

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 2, 2010

A Public Meeting was held at 5:30 PM in the Pioneer Room for the purpose of providing general information to the public regarding the proposed Annexation Agreement between the Village of Palestine, Illinois and Harold E. Harrison and Doris L. Harrison. All Board Members and three visitors were present. The Agreement was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees. Meeting closed at 5:45 PM.

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on September 2, 2010, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, Larry Surrells, J.D. Kimberlin and J.R. Dunlap.

Chief of Police, Jim Clark, and Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk, were absent.

Visitors present: Mike Gill and Lisa Gilpatrick from Lamac Engineering, and Chris Ford from WTAY/WTYE Radio Station, and Scott Campbell.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Schofield.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by Village Clerk, Shirley Adams.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Harrison Annexation – Since the Harrison Annexation (known as 2 Ralfs) was approved during the Public Hearing, Mayor Schofield presented an Ordinance for the Annexation. Larry Surrells moved to adopt the Ordinance as written. J.R. Dunlap seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. State Gaming Board – Mark Wilson will give us a report at our October meeting. We are hopeful Mark will be able to tell us what our percentage will be.

3. IEMA coverage for approaching severe weather – Tony Hudson was scheduled to speak to us concerning weather radios, however, Tony was not present. Mayor Schofield said she will call Palestine Grade School and Palestine High School when a severe storm is approaching to forewarn them.

4. Village Code updated – The Village Code was updated to include the correct, approved language regarding privacy fences in Ordinance 2004-O-02 as well as Section 42.06. Larry Miller suggested the “set-backs” of privacy fences also be added to 42.06.

5. Real Estate Property-Appraisal – 210 W. Harrison St. - The appraisal of this

property was \$6,000. Mayor Schofield said the appraisal could only be based on market value. The Village already has \$7500 in the property. Larry Surrells moved to put a for sale sign on the lot, with a firm price of \$8,000. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lamac Engineering-Candidate for Village Engineering Firm - Mike Gill, President of Lamac Engineering, gave a presentation to the Board. Lamac Engineering is located in Mt. Carmel, Illinois and has been in business since 1938. They work mostly with small communities. They are licensed in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky and have five engineers on staff. They work on infrastructure development and infrastructure maintenance and revitalization. A brochure was given to all Board of Trustees with background information and a Statement of Qualifications. References are available.
2. 2009 Final Audit Report – IDOT/Motor Fuel Tax - We received a copy of the 2009 Audit Report on August 11th, covering the receipt and disbursement of Motor Fuel Tax funds by the Village. Copies were given to the Board of Trustees.
3. PGS is sponsoring a 'FILL THE BUS' campaign for the Palestine Food Pantry- The bus will be parked in front of the school for anyone to bring staples and canned goods to put in there. Mayor Schofield encouraged everyone to participate. The bus will be there for the entire month of September.
4. Veolia will be changing their pickup day to Fridays – Veolia will be picking up both recycles and trash on the same day; trash every week; recycles every other week. This will begin after the first of October. A specific date will be announced soon. Their plan is to be able to pickup in Robinson and Palestine the same day.
5. Fall Cleanup – Fall cleanup is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20th.
6. AmerenCIPS will be here on September 8th at 2:00 p.m. to discuss our tree trimming. Two Representatives from Ameren and one Representative from the tree trimming contractor will be present. Mayor Schofield requested that Larry Surrells be present and present pictures of trees that have been mutilated by AmerenCIPS. She said the boss of the tree trimming crew was shocked by our complaints.
7. Unsigned letters from “concerned citizens” - Mayor Schofield said “if a person doesn’t have the guts to sign their letter, then she will not bring it to the Board.” If they have concerns, bring them to the Village, send a “signed letter”, or come to a Board Meeting.

Police Report: Chief of Police, Jim Clark, was not present, however, the police report was prepared in advance and handed out to Board Members.

Liquor Commissioner Report: Mayor Schofield said the AMVETS was working diligently to improve their look. They are preparing to have a dance/karaoke over the Labor Day Weekend and during the Wine and Arts Festival. They are still working on getting their Liquor License thru the State.

Pioneer Room: JR Dunlap will take care of the Pioneer Room during September.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Financial Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. No financials were available for August. They will be completed by the October Board Meeting. The Village received the first installment of Property Tax monies in the amount of \$21,258.74.

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman. Larry is working on an RV Ordinance and he would like to include utility trailers in the ordinance.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. Due to the excessive amount of storm damage, the Village has paid out approximately \$14,000 to have trees and limbs removed, but it was definitely necessary for the safety of our Village residents. The extra expense has reduced The Motor Fuel Tax Fund, so only emergency work will be done on the streets, sidewalks, or alleys.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. Since Carl Woosley is no longer employed by the Village, we need a person Certified to oversee our sewage lagoon and to make sure it is working properly and matches what EPA requires. Larry Quick is head of the sewage treatment in Robinson and does an outstanding job. He also does contract work for Hutsonville. Larry Surrells made a motion that Mayor Schofield contact Larry Quick and arrange for service on our sewer lagoon. JR Dunlap seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Additional business:

JR Dunlap said the alley that runs between Harrison and Grand Prairie, from Washington Street down to Bryant, is blocked. The Mayor requested that the Board Members drive by to observe the situation and report back to her.

JR made a suggestion that next spring, instead of relying on chemicals; we look into using "bat houses" for our mosquito problem which would be a more natural approach. Mayor Shcofield asked that he get us more information and to present it to the Board before next spring.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Surrells moved for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

PRESIDENT

CLERK