

**MINUTES**  
**PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**June 5, 2014**

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on June 5, 2014, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, George Harrison, Ricky Stork and Larry Miller. J.R. Dunlap absent.

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

Visitors present: Jim Kent, Rob Byrley, Susie Hancock, Peg Waggoner and Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News).

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 May 1, 2014, were accepted as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1) Streetscape Project – Update. There have been two meetings recently. One meeting was with IDOT, Prairie Engineers, Streetscape Committee, PDA and the Village. A couple weeks later another meeting was with IDOT, Prairie Engineers and IHPA (IL Historical Preservation Agency). IHPA has specific things they expect from the design. The Engineer on staff for IHPA, Prairie Engineers and Kennedy Hudson Group are working together on a redesign that will be acceptable for IHPA. Mayor Schofield said railings will not have to be put down the whole two blocks. When the redesign is complete, the Board will then vote on it.

2) Dollar General – Update. It opened for business on May 28<sup>th</sup>. We've been hearing wonderful things about it.

3) Update – Apt. Bldg. – Pike St. Blvd. – Joe Dart, Purchaser. Joe will sign papers on this property this week or next.

4) Update – Matteson Property – 205 N. Rush St. Looks like a little bit of work has been done; however, we were told that a sale is pending and the new owner will demolish it.

5) Update – Matteson Property – 415 S. Main St. The work that was to be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup> has been done.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Approval of Annual 2014 Tax Levy Ordinance. George Harrison moved to approve the 2014 Tax Levy Ordinance 2014-O-04 as written. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Approval of Official Letter of Request – Palestine Chamber of Commerce for Beer Tent – Labor Day Weekend. Gene Purcell moved to approve the request of the Chamber of Commerce for a Beer Tent on Labor Day Weekend. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Approval of Permit for Labor Day Parade – September 1, 2014. Gene Purcell made a motion to approve a permit for the Labor Day Parade. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Suzie Hancock – Complaint re: sidewalk in front of Verizon Tower – N. Main St. Susie says when it rains the water creates a mud hole. Also, a wheelchair cannot be used on that portion of the sidewalk. Kathy Clark will get with J.R. Dunlap and see what can be done to solve this problem.

5) Emerald Ash Borer – Discussion. Mayor Schofield has been watching news reports and reading about this. If it gets to our area it will harm the ash trees in the Village. Rob Byrley volunteered to do some research and present more information on it at the next meeting.

**FYI:** Committee Assignments for FY 2014-2015 were given to Trustees.

**DPW REPORT:** Kathy Clark, Superintendent. The grapple for the John Deere tractor was ordered.

There was a sink hole at the corner of Pike and Lamotte. When it was dug up, the DPW found an old sewer pipe that was rusting out. DPW made the necessary repairs.

Mayor Schofield said there were no USDA grants available for lagoon fencing; however, they do have low interest loans available.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Our department participated in Taser Recertification training, concealed carry permit training and weapon qualifications this past month.

Chief Besing participated in a “small scale school shooting drill on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the High School and Grade School. There will be a larger full scale drill in the fall.

The Chief is applying for emergency funding through the federal bullet proof vest grant process to help off-set the cost of a vest for the new officer we may hire.

We’ve received preliminary confirmation that the Mary Heath Grant was approved and awarded for \$7,200. This money will be used to purchase two new Automated Defibrillators for the squad cars and one extra portable radio and one base station radio for the office.

Mayor Pat received confirmation that our squad car USDA grant has been received and preliminarily approved with funding to become available in January of 2015. Chief Besing is also applying for other grants to help with the cost of the equipment needed for the squad car.

The new full time officer that we hire will attend the Police Training Institute in Champaign, IL on July 7<sup>th</sup> with a tentative graduation date of September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Besing has the opportunity to trade our current 9mm Glock duty weapons in on 40

caliber Glock duty weapons, which is the standard weapon and caliber that is carried by departments in our area. It will only cost \$200 to upgrade these weapons but the cost will be absorbed by left over grant money we have obtained.

## **PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREE PARK – JUNE – GEORGE HARRISON**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Budget Committee:** Shirley Adams, Chairman. The April and May financials were handed out along with a quarterly budget review for the Trustees. Carol Holbert was here this week to conduct in house FY 2014 audit.

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

### **Employee Relations Committee:**

**FOIA Officers:** Shirley Adams, Chairman

**Ordinance Committee:** Larry Miller, Chairman.

**Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee:** J.R. Dunlap, Chairman.

**Sewer/Lagoon Committee:** Ricky Stork, Chairman. The generator is ready to be tested again.

### **Other business:**

Mayor Schofield reported Federal rules dictate that we have to make some change to our town hall building to become more ADA accessible. Lamac prepared blueprints giving three options from which to choose. After the Trustees studied the options, Gene Purcell moved to go with Option 1. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Gene Purcell is getting bids on a generator for the town hall building.

Ricky Stork said the AmVets wants to put up American flags along Rt. 33 through the Village; one on every other light pole. He said it would cost around \$1500 and wondered if any organizations or individuals would be interested in donating to a fund to do this. It was suggested that he contact PDA and the Chamber of Commerce and maybe some churches for monetary help.

Gene Purcell moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of:

2(C)(1) – Personnel – Interviews of new Police Dept. applicants

2(C)(3) – Letter of Resignation.

Regular session resumed at 7:36 pm.

Greta Dennison submitted a letter of resignation to the Board on June 2, 2014. Ricky Stork made a motion to regretfully accept Greta's resignation. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Doyal Hoffman and Brandon Carpenter were interviewed for the position of a full time Police Officer. Both were very good candidates; however, the Board felt Brandon seemed to be best suited for the Village of Palestine. Larry Miller made a motion to offer Brandon

the position. George Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Safe Routes to School is going well. We've had a couple of complaints, but with the Engineer's help, the problems are being resolved.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Miller moved to adjourn. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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MAYOR

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CLERK