

**MINUTES  
PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**June 7, 2012**

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on June 7, 2012, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, J.R. Dunlap, Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, and Larry Surrells. J.D. Kimberlin was absent.

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

Visitors present: Matt Weaver, Tom Hose, Carol Harmon, Bob Taylor and Tom Osborne from the Robinson Daily News.

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 May 3, 2012, were accepted as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Update of Matteson property – 205 N. Rush Street. Jim has notified our attorney of the Board's decision from last month's Board Meeting.

Update on Animal Control – County Ordinance. The Crawford County Board has decided to ask for new bids for the contract.

Update: Hotel/Motel Tax: Mayor Schofield has been in touch with Rick Catt and has obtained a copy of Oblong's Ordinance. He informed her that the maximum they've received in a month is \$100.00 The cost to build an ordinance such as this is costly. Gene Purcell's opinion was that the Village would not receive enough income to justify creating the ordinance. Larry Miller agreed and said that he felt it might put us in an adversarial position with the community. Larry Surrells reminded the Board that it was Rick's suggestion that we consider this in the first place. Gene Purcell made a motion to table the Hotel/Motel Tax from our agenda. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed

Approval of Ordinance for amending Mobile Home, Lots, etc. Larry Miller presented the ordinance for approval. The change will allow for a variance to be issued at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, on a case by case petition, based on the age, condition, and location of each manufactured home. Larry Surrells moved to approve the Ordinance as written. Larry Miller seconded motion. Motion passed. Ordinance will be 2012-O-03.

Approval of Ordinance for amending Liquor License Ordinance for additional class licenses. The amended ordinance states 'there shall be no more than two Class A License in effect in the Village at one time'. Class C License has added included 'malt beverages'. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the amended Liquor License Ordinance as written. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion passes. Amended Ordinance is 2012-O-04.

Approval of Ordinance for amending Liquor License Ordinance to include summer Permit for Beer Gardens, to be approved per request, for site, hours, etc. The annual summer permit will cost \$150 and will run from June 1 through October, not to extend beyond

November 1 of each year. Larry Miller moved to accept the amended Ordinance as written in regard to the Summer Permit for Beer Gardens. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion passed. Amended Ordinance is 2012-O-05.

Update: Addition of Whelen Encoder for our Global Technical System-Warning Siren. Gene Purcell has received additional information from Brad Midgett. Marathon is making some changes and there is a possibility they might help us with the cost. It was the consensus of the Board to let Brad order it and then bill us. Gene will give him the go ahead.

Update on the proposed Phase 1 for real estate purchase – see attached proposal from Terracon who will be doing the work. Sid Aultman had told us that the survey would cost around \$1200; however, the estimate from Terracon is \$2600. This may be due to the distance they have to come. An asbestos survey is not needed. After reviewing the proposal, it was the consensus of the Board to go ahead with the survey.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Adopt Ordinance – Providing for the Purchase of Real Estate by the Village of Palestine. Greta Dennison moved to adopt the Ordinance. Larry Surrells seconded motion. Motion passed. Ordinance is 2012-O-06.

Adopt Ordinance – Providing for the Exchange of Real Estate by the Village of Palestine. Greta Dennison moved to adopt the Ordinance. Gene Purcell seconded the motion. Motion passed. Ordinance is 2012-O-07.

Adopt FY2012 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance. Gene Purcell moved to adopt the FY2012 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed. Ordinance is 2012-O-08.

Discussion – Contract for Sewer/Lagoon Contract – Replacement for Lawrence Quick – Tom Hose – Retroactive to June 1. Tom will be replacing Lawrence Quick as consultant for our Sewer Department. His proposal is very similar to the one with Lawrence. After the Trustees reviewed the contract, Larry Surrells moved to accept the contract as presented. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed.

Matt Weaver Presentation – Unified Energy Alliance. Matt's presentation was on proposed energy savings for the Village. He said that since Illinois deregulated electricity, his firm has been helping clients better understand how that could benefit them and help them avoid misleading claims of fixed rates. Matt has studied the electrical use by the Village and submitted a proposal based on that. After reviewing the usage and savings breakdown, Gene Purcell made a motion that we go with the two year rate with Unified Energy and then re-evaluate after that time. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried.

Properties at the intersection of E. Harrison & Illinois Streets. Serious flooding from rain water – Chiddix, Richardson and Seaney properties; Chiddix pictures. The DPW has put in a 30' culvert but the work is still on-going, however, most of it is complete.

Eliza Harbaugh, 507 W. Franklin St., Palestine – has requested consideration to place a 'Slow-Children Playing' sign in her block. She is concerned about the safety of the many children that live in that block. Mayor Schofield will get in touch with her for further clarification. Franklin Street is on the highway and we cannot put signs there. However, a sign could be put up on Bryan Street.

Illinois Municipal League – Good Governance workshops. These workshops are being

offered throughout June at different locations. Mayor Schofield said if anyone was interested in attending to please let her know. The workshop is \$80 and the Village would pay the fee.

New Committee Assignments for 2012-2013 were distributed to the Trustees and staff.

Neighborhood complaints about the condition of the Weaver Property on E. Franklin – re: their trash, etc. They have been given warnings and tickets concerning their dogs at large and trash. Chief Jim Clark said tickets are written but the court only addresses ordinance violations once a month. If he writes more than one in a month, only one results in a fine. Jim has written a letter informing them if he sees a violation; he's going to continue to write a ticket.

Discussion of Municipal Owned Service Vehicles for use on Village property – Ordinance for IDOT approval. We need to add to our ordinance to include our street sweepers, ATV, leaf vac and tractors. Kathy has been in contact with Dwayne Seacrest from IDOT in Effingham. He told her everything we are doing is being done the right way but suggested we have an ordinance to define the use of 4-wheelers for maintenance. Larry Miller and Mayor Schofield will work on creating an ordinance.

**DPW REPORT:** Kathy Clark, Superintendent. DPW has been doing a lot of mowing lately. Kathy is working toward getting her certificate for the sewer/lagoon. Kathy said, if needed, we can also purchase surplus salt from Lawrence Quick. The DPW has been trimming tree limbs which were going over sidewalks.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief of Police, Jim Clark. Jim reported that it's been a pretty average month. He's written a lot of tickets lately and there was an instance of theft of gasoline.

## **Pioneer Room – June – Larry Surrells**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Budget Committee:** Shirley Adams, Chairman. April and May financial reports were handed out. Kemper was in the week of June 4<sup>th</sup> to conduct our annual audit.

**FOIA OFFICERS:** Greta Dennison, Preliminary: J.D. Kimberlin, Secondary. Mayor Schofield reminded the FOIA Officers to complete their annual training.

**Streets Sidewalks, Alleys Committee:** Larry Surrells, Chairman. Working on what we can when money permits.

### **Other Business:**

Utility Clerk, Margaret Littlejohn, reported that the Village has issued seven neighborhood vehicle permits and 16 golf cart permits to date.

Bob Taylor reminded us that June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day. He also thanked everyone who attended the AmVets Memorial Day services. He wanted to recognize the Color Guard. They did a great job..

Carol Harmon voiced her concern about the 'energy letters' and water surveys everyone's been getting.

Larry Miller asked how our progress was coming on replacing police officers. Mayor Schofield has enlisted Chief Jim Clark's assistance with this search. Larry has a man in mind who has had police training and who has worked in security. He will speak with Jim about this individual.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Larry Miller. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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PRESIDENT

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CLERK