

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

August 4, 2011

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on August 4, 2011, 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.

Visitors present: Debbie Henry, Bob Henry, Luke McNair, Richard Lowe, Jamie Lowe, Candace Mahoney, Lisa Clark, Jeff Shaner, Mario Bantican, Lloyd Dunlap, Marcus Deckard, Don York, Clint Knoblett and Chris Forde from 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 July 7 and July 14, 2011, were accepted as presented.

A Special Public Hearing was held in regard to the annexation of the Palestine Chamber property that surrounds the Leaverton Park proper. This does not include the Leaverton Park Proper. It is felt this annexation will be beneficial to the Chamber and the Village. There were no objections to the annexation. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:07 PM.

Regular Board Meeting began at 6:08 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Complete Annexation Agreement-Palestine Chamber property.

The Annexation Agreement was completed and signed by the officers of the Palestine Chamber of Commerce.

Larry Surrells moved to approve the ordinance as written for the Annexation of the Palestine Chamber of Commerce property. Larry Miller seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ordinance number is 2011-O-09.

2) Discussion: Safe place to use as a storm shelter for Palestine area. The First Christian Church has approved the use of their church basement and Larry Surrells said the First United Methodist Church has also agreed to be used as a storm shelter. Storm shelter signs will have to be purchased for the churches that are used as storm shelters. Each sign will cost approx. \$45 each, including setup.

3) Discussion: Neighborhood Vehicle Issue-Illinois Statute 625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1-Sec. 11-1426.1. Operation of non-highway vehicles on streets, roads, and highways.

J.R. Dunlap addressed the Board of Trustees and shared handouts of the above statute along with a copy of Newton's policy. J.R. specifically brought IL Statute 1426-1 (h) to the Board's attention. It basically states that it is not unlawful for any person to drive or

operate a non-highway vehicle on a county or township roadway for the purpose of conducting farming operations. That was the main problem with the proposed ordinance at an earlier Board meeting. Larry Miller voiced his opinion that the farmers driving the non-highway vehicles into the Village were conducting 'farming business' not conducting 'farming operations'. Larry Surrells said he could not vote for them to be driven in town because his constituents are against them. J.R. believes they are definitely safer than golf carts (they are required to have seatbelts where golf carts do not) and the Village would benefit from the issuance of permits for the non-highway vehicles. He has been in contact with the Mayor of Oblong and Oblong has had no complaints or accidents reported. Someone has suggested to J.R. that he get a petition out in support of the non-highway vehicles. Mayor Schofield suggested that Larry Surrells get a petition going against them and when we revisit this again the petitions might give us a clearer picture of what our residents want.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Ordinance Complaint – Chapter 5: 5-11 (a) & (b) DEBRIS IN STREETS-Grass clippings in streets. The individual who made the complaint was not present; however, the Board did discuss the issue. It was felt that the problem of grass clippings in the street was minimal; therefore, no action was taken, nor any further action.

2) Ordinance Complaint – Chapter 13: 13.01 DOG AT LARGE (a) & (b) – Dogs running loose without a leash. Debbie and Bob Henry addressed the Board concerning neighborhood dogs running loose without restraints. This has been happening frequently and at times they have feared for their safety and the safety of their dog. Bob gave some statistics from CIPS and the USPS citing the injuries their employees have had due to dog bites. Bob asked that the Board consider changing our dog ordinance to include having dogs restrained while on their owner's personal property. Police Chief Jim Clark was not sure if we have the authority to do this. After a lengthy discussion, Larry Surrells suggested we review the current ordinance and take this under consideration. In the meantime, we will check with our city attorney for his advice.

DPW Report: Kathy Fuller, Superintendent. The DPW crew is caught up with mowing and spraying. They are starting on painting streets. Kathy is in the process of making up a schedule when they will be using the street sweeper. She reports that Tom Herlocher has been a huge asset to the DPW.

Police Report: Jim Clark, Chief of Police. Jim reported only one major problem last month...a juvenile was arrested for theft.

Pioneer Room – August – Gene Purcell

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. July financials for the General Fund and Sewer Dept. were handed out. The Annexation Ordinance for the Martin property is 2011-O-08.

Employee Relations Committee: Greta Dennison. We've contacted one of our last applicants for an interview for part-time help in the DPW Dept.

Other Business:

J.R. asked if there is a new ordinance prohibiting vehicles over 21 ½ feet long from parking on Main Street. There is an Ordinance, but it is a few years old.

J.R. also produced pictures of property at 205 N. Rush. It is an eyesore and the neighbors want it repaired or torn down. Larry Surrells asked for an update on the action the Board took earlier. Larry Miller said it is in the process of litigation with the people buying it on contract and is at a standstill. It will take a court order to determine who the actual owner is. Condemnation proceedings were filed several years ago. Due to the litigation, the process has stalled. Gene Purcell suggested we go back to our Attorney and see where it stands and get his advice on how to proceed. Larry Surrells recommended we file another condemnation but with both names this time. Larry said “something has to be done; it’s gone on far too long”.

The Verizon tower is scheduled to be up in September.

Larry Surrells said he has been approached about hunting on the old landfill property. This request was denied as it has been turned down by the Board in the past, due to liability.

Gene Purcell moved to go into Executive Session at 7:28 PM. The purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss the Police Department personnel scheduling.

The Regular Session resumed at 8:24 PM. The Board heard what they believe is a satisfactory report on police scheduling.

With no further business to discuss, J.R. Dunlap moved to adjourn. Larry Surrells seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

PRESIDENT

CLERK