

**MINUTES**  
**PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**November 6, 2008**

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on November 6, 2008, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Walter Fritchie, Larry Surrells, and J.D. Kimberlin. David Branson was absent.

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

Visitors present were Brian Bradbury, CPA , Richard Kent, Bob Taylor, David Matteson, and Robinson Daily News Reporter, Tom Osborne.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.

Richard Kent was permitted to speak in behalf of the LaMotte Creek Watershed, project as he had another meeting to attend. He reported that the watershed will soon be ready to install the new bridge at the south end of the Village. The estimated cost to the Village may be as high as \$20,000. This includes our share of the Tube Bridge and installation. The State and County will also pay their share in the replacement of the South Main Street Bridge. He also commented on the fact that the Village should be clearing some re-growth shrubs, and shaping and mowing of roadside adjacent to the bridge, and along the roadway on both sides of the bridge.

Brian Bradbury, CPA, was also permitted to give his Audit Report on the condition of the Village accounting for 2007-2008. He reported that all accounts were in good condition. He noted that the Sewer Department had replaced most of the working parts of the system and that the cost of this replacement along with this years' sewer cave-in will cause the Sewer Department to have a possible cash flow problems if further structural problems should occur. He also noted that there are not sufficient personnel available to properly guard against theft if any of those handling the money were so disposed. He foresaw no immediate problems with this arrangement.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Current proceedings regarding properties being considered for condemnation were updated.

David Matteson appeared before the Board in defense of his property at 205 N. Rush. He reported that the persons buying the property on contract from him had returned the property to him and that he and his wife are now the sole owners.

Mr. Matteson has been given a list of necessary improvements, on two separate occasions, both by Certified Mail, and hand delivered by Board member, Larry Surrells. The board asked if all items had been completed. Mr. Matteson assured the board that all had been accomplished. Mayor Schofield and Larry Surrells reported that they had been by the property within the last two days and had not been able to see that any improvements had been made. Mr. Matteson said that he had secured the property, boarded up the windows, and that it was inhabitable. The Board requested permission to enter the property for further inspection. Permission was denied. When asked what further improvements he planned, Mr. Matteson said he did not have to give any planned improvements. Several Board Members stated that they were tired of dealing with Mr. Matteson's non-compliance with the requirements set out by them. The Board by consensus agreed to continue the condemnation proceedings.

The plans for the Veterans Monument are proceeding. There is now \$1,000 in hand for the cost of the monument. More cash donations are anticipated as well as a flagpole and flag.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Schofield noted that the annual Christmas party for the Village employees and Board will be on Friday, December 5.

Mayor Pat Schofield reported that Maureen E. Kasil, P.E. of the Motor Fuel Tax division of the IODT has presented her audit of the local Motor Fuel Tax Funds and found them to be in proper order. Larry Surrells moved, seconded by J.D. Kimberlin, to accept the report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Two Ordinances for annexation of property were presented.

1. Ordinance 2008-O-11, an Ordinance to Annex a certain territory described as being 5 acres located in the SW4 SW4 Section 34, T7N, R11W of 2<sup>nd</sup> PM, Crawford County, Illinois, and more particularly described on the attached EXHIBIT #1 a/k/a Goodwine Property.

Greta Dennison moved, seconded by Larry Surrells, to accept Ordinance 2008-O-11 thereby annexing the Goodwine Property to the Village of Palestine. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Ordinance 2008-O-12, an Ordinance to Annex certain territory described as being 7+/- Acres located in the NW/corner SW4 Sec. 34, T7N, R11W of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PM, Crawford County, Illinois, and more particularly described on the attached EXHIBIT #2 a/k/a Illiana Cores property.

Greta Dennison moved, seconded by J.D. Kimberlin, to accept Ordinance 2008-O-12 thereby annexing the Illiana Cores Property to the Village of Palestine. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action on the Kasinger Property is still on hold. We are waiting on notice from the lien holder that they have released the property from their liability. We will accept the property when the title is cleared.

Brett Burkett of the Robinson-Palestine Water Co. has advised Mayor Schofield that they plan to have the water line scoured with a high air pressure process which will clean the lines. This process will cause the water to be unpotable for a day or two

The Village Clerk now has a packet of material pertaining to the spring election of Village Trustees. Those wishing to run for office may pick up election material at the Village Office.

### **A CONSOLIDATED ELECTION IS TO BE HELD APRIL 7, 2009**

Trustees to be elected

Walt Fritchie

David Branson

Harry Gene Purcell

President and Village Clerk are to be elected

The Caucus for Established Parties – January 12, 2009

Nominations for the positions are to be filed with the County Clerk – January 19, 2009

Police Chief Jim Clark reported that the major crime for the month of October was a residential break-in, with several hundred dollars worth of property listed as stolen. It is believed that the perpetrators were from out of town because their M.O. was different than any thieves around here. The intruders had cut the power line, and knocked the door down, to obtain entry into the home, while the owners were away. There are no current leads.

A copy of a new Employee Handbook was given to each Board Member for review before accepting as official.

Larry Surrells noted that 14 dangerous trees have been removed this year and that 2 more are on the list for removal this year.

Margaret Littlejohn gave a report on late payment of sewer bills. There are six persons who are chronically late by as much as 3 months or more. She has sent Final Past Due Notices to each of them. Further, by consensus, a backhoe will dig out the sewer line of any of these

perpetrators, and permanently interrupt their sewer service, if they continue to be persistently late in payment of their bills.

Bob Taylor reminded all of the observance of Veterans Day on November 11.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

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President

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Clerk