

MINUTES
PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

April 2, 2009

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on April 2, 2009, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Walt Fritchie, David Branson, J.D. Kimberlin, and Larry Surrells.

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

Visitors present were J.R. Dunlap, Jay E. Wilson, Brian Nethery, Ken Griffin, Ray Newman, and Tom Osborne from the Robinson Daily News.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as amended, i.e., "tractor tires" was amended to read "truck tires"

OLD BUSINESS

The Village has not yet received the deed of conveyance from the Kasingers. The Crawford County Trustee has purchased the taxes on the property and are available for payment as soon as we receive the deed from the Kasingers.

The budget for 2009-2010 as discussed on the Budget Work Day, March 21, has since been corrected to include the purchase of a used street sweeper. The Annual Budget will be presented for approval at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting, in May.

NEW BUSINESS

There have been several complaints regarding the burning of leaves, wood, refuse and trash within the Village. Chapter 14.09 of the Village Code states that no leaf burning is permissible except on Saturdays and Sundays from dawn to dusk; trash and refuse of all sorts, as well as construction material, is not to be burned at any time. Friendly fires contained in fire pits are allowed with proper permit. It is not necessary to have a permit for chimeneas.

Pros and cons on the issue were discussed – including medical conditions, smell, and the information that was provided by the Crawford County Health Department. Larry Surrells moved to table the matter, seconded by J.D. Kimberlin, that we reconsider the problem, gather facts, determine the cost factors and then determine whether to ban all burning within the Village. Voting for the motion were Larry

Surrells, J.D. Kimberlin, and David Branson. Voting against the motion were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, and Walter Fritchie. Mayor Schofield cast the passing vote. Motion passed.

Mayor Schofield announced that spring cleanup will be on April 29 for all paid up Viola customers. No others will be eligible for trash removal. Appliance pickup will be scheduled later.

The State has an ordinance requiring all swimming pools be fenced. By consensus, it was agreed that we should adopt a Swimming Pool Ordinance. Mayor Schofield will ask our attorney to prepare one.

The Palestine Preservation Projects Society has requested help from the Village, the Chamber, and the Palestine Development Association to paint 13 historical markers within the Village. The total cost of \$650 will be shared equally. The cost to the Village would be \$216.67. Larry Surrells moved, seconded by David Branson, to pay the Villages share. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Schofield has requested Federal Stimulus money for three projects – a boat ramp on the river, money for new water lines and sewer line improvements, as well as money for re-fencing the sewer lagoon. Funding for the boat ramp has been approved to date but no funds have been received.

The Census Count will be conducted in 2010. The Census Count helps determine the amount of moneys the Village will qualify for from various sources, and an accurate count is important. The Village of Palestine has been required to pass a Resolution for Census Complete County for 2010. Greta Dennison moved, seconded by J.D. Kimberlin, to pass the Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Schofield reported that our Employee's Handbook requires that we have an annual investigation report on each of our employees and new Trustees, including drivers license, criminal, etc. Our insurance provider, Alliance Insurance Company, is also requiring this report. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Village Clerk will request this report with the assistance of our Chief of Police.

Our dog law ordinance 13-09 requires that all persons walking dogs, and loose dogs, must clean up after their dogs and properly dispose of the material. Citizens should report their complaints to any of the Trustees.

A three wheel ATV was confiscated in a drug raid over a year ago. The vehicle was awarded to the Village after a year of impoundment. The Trustees were poled regarding trading this vehicle for a four wheel ATV for use by the Palestine Police Department, to scout and search areas for growing drug-related plants, etc., and for

the Village DPW workers in spraying weeds. David Branson moved to formally accept the trade-in of the ATV; seconded by Larry Surrells. Motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief Clark reported a slight increase in thefts and criminal property damage this month. There is also a problem with tobacco possession among minors under the age of 18. Several tickets have been issued for unlawful tobacco possession.

Larry Surrells presented the plans for the new library and showed where they would need to tie on to our sewer lines.

It was again mentioned that we must address the matter of a new fence around the lagoon. The estimated cost for this project is \$100,000.

At 7:15 PM, Greta Dennison moved to go into Executive Session to discuss employee evaluation and wages for the new fiscal year.

The regular session reconvened at 7:40 PM.

Greta Dennison moved, seconded by Walt Fritchie, that all employees be given a 2% cost of living increase for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year and give notice to the employees, that beginning in May 2010, the employees will pay for 10% of the cost of their medical insurance. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

President

Clerk