires.

Larry Surrells moved, seconded by Greta Dennison, to permit the acquisition of a credit card limited to \$5,000 for purchases where we have no accounts. This card is

to be acquired through the First Robinson Savings Bank. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

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President

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Clerk