

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 6, 2010

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on May 6, 2010, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, J.D. Kimberlin, Larry Surrells, and J.R. Dunlap.

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

Visitors present: Steve Stork 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 accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adopt FY2010 Annual Appropriation Ordinance. The 2010 Annual Appropriation Ordinance 2010-O-03 was presented for approval. It was noted by Mayor Schofield that in the last few years the Village was probably too conservative in their appropriations. However, our situation now is that we are facing a tax increase for the residents of the Village. The way it looks, at this time, a property valued at \$50,000 could result in a \$40.27 tax increase. Larry Surrells voiced that "it's a bitter pill to swallow, but if we want to maintain the level of services we have provided in the past, we really have no other choice". It was noted that Palestine has no industrial base to help with the tax burden, so it falls on the citizens of Palestine. Larry Miller motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented. Motion was seconded by Larry Surrells. Motion passed, five voted for and one voted against the increase.

2. Adopt FY2010 Annual Prevailing Wage Ordinance. A local provider has been approached by the State of Illinois for not paying prevailing wage. We have to consider prevailing wage for employees of contractors we use, and work within confines of the rules. A motion was made by Gene Purcell to adopt the Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2010-O-02 as presented. Motion was seconded by Larry Surrells. Motion passed unanimously.

3. American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. Energy Efficiency Grant – Retrofit of HVAC. Mayor Schofield is in the process working on an application for this grant, which is an amount set aside from the stimulus money. The grant would be used to retrofit improvements to the air conditioning and heating unit for the Village Hall. The improvements have to bring the equipment up to specified energy efficiency standards.

4. Senior Community Service Employment Program. Title V – Older Americans Act/Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois-Eastern Region Office. Dan Golf has been in contact with Mayor Schofield concerning this program. It is a community service and work based program for older workers. The program assists low-income persons (55 or older) who are unemployed and have poor employment prospects. They are paid wages and placed in non-profit and public facilities. Larry Surrells stated that Palestine would have plenty of potential candidates. It was the consensus of the Trustees to support the Catholic Services in this program and co-operate in any way we can.

5. Mosquito Spraying – 2010 Schedule. We have already started spraying in Hutsonville and plan to start in Palestine next week. If anyone hears any complaints, please let us know. The price of the chemical goes up June 1st. Pat was able to order 1 tank for May and one tank for June (to be delivered in July) but still at the May price.

POLICE REPORT: Jim reported that crime wise we were in pretty good shape. However, there have been a lot of Ordinance violations, in particular, abandoned vehicles. He sent out 30 letters and has had 100% compliance. The other issue was people not mowing their yards. Again, he had 100% compliance after the owner was notified.

J.D. Kimberlin will be responsible for the Pioneer Room for May.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Financial Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Shirley handed out financial reports for the months of March and April.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Larry Surrells, Chairman. J.R. Dunlap suggested that we look at the pros and cons of issuing stickers for “side by sides”, & “razors” so that they could be ridden on the roadways like the golf carts. This would also increase revenue for the Village. Pat said we could take a look at it and asked JR if he would be willing to be on a committee for this and he agreed.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. Steve Stork was at the meeting representing the AmVets. He was asking if the sidewalk on the side of the building could be repaired and made wheelchair assessable. Mayor Schofield said that she had already given Mark a bid and he was going to take it to their committee. Mark also said they might do away with the sidewalk from the street, cutting into the curb. This would eliminate some expense and the size of the sidewalk, leaving enough room for a wheelchair turnaround. Pat said we may be able to get another estimate.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. In the past two months, there is an area at the east of town that has been having sewer problems form diapers and pull-ups being flushed and blocking sewer lines. It was suggested that letters be sent out to customers in that area encouraging them not to flush

diapers and pull-ups. This has been done in the past and seemed to curtail the problem.

Mayor Schofield said that the FOI training is now available on the web. The FOI officers can begin their training at any time now. It has to be completed by July 1st.

Motion to adjourn was made by Larry Miller and seconded by JR Dunlap.
Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

President

Clerk