

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

December 1, 2011

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on December 1, 2011, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, Larry Surrells, J.R. Dunlap and J.D. Kimberlin.

Other Staff members present: Police Chief Jim Clark, Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk; Kathy Fuller, DPW Superintendent; and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Lloyd Dunlap, Carol and Steve McGahey, Jim Fuller, Jada and Brad Spinner, Jim Goodwine, Bob Taylor, Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News), and Chris Forde (WTYE).

Meeting called to order by Mayor Schofield.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of November 3, 2011, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Open bids for DPW equipment. Trustees approved the following bids:

Matt Stephens - six foot bush hog-3 Pt. hitch for \$200.

George Elder - six foot Woods blade-3 Pt hitch for \$101.

Warren Strohm - Hand carry blower for \$36.

Steve Martin – Two wheel trailer mount w/ 2" ball hitch \$100.

Rob Byrley – Sprayer trailer mount for \$22 and 3 Pt. hitch carry box for \$26.50.

The bid for the rod machine was rejected.

No bids were received for the hand winch turbine sewer machine and the six foot sweeper, loader mount.

2) Update on additional handicap accessible parking spaces. The DPW is working on putting in three handicap accessible spaces, one with van access, on Main Street in front of the Village Inn. The signs have been ordered. Additional handicap spaces will be addressed by the Streetscape Project, as their main focus is for handicap accessible spaces.

3) Update: Condemnation of property @204 N. Rush St., Palestine, IL. Chief Jim Clark reported that the owner has opted to have a bench trial which is set for 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 13th.

4) Update: Telephone/Internet Installation Progress. There is no progress on this as of this date.

5) Update: Salt order. No update available.

6) Update: Amvets sidewalk progress. Larry Surrells said at this point in time, whatever the Amvets decides to do have to be in accordance with us. The Streetscape Project will eventually dictate what specifications have to be done to comply with handicap accessible parking.

7) Discussion: Neighborhood vehicle issue. Illinois Statue 625 ILCS 5/11-11426.1 – Sec. 11-1426.1. Operation of non-highway vehicles on streets, roads and highways. The Trustees discussed that last proposal by Larry Miller on adding non-highway vehicles to the Golf Cart Ordinance. A lengthy discussion followed addressing the same issues that have been brought up in previous meetings. The ordinance called for operators to be 21 years of age. J.R. Dunlap felt that the age should be dropped to 18; however, it was the consensus to keep it at 21. Other suggested amendments:

- a) Allow permits to be issued to non residents.
- b) A bill of sale would be acceptable in place of a title.
- c) The cost for the initial inspection and permit of neighborhood vehicles will be \$75 and \$50 annually thereafter.
- d) The vehicles would be limited to the posted speed limit, but no more than 25 mph.

J.R. Dunlap made a motion to accept the corrected Ordinance as amended and Gene Purcell seconded motion. Mayor Schofield asked if there was any further discussion needed. The Board decided the amended Ordinance should be taken to Frank Weber for his review and input before proceeding. Therefore, no vote was taken on the motion. J.R. asked Gene Purcell if he would rescind this second. Gene agreed and J.R. rescinded his motion. Mayor Schofield will be in contact with Frank for his opinion. The Board will review the amended ordinance at the next Board meeting and possibly bring it to a vote at that time.

8) Reminder: Employee, Trustees and Staff Christmas Dinner will be at 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 15, 2011.

9) Update: Animal Control issue for Palestine. Frank Weber is still of the opinion that the County is still responsible of taking care of animal control. Crawford County Mayors are planning a meeting with the County Committee on animal control next week. Jada Spinner was present at the Board meeting to address the Board with her proposal of what she is able to do for the Village on animal control. Jada is the animal control person for the unincorporated areas of the county. She is licensed and certified. She proposed a \$25 per animal pick-up. Habitual offenders will be fined. Part of the fine will come back to the Village. She also has 'surrender' shelters available at her residence. Animals can be adopted from her facility. The animal control issue will be brought back to the Board next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Approve updated 'Ordinance Regulating Development in Flood Plain'. Original Ordinance was passed on January 6, 2011. After this was sent in and approved, new flood maps were made available. Our Ordinance did not comply with the new flood panels, therefore, the Ordinance was updated and Mayor Schofield checked with FEMA and was assured it now complies. Greta Dennison moved to approve the updated "Ordinance Regulating Development in Flood Plain". Larry Surrells seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Schofield will send it to the State by certified mail tomorrow.

2) Approve ITEP-Joint Agreement: IDOT and Village of Palestine. Mayor Schofield explained this agreement will allow the Village to proceed with the engineering work for the Streetscape Project. Larry Surrells moved to approve the ITEP Joint Agreement between IDOT and the Village of Palestine. Larry Miller seconded motion. Motion carried.

3) Approve ITEP-Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement. Mayor Schofield explained we are only in preliminary stages but approving engineering services will be one step in getting this project started. Larry Surrells made a motion to approve ITEP Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement between Prairie Engineering and the Village of Palestine. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously. The agreements are part of the process necessary for the Village to receive the money and for the work to begin. Mayor Schofield was hopeful that construction could begin by the spring of 2013 and be completed in about one year.

4) Approve Village participation in Christmas Trees on Main Street-Estimated cost \$200. Fred McNair asked if the Village participate in this endeavor. Gene Purcell moved to approve a donation for \$200 for the Christmas Trees on Main Street. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5) Sign up-Trustees schedule for opening Pioneer Room – 2012. Mayor Schofield handed out the sign-up sheet to the Trustees to be filled out.

6) Posting of all the normal Board meetings for the 2012 calendar year.

DPW Report: Kathy Fuller, Superintendent. The DPW has put a hold on ordering a root cutting motor. We have a main one and a good backup so we should be fine. Leaf season went well this year; the DPW was able to go from 91 hours last year to only 69 hours this season so that means a substantial cost savings. They will let the public know when the cut off will be.

They are having a problem with a pump at the lagoon. Kathy has been in contact with Lawrence Quick and the pump is going to have to be pulled. It's been about 15 years since it had to be pulled. It was the consensus of the Board for Kathy to start getting prices for a new pump.

Kathy reported on a program from the Illinois Public Works Aid Network. It is "a Statewide Mutual Aid System for all Public Works Agencies in Illinois. Public agencies can help each other with personnel and resources for both natural and man-made disasters". The response is always voluntary! The cost is \$100 to join and an annual fee of \$100. Larry Surrells made a motion to join the IL Public Works Mutual Aid Network; Larry Miller seconded motion. Motion passed with five ayes and one nay from J.R. Dunlap.

Police Report: Jim Clark, Chief of Police. Jim reported that we had a quiet month.

Pioneer Room – December – J.R. DUNLAP

Committee Reports:

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman. Larry and J.R. will be working on the amendments to the Golf Cart Ordinance.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. A limited amount of work is scheduled to be started next week.

Other business:

Mayor Schofield received a letter from Mediacom announcing they were raising their rates on basic and the sports channel.

Mayor Schofield also reminded us to read the newest IML Statehouse Briefing. It is very informative.

Bob Taylor said that he has noticed a Republic vehicle backing up with no “back up alarm”. Mayor Schofield said she would follow up with Republic.

With no further business to discuss, Gene Purcell moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

PRESIDENT

CLERK