

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

April 4, 2013

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on April 4, 2013, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, J.R. Dunlap, Larry Surrells, and Larry Miller. Greta Dennison and J.D. Kimberlin were absent.

Other Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeffrey Besing, Kathy Gonzalez, Police Dept. Admin. Assistant, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent, Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: George Harrison, Rick Stork, Chris Forde (WTYE), Tom Osborne (WTYE), Joshua Green, Lyndsey Polston, Rene' Welker and Bill from Casey's in Palestine, Tim Russell, Dist. Mgr. of Casey's, and Bob Taylor.

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 March 7, 2013, were accepted with corrections on Page 1.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Reminder: Spring clean-up is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2013, for all Republic paid-up customers.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Formally approve FY 2013 - 2014 Budget – with corrections. Larry Surrells moved to approve the Budget with corrections. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

2) Approve Resolution for IDOT Municipal Maintenance. Larry Surrells made a motion to approve the Resolution for IDOT Maintenance of Streets and Highways. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried.

3) Casey's have been advised that they will be open 24/7 and request permission to extend the hours of sale of alcohol to 6:00 AM to 2:00 AM. Tim Russell, the District Manager, addressed the Board requesting approval to increase the hours they can sell alcohol. After a short discussion, Larry Surrells moved to accept Casey's request to extend the hours they can sell beer, wine and malted beverages. The hours will be from 6:00AM to 2:00 AM Monday thru Friday, 6:00 AM to midnight Saturday and noon until 6:00 PM on Sunday. J.R Dunlap seconded motion. Motion passed. Gene Purcell, Larry Surrells and J.R.Dunlap voted aye; Larry Miller voted nay. Motion passed.

4) Discuss the request from Childers to pay for their sewer maintenance fee: Kathy Clark gave a report on the situation. The DPW did jet their line although it was flowing when they got there and when they left. The Childer's were not satisfied and had Mette rod their sewer line to the main. The DPW opened the manhole behind his house and it was clean, no water standing. They did jet the main past Childers' line just to be sure; there was no resistance. Kathy feels the Village should not be responsible for Mette's bill. Larry Surrells concurred with Kathy's evaluation. Larry Surrells made a motion that the Village not pay Childers' bill from Mette. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

5) Meeting with Good Energy – Discussion of possibility of Natural Gas Aggregation – Goal; April 2014 Ballot. Process will be very similar to the Electric Municipal Aggregation of 2012. Mayor Schofield and Shirley attended a meeting with Good Energy and they said they are working diligently on getting a natural gas aggregation program.

6) Discussion and approval – request from Nicole Martin re: closing W. Grand Prairie for the Spring Fling which is being held at the Fife Opera House on April 13th. Larry Surrells moved to approve the request to close W. Grand Prairie St. from Main St. to the alley for the Spring Fling. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried.

7) Approval of 2013 Wine and Arts Festival – October 5th & 6th, 2013. Official letter of request has been received from the Palestine Development Assoc. Larry Surrells made a motion to approve the 2013 Wine & Arts Festival. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

8) Approve Resolution to sell specific property owned by the Village of Palestine-17+ acres (old landfill located in Sec. 15, T6N, R1W, Crawford County, IL We've received a letter from our attorney giving us instructions on how to proceed. A written appraisal of the property is required and public notice of the sale has to be advertised in the newspaper giving the dates closed bids can be submitted. The winning bid has to be at least 80% of the appraised value.

9) Discussion and approval of new computer software for the Police Department. Kathy Gonzalez said it is a database program from Brownlee Data Systems. Kathy has researched it quite thoroughly and she and Chief Besing believe this database system will meet all their needs. The Oblong Police Dept. has used this program for several years and is very satisfied with it. The cost is \$1800.00. After the first year, software improvements and maintenance can be purchased for \$250 per year. They will work with the Village on paying in installments. Larry Surrells made a motion that the Village purchases the software program along with the maintenance program after the first year. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

10) Formally approve training for Kathy Clark. She has requested to take the Wastewater Treatment Class at LTC in preparation for the exam to obtain her Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification. Tom Hose and Larry Quick have recommended this class. Larry Surrells moved to approve Kathy's request. Larry Miller seconded motion. Motion passed.

11) Report by Personnel Committee – Re: hiring of new Patrolman. Chief Besing introduced Joshua Green to the Trustees and visitors. He is going to be our evening Patrolman and scheduled to start the first week in May. Josh was sworn into office by Mayor Schofield.

12) Formally approve the pursuit of purchasing property for a new business. Mayor Schofield reported that everything has not been completed with the Overland Group yet but she has been in contact with our real estate people. Gleeson is willing to sign the contract again and the other two are willing to sign the exchange property. We need to make sure Overland Group is communicating with Terracon. Gene Purcell made a motion that we pursue the purchase of property for the new business in Palestine. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. The DPW has been working with Steve Mitchell, Tom Hose and the Lamac Engr. on the wet well project. They have made some headway and feel they have a solution in sight.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Chief Besing said he has been monitoring traffic in the school zones and residential areas and has written several citations for speeding. He has registered the Village Police Dept. with the Implex website that monitors pseudoephedrine purchases with retailers. Pseudoephedrine is the key ingredient of meth. Jeff has also registered the Village and Police Dept. with the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. This would allow us to submit an application to purchase vests for Chief Besing and Josh. This is a State bidding process in which we can receive up to 50% reimbursement off the cost of the vests. Kathy Gonzalez is also working on a private grant that could also help offset the cost of the vests.

PIONEER ROOM – APRIL – LARRY MILLER

FYI: J.R.Dunlap made a suggestion that we have a meet & greet of the new Officers of the Police Dept.

FYI: SIED 19th Annual Conference – Friday, May 3, 2013 – see brochure attached.

FYI: Received notification from Mediacom that they are raising rates on some channels/packages.

FYI: There has been an inquiry from a gentleman who wants to open a tobacco shop in town. He would need a permit if he were to have it in his home. A store front would be preferable.

FYI: A lady, representing USPS, is contacting businesses to see if they would be willing to sell stamps & take packages for them. Monday through Saturday service would be required. They would pay the business a small fee for this service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Budget for FY 2013-2014 approved. Will begin working on Appropriation and Tax Levy.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Larry Miller, Chairman.

Employee Relations Committee: Greta Dennison, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Preliminary: Greta Dennison, Secondary.

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Surrells moved to adjourn. J.R.Dunlap seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK