

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 1, 2012

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on March 1, 2012, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Larry Surrells, J.R. Dunlap, Greta Dennison and Larry Miller. J.D. Kimberlin was absent.

Other Staff Members present: Police Chief, Jim Clark; Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk; and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Mario Bantican, Marcus Decker, Don York, Luke McNair and Bob Taylor.

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 February 2, 2012, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update: Condemnation of property at 205 N. Rush St. The property owner has elected to have a bench trial which is scheduled for March 22nd. After some discussion, Larry Surrells made a motion to give Mayor Schofield permission to proceed with the possible purchase of the N. Rush St. property if an agreement could be made with the property owner. Motion died for lack of a second.

2. Update Re: Animal Control-County/Municipality Meeting. Mayor Schofield has been at a couple of meetings. At the last Crawford County Board Meeting, the Board failed to define what the 'county' consisted of. They say they represent only unincorporated areas. They want to take care of shelters only, it would be up to the municipality to pick up and deliver animals to the shelter. Jada Spinner has been doing a good job as Animal Control Officer.

3. Remove from table: Hotel/Motel Tax - Update by Larry Surrells. Larry Surrells moved to remove from table the Hotel/Motel Tax. Larry Miller seconded motion. Larry Surrells said he has been in contact with Rick Catt and Rick has assured him that this is something we should go forward with and that it would definitely be beneficial for the Village. He will be getting back with Larry with further information on proper terminology for the ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Resolution for Maintenance of Streets & Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Codes. Larry Surrells recently met with Michael Gill of Lamac Engineering and they drove thru the Village to assess the streets and sidewalks. Mayor Schofield handed out copies of the resolution for the Board to review. Larry Surrells then moved to approve the Resolution for Maintenance of Streets & Highways. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed.

2. Formal Approval of Coke Vending Machine for Jeramie & Farrah Elder. Mayor Schofield said she conducted a phone poll earlier and unanimous approval was given.

J. R. Dunlap moved to formally approve a Coke vending machine for Jeramie and Farrah Elder. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion passed.

3. Formal Approval of a Real Estate Purchase by the VOP. A phone poll was conducted at an earlier date and approval was unanimously given. Larry Surrells moved to formally approve the real estate purchase by the Village. Greta Dennison seconded motion. A lengthy discussion followed. Bob Gleason is another party involved and the contract his attorney presented was declined as written. We would only go forward with our purchase if a contract is mutually approved by Dollar General and Bob Gleason. There would have to be a definite firm commitment. Larry Miller voiced concern that the Village might be stretching itself. Everyone did agree that having a Dollar General Store would certainly benefit our community. Roll call was given and motion passed.

4. Resident Complaint – Re: Village Dog Ordinance. This was not addressed as complainant did not attend meeting.

5. Disaster Preparedness. Jim Clark addressed the Trustees. The Police have been going to training in regard to national level threats. Last year we were warned of upcoming civil unrest and we have seen that happening. At the meeting he attended in Carbondale in January, sources within the FBI have stated that in 2012 there is a 100% chance of a nuclear or biological attack by rouge nations. It is a known fact that the drug tunnels in Mexico are being used to smuggle in terrorists. There has also been a proliferation of motorcycle gangs coming up North from the South. In May the G8/NATO summit will be held in Chicago and they are expecting 50,000 professional demonstrators. Our Police Dept. will be getting training soon to learn how to handle these demonstrators in the event our police personnel are needed.

The chance of something significant happening in our area is unlikely, but it could happen and we should take some precautions. Most likely we could see a major power outage here which could last awhile. Jim's recommendation is to have a 30 day supply of food and water along with batteries, kerosene lamps and propane heaters. Jim said that

Robinson can keep us in water for 30 days. However, the sewer would present a big problem for the Village. We need to have a 3 phase generator that can run our pumps at the lagoon. Mayor Schofield has been in touch with a supplier for a military surplus generator. They have none available at present but we are on the list and she will continue to search for one.

Jim says he does not want to scare anyone but wants the residents to be aware of what is going on and have the opportunity to take precautions in case of an emergency or disaster.

6. Approve Chamber request for Beer Tent during Labor Day. Marcus Decker requested the approval for the Chamber. He said it was a success last year and was a big help for the Chamber. Larry Surrells said he was not against it but was concerned about having it if there ended up being no Bull Bash or Rodeo this year. Marcus assured the Trustees that if there was no event at the arena then they would not have a beer tent. Greta Dennison moved to approve the Chamber's request for a beer tent during Labor Day so long as there is an event held at the arena. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

7. Budget Workday – Saturday March 24th or March 31st. The Trustees agreed upon Saturday, March 24 as the budget workday.

8. Spring Clean-up – April 18 – For all Paid-up Republic Customers. Mayor Schofield has complained to Republic with regard to their sloppy work. They did send someone to clean up the mess that they made recently. The spring clean-up will be on Wednesday, April 18th.

DPW Report: Kathy Fuller, Superintendent. Larry Surrells and Kathy have been assessing and measuring for sidewalks for Safe Routes to School. Some trees will have to be removed.

Police Report: Jim Clark, Chief of Police. There was one criminal damage to property reported in the amount of \$2200 which resulted from a domestic issue.

Jim is now NIMS compliant and we received the new equipment at no cost.

Pioneer Room – March - Greta Dennison.

FYI to the Trustees: The Annual Chamber Meeting and Banquet will be held on March 7, 2012. Please let Mayor Schofield know if you plan to attend.

Committee Reports:

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. We have permanently repaired the highest sewer in town.

J.R. Dunlap asked when the stickers for the side by sides would be available. Mayor Schofield said they are on order we are expecting them any time now.

Gene Purcell asked if the AED's are operational. The AED is in Ed's police vehicle and Jim said it is operational.

Gene Purcell and Mayor Schofield are working on possibility of a new console for the emergency warning system. The cost is \$1200 for a new console.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Greta Dennison. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

PRESIDENT

CLERK