

MINUTES
PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
October 7, 2010

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on October 7, 2010, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, Larry Surrells, and J.R. Dunlap.

Mayor Schofield and JD Kimberlin were absent.

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

Visitors present: Chris Ford, from WTYE; Mark Wilson, from AMVETS; Michael Neikirk and Jana Shain from Neikirk Engineering.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Larry Surrells.

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. State Gaming Board – Mark Wilson spoke to the Board of Trustees concerning the rules and regulations involved in getting a State Gaming Board License. There are only seven licensed vendors in the State of Illinois. An establishment must have a Liquor License in order to get a Gaming Board License. The machines are provided by the State of Illinois. No monies will be held by or be taken care of by the establishment. Kiosk machines will be installed to payout monies. It is all strictly controlled by the State. According to Mark, the AMVETS would get 35% out of the monies and 5% would go to local or county government. Since Crawford County is a 'dry' county, he feels it would go to the Village. Mark spoke about the incredible amount of red tape involved in getting approval but the AMVETS do plan to go forward with this.

2. Fall Cleanup – Fall cleanup is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20th by Veolia (Republic). In addition, Palestine has contracted with Mark Dennis to pick up appliances, car parts, lawn & garden equipment, or any other scrap metal. **Because it is a "contracted" service, anyone else picking up appliances or scrap metal can be charged with theft.**

3. Veolia's contract for this multi-county area has been bought out by Republic. The combined pickup date has been postponed until after the first of the year. Specific date will be announced later. Mayor Schofield has been in contact with Veolia and they assured her that nothing else has changed. All Veolia's vehicles have been retained by Republic.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Neikirk Engineering Presentation for Candidate for Village Engineering Firm- Michael Neikirk presented an overview of his company before the Board. Neikirk Engineering provides engineering and landscape design, construction services and surveying from coast to coast. They are licensed in 16 states. They have worked for Municipalities in southeastern Illinois and southwestern Indiana. Their Illinois location is in Mt. Carmel.

2. Discussion: Residents planting trees and bushes in the 'terrace' area between the sidewalks and streets.

We are encountering problems from these trees and bushes that have been planted in the past. We are working on coming up with a permit which would allow only certain types of plants and bushes to be planted in those areas. The property owner would assume responsibility for them and the agreement would follow the property.

3. Complaints: Alley encroachments - Mayor Pro Tem Surrells requested that the Board Members observe the alley between Harrison and Grand Prairie and the alley between LaMotte and Harrison on the east side of town. Some individuals are using the alleys for a parking lot or driveway. We will revisit this issue at our next Board Meeting and get feedback from Board Members.

4. Halloween Trick or Treat - After some discussion, Gene Purcell made a motion for Palestine's Treat or Treat night to be on Thursday, October 28th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Residents must have lights on. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried.

5. Approve repairs to truck to replace injectors – possible cost \$1500.00. The GMC is leaking fuel and can't keep fuel pressure up. It's important to get the repairs done as the leaf vac is pulled with this truck. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the repair to replace injectors on the truck at the best cost and with the best injectors. JR Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

Chief Jim Clark gave the Police Report stating that is was an average month with no major issues.

After looking at the 'Red Barn' as a possible purchase for the village use, it was decided, by consensus, that it was not something we needed at the present time.

Pioneer Room – October 2010 – Gene Purcell.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Financial Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Financials for August and September were made available to Board Members. The Village has received the second and third disbursements of Property Tax monies.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. Larry has received complaints on a couple of trees. At present, we have four trees that need to be cut down.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. Larry reported that things are in good shape and there have been no major problems.

Additional business:

JR Dunlap handed out literature on the benefits of using 'bat houses' for mosquito control. We will discuss this further, closer to Spring.

A motion was made by JR Dunlap to bring the Neighborhood Vehicle Ordinance back to the Board next month. Motion died for lack of a second.

Margaret Littlejohn reported that 80 customers failed to get their first quarterly Sewer billing paid in full. We have received only one complaint about billing quarterly instead of monthly.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Miller moved for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

PRESIDENT

CLERK