

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 7, 2016

Palestine Board of Trustees met on January 7, 2016, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were George Harrison, Rick Stork, Rob Byrley, Gene Purcell, Tim McDaniel and J.R. Dunlap.

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeff Basing, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent, Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Suzie Hancock, Brian Nethery, John Nethery.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Patricia Schofield.

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

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of December 3, 2015, were accepted as presented.

OPENING OF BIDS ON VEHICLES IMPOUNDED PALESTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Two bids were received for the Chevy Malibu. John Nethery bid \$527.50 and Jeff Neal's bid was for \$400.00. John Nethery's bid was accepted. No bids were received for the Dodge Stratus.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Further discussion of the possible purchase of property (Executive Session).
2. Final approval of Ordinance for Towing Away Vehicles/Impound Vehicle Ordinance. Draft was approved in the December meeting. Gene Purcell moved to approve Ordinance 2016-O-01 for Towing/Impounding vehicles. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss the pollution from the Railroad – Suzie Hancock. Suzie reported that the train has not been stopping for an extended length of time recently. Mayor Schofield said that she had written to both our Senators and Congressman at Federal level and State level with our concerns. Rob and Rick have had contact with folks from the railroad requesting their help also. We are hoping this has made some positive outcomes.
2. Fill out and sign the Economic Interest Statements for 2016.
3. Discuss and approve the community involvement in a Diversity Impact for Cancer in our local community through the SIU School of Medicine – one of very few chosen (see attached for more explanation). It has been observed that many rural Illinois counties experience increased cancer risk, even after accounting for known risks. This project seeks to provide an initial study of genome differences in rural and urban IL. They will work with three rural and one urban community. They

will collect 50 cheek swabs from each for genetic analysis. This analysis will be ‘averaged’ and compared to the average from the other three. If there are differences, further work would study specific areas of difference and their potential relation to cancer. If the samples are the same, then baseline genetics may not underlie local cancer risk and their genome analysis may need further refinement. Rick Stork made a motion that we allow the Village of Palestine to participate in this Study of Genomic Diversity in Rural Communities. Tim McDaniel seconded motion. Motion carried with five ayes and one nay from J.R. Dunlap.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Leaf season is completed. It took just under 45 machines hours for the fall season.

Kathy said we will have to address the condition of the Chevy bed when they take the spreader off in the spring. Rust has deteriorated the floor of the bed and rear cross member of the chassis. She feels we have no more than two years of life left of the bed. Kathy took the initiative to weld 3” angle iron to reinforce the bed size/floor. We’ve had to borrow a MIG welder to do this. Kathy requested that the DPW be allowed to purchase a MIG welder. The consensus was for her to purchase one.

Kathy, along with Kermit Green, reconstructed a new valve handle on the aeration fountain, which was successful and it’s now operational and safer to utilize.

Kathy submitted the generator test log to the council. There was a discussion on how to transport it but nothing was finalized. They will continue to work on a solution.

REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. The Departmental Statistics for December were handed out.

The State of Illinois released funds so Police Dept. training is back in force, and 911 has been restored.

PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREET PARK – JANUARY 2016 – GEORGE HARRISON COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FYI:

**REMINDER: Freedom of Information Updates – March 2016
Posting of Monthly VOP Meetings for Calendar Year 2016
Mediacom notice of increase in rates**

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. November and December financials were handed out.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman.

Employee Relations Committee: Patricia Schofield, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman.

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Rob Byrley, Chairman. The sidewalk on East Harrison was repaired.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman.

At 6:58 PM, J.R. Dunlap made a motion to go into Executive Session for:
2(C)(5) Purchase of Brock property as offered by Ron Brock.
2(C)(21) Semi Annual review of Executive Session Minutes.
George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried

Returned to General Session at 7:16 PM.

Gene Purcell made a motion that the Village purchase Ron Brock's property at 220 S. Main, in the amount of \$7,500.00, and keep it for sale until next fall. We will revisit it at that time. We will also put posts along the drop off to keep people from driving off in it. Rick Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

J.R. Dunlap moved to allow the Executive Minutes of January 8, 2015 and April 2, 2015, to be opened for public viewing and put into the regular minute book. Tim McDaniel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, J.R. Dunlap moved to adjourn. Tim McDaniel seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK