

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 8, 2015

Palestine Board of Trustees met on January 8, 2015, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, George Harrison, Ricky Stork, J.R. Dunlap, and Rob Byrley. Larry Miller was absent.

Staff Members present: Chief of Police, Jeff Besing; Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent; Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk; Kathy Gonzalez, Police Dept. Administrative Assistant, and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Brad and Chris Gurley, Jim Clark, Ed Meyers, Jake Baxter, Jim Ellis, Len Daugherty, Larry Tedford, Crawford County Sheriff Bill Rutan, and Jason Tiller (WTYE).

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 4, 2014, were accepted as presented.

A Retirement Plaque was presented to Police Officer Brad Gurley for his 17 years of dedicated service to the Palestine Police Department. The plaque was presented by Chief of Police, Jeff Besing, retired Chief of Police, Jim Clark, and Mayor Patricia Schofield. Other mementos were also given to Gurley by Chief Besing.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on Matteson Properties. No updates at this time; everything is still in the court's hands. It was reported that the roof above Matteson's furniture store on Main Street has been repaired.

2. Streetscape discussion. It was the consensus of the Trustees to wait until the March Board Meeting for further action. Due to the importance of this issue, it was felt that we should wait for a full board vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve letter of support and commitment for the Frontier Communications and Dish Network Route 1/I70 Corridor Project – 6 communities are required to participate.

Jim Ellis addressed the Board with an overview of the project. Frontier Communications and Dish Network are offering an economic development grant opportunity for Frontier Communities. They hope to help prosper the communities in which they provide services. The grant can range from \$35,000 to \$3,000,000.00 for the community.

All that we are asked for at this time is a letter of support and a pledge of \$2,000. If we are selected for the first round of winners, and only then, will the money have to be paid and we will be able to recoup our funds as part of the first phase of work. After further discussion Ricky Stork made a motion that we recommend that a letter of support be sent with a pledge of \$1,000. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. PDA has agreed to pledge the balance of \$1,000 to meet the match.

2. Discussion of an Ordinance for grease traps – Environmental protection – See information attached. Kathy Clark reported that in a certain area in town there has been repeated grease clogging in our sewer main and questioned if we might need an ordinance put in place concerning grease traps in eating establishments. The State requires food services to have an interceptor, or at the very least, a grease trap installed. Kathy will follow up with the Health Department before taking this any further.

3. Larry Tedford – To address the Board – Wants approval to put in an RV park within the Village limits. He is looking at 8 to 10 units to be located on his three lots on East Market. Larry's main purpose, at this time, was to present the idea and get direction from the Board.

Specific rules and regulations would have to be established for the operation. Sewer, water, and electric service would have to be installed for each individual unit. Mayor Schofield will provide specs to Larry and the Board that will show how many units could be on a lot. Also, the Village would have to extend an ordinance we already have to make sure it covers something like this.

4. Republic (Formerly Veolia Waste Management) comes up for renewal April 2015. Mayor Schofield has received complaints from some residents who have received an increase on their Republic bill. As the Village has a contracted price, she will follow up on this.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent.

She is still working on getting our reimbursement from Verizon.

Kathy requested the Trustees to consider selling 2 hitch-pull transfer pumps, 1 PTO generator, and a diaphragm pump to make room in the barn. It would free up some much needed space. These pumps have not been used in over 10 years and we have newer, more efficient generators. She invited the Trustees to come by the barn to check the equipment out.

Discussed allowing Robinson Waste Water Treatment Plant to test our samples, in place of EC Labs. The lab fees are lower as they don't have as far to come to pick up samples. Ricky Stork made a motion that we change labs and go with the Robinson WWTP. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. January 9th is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in which communities are being asked to wear something blue or display a "blue" light of some type supporting law enforcement in our community.

Officer Carpenter is still off work. His next doctor's appointment is January 14th, which will determine if and when he will have surgery on his knee. His shifts will be covered by Chief Besing and our part time officers.

In reference to the situation on the 500 block of East Franklin, photos have been taken of the properties and the property owner has been sent a letter inviting him to this council meeting in order to explain what our next steps would be in reference to this situation.

PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREET PARK – JANUARY – GEORGE HARRISON

FYI... The 2015 monthly Board of Trustees Meetings list and the Village's Holiday closing were given to Trustees, along with the list of volunteers for Pioneer Room & Community Facility.

FYI... Mediacom is increasing its rate for HBO. In addition, the Local Broadcast Station Surcharge and Regional Sports Surcharge is increasing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. December financials were distributed.

A discussion was held concerning the upcoming MFT budget. If the Village does not include labor and equipment usage on the budget for 2015, we would have more money to spend on sidewalks and streets, etc. In the past, the MFT budget has allowed for some reimbursement to General Fund for labor and equipment use. Gene Purcell made a motion that we will not include labor or equipment use in the 2015 MFT Budget. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Employee Relations Committee: Patricia Schofield, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Mayor Schofield reminded everyone to work on their OMA training for 2015.

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: J.R. Dunlap, Chairman. Kathy and J.R. will be meeting with Mike Gill from Lamac Engr. on the 20th to work on the MFT agenda for the 2015 budget.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman. Kathy alerted Rick that we need to get someone to work on an aeration valve at the lagoon.

At 7:50 PM, J.R. Dunlap moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of 2(C) (21) – Review and approve Executive Session Minutes for the past six months. Seconded by Gene Purcell. Motion carried.

The regular session was resumed at 8:05 PM. J.R. Dunlap made a motion to allow all the Executive Minutes that were reviewed to be open for public viewing and put into the regular minute book, with the exception of January 2nd, 2 (C)(21) in reference to Feb. 7th and 14th of 2013. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, J.R. Dunlap moved to adjourn. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK