

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 1, 2104

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on May 1, 2014, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, George Harrison, Ricky Stork, and J.R. Dunlap.

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

Visitors present: Peg and Red Waggoner, Larry Miller, Jim Snyder, and Chris Forde (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 April 3, 2014, were accepted as presented.

As the first order of business, the first two items under New Business were addressed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Motion to regretfully accept the resignation of J.D. Kimberlin. Gene Purcell moved to regretfully accept the resignation of J.D. Kimberlin. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Swearing in of returning Board Member, Larry Miller, to fill Kimberlin's vacancy. Larry Miller was appointed as Trustee to replace J.D. Kimberlin. He was sworn in by Mayor Schofield.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Streetscape Project – Update. We received the new Project plans but they have not been approved yet. Peg Waggoner questioned what could be done instead of the railing; folks are still not happy with the railing. The plans have to satisfy the ADA requirements. There will be another meeting scheduled with IDOT, IHPA, Prairie Engineers and the Streetscape Committee to further discuss this.

2) Dollar General – Update – Proposed Opening Date – May 26. They've had all kinds of trouble with contracting a plumber and electrician so things have slowed down; however, they hope to have the opening on May 26th.

3) Update on apartment complex on Pike St. Blvd. – Stephanie Bond, Owner. Joe Dart told the Mayor that all the paperwork involved has been completed and hope to close next week.

4) Update- Matteson Property – 205 N. Rush St. There has been some activity at the place. Looks like he's starting some of the demolition.

5) Update – Matteson Property – 415 S. Main St. The May 1st deadline has been completed, which was the deck in the back.

6) REMINDER – Town-wide Spring clean-up-ongoing for May 1st and 2nd. This includes only trash and household items. The first day has gone really well. REMINDER...they do not pick up construction materials.

7) REMINDER – D&J Salvage (Mark Dennis) has been awarded exclusive pick-up of all appliances – hot water heaters; car parts; scrap metal; misc. metal. It was suggested that we check with our attorney about getting an ordinance made, giving the person we contract with, the exclusive right to pick up the specified salvage. This would enable our Police Dept. to this provision and issue citations to those who do not adhere to it.

8) Open sealed bids for the AR-15 upper assembly 50 caliber Beowulf barrel with seven rounds aluminum magazines. Chief Besing opened the one and only sealed bid we received. It was from Luke Martin offering \$1 over highest bid but not to exceed \$750.00. J.R. Dunlap made a motion to accept Luke Martin's bid for \$750 for the Beowulf 50 cal upper receiver with ammunition. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: (continued)

Items #1 & #2 shown above.

3) Approve rates for FY15 Benefits Choices for employee health insurance. Mayor Pat and Shirley attended the FY15 Benefits Choice Seminar in Springfield last week. The new rate for our plan is \$922 per month per individual, which amounts to a 6% increase. The increase will become effective on July 1st.

4) Approval of Annual 2014 Appropriation Ordinance. Greta Dennison made a motion to approve the 2014 Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-O-03. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Otie came and went thru the correct operation on the start up on the generator. Took it to a lift station and hooked it up and ran a single phase. It worked great and Kathy is confident that it will run just as well on 3 phase.

Bradford Supply has a PVC plug for the culvert at the lagoon. Kathy is going to follow up to make certain it will fit.

The DPW has addressed the problem with the sewer on W. Franklin Street. Kathy confirmed it is not our problem. Mayor Schofield has written the property owner a letter outlining everything and gave her some ideas on what must be done to help remedy her problem.

Kathy hand out three estimates she's received on replacing the lagoon fence. Of the three, she was most impressed with the one from Beard Pools. The Mayor said we will have to bid this. When we do, we have to be prepared to submit all of the requirements and specifications on what people will be bidding on. It will have to be very close on what is needed. In the meantime, she will continue to work on getting a grant for help with this project.

The DPW has recently had some difficulty with the Ford. It's had some repairs to keep it running. Kathy says it is pretty useless in the winter. It doesn't get around in the snow well at all, especially around the lagoon. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is actually what is needed. Chief Besing helped Kathy get some estimates on some vehicles. The one that the Board was interested in was a 2015 Ford F250 4x4. It is in Springfield, IL. It comes with a 3 year, 36,000 mile basic warranty. Pat said if the Trustees are interested in proceeding with this, we need to look at the vehicle. Jeff is going to follow up by contacting the dealership to see if they would be willing to bring the vehicle here for the Trustees to look at.

J.R. said he had a bid from Vincennes John Deere for a grappling hook for our John Deere Tractor. It is \$4600 with installation. It has been needed for a long time and will be such a help to our DPW. J.R. Dunlap made a motion to accept the bid from Vincennes John Deere for the grappling hook for \$4600.00. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. The application process for a new patrolman has been completed with a total of 13 applications received.

Our Police Dept. is sponsoring a Taser re-certifications class on May 13 and an officer training session on the concealed carry law on May 28th to be held in the Pioneer Room.

Letters have been sent out to property owners that need to clean up their properties.

Chief Besing has submitted a grant with the assistance of the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission to the USDA for replacing the Dodge Nitro squad car. This particular grant may take up to a year before we hear anything.

He has also inquired upon a secondary grant for a new squad car through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance program and GWRPC, which may be a timelier grant.

PIONEER ROOM – MAY - LARRY MILLER

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. A summary of the State Revenue we have received from FY2010 thru FY 2014 was given to the Trustees for their review.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. Gene said we have issued several building permits recently.

Employee Relations Committee: Greta Dennison, Chairman.

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

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: J.R. Dunlap, Chairman. The work for Safe Routes to School has begun. Some sidewalks are already in;

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman.

Greta Dennison moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of 2(C) (1), 2(C) (3), and 2(C) (11). J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular session resumed at 8:00 pm to report on everything discussed during the Executive Session.

Sewer line repairs for Tim McDaniel - Greta Dennison made a motion that the Village not pay for any of the expenses for the repairs. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Kermit Green had requested to drill a dry well - J.R. Dunlap moved that that we will not give him permission to dig a dry well. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Letters we received from people that were interested in being a Trustee - The Trustees gave Mayor Schofield the go ahead to write to them welcoming them and encouraging them to be part of our meetings in order to get acclimated and prepare to run next spring.

Applications for Police Dept. – Chief Besing was given the go ahead to send letters to those chosen to take the written exam and the power test. He said he would send the letters out tomorrow.

With no further business to discuss, Greta Dennison moved to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK