

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

July 11, 2013

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on July 11, 2013, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, J.R. Dunlap, Greta Dennison, Rick Stork, and Larry Surrells and J.D. Kimberlin.

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeffrey Besing; Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent; and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: None

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of June 6, 2013 were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Beabout property – corner S. Jackson and E. Harrison. Polly Rapp talked with the Mayor and expressed her thanks for the property getting cleaned up. Larry Surrells said there is still a hole that needs filled in.

3) Update on possible land purchase for new business. All contracts have been signed and delivered and entered into escrow with Daugherty and Gleason to make way for a new Dollar General Store; however, we do have to pass Phase II.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Approval of 2013 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance. Larry Surrells made a motion to approve the 2013 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance 2013-O-08. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Approval of 2013 Prevailing Wage Ordinance. Larry Surrells moved to approve the 2013 Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2013-O-09. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Discussion: Scooters and Bicycles- Ordinance Violations/Changes. Chief Besing said the current Ordinance prohibits bike riding on sidewalks and worries that this creates a safety issue with the kids since that essentially means they have to ride on the streets. Mayor Schofield said the Ordinance was actually created to keep bikes and scooters from being ridden on the sidewalks on Main Street. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the board that the Ordinance be amended to allow them to be ridden on sidewalks, with the exception of Main Street. Mayor Schofield will prepare a draft to be presented at the August Board Meeting.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Kathy said a national magazine recently featured an article on our DPW. She has submitted everything they needed to FEMA & IEMA concerning damages to our pumps at the lagoon from the flood. The cost of repairs has been around \$8,000 to \$9,000. The DPW have been busy picking up a lot of brush and repaired a sink hole on Pike Street.

Connor & Connor, on behalf of Crawford Memorial Hospital Clinic, has been in contact with Kathy concerning the drive and alley at the Clinic. They flood terribly when it rains. Kathy has proposed a couple plans and we are waiting to hear back from them.

In regards to the dump station, Kathy has been in contact with Lawrence Quick and Tom Hose and it is their recommendation that we no longer allow septic services to dump here. They have been dumping more and more and Crockett has been bringing in septic from other states. We don't have the extra help to monitor this and no money to spend on a monitoring system. Kathy feels if we allow them to continue to use our dump station, that it will change the water level as it is already changing our test results. We are pulling samples every week now. In addition, the drive has been damaged and we've had to have gravel hauled in. Gene Purcell made a motion to shut the dump station off and lock it. Larry Surrells seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. Police report was distributed. There is an issue with raw sewage behind Ramsey's on E. Franklin that is being addressed.

Chief Besing proposed a change in the verbiage on the Ordinance concerning "limitation on use of Alleys". Mayor Schofield will prepare a draft with the changes and put it on the agenda for the August Board Meeting.

PIONEER ROOM – JULY – RICKY STORK

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. June financial reports were given to Trustees. We have received the 2012 Crawford County Tax Computation Report. It is around \$3500 more than tax year 2011.

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

Employee Relations Committee: Greta Dennison, Chairman.

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

Ordinance Committee:

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. Larry and the Mayor met this week with IDOT on Safe Routes to School.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman.

Greta Dennison moved to go into Executive Session. Larry Surrells seconded motion. Motion carried.

Returned to Regular Session at 6:55 PM. Larry Surrells moved to accept and release the Executive Minutes of September 6, 2012 and October 4, 2012. Copies will be put in the Regular Session Minute book. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Schofield gave out copies of a letter from Theodore Wagoner concerning leaf and brush burning. He would like the Board to consider expanding times that they can be

burned. Since we didn't receive this in time to put on the agenda, the Trustees were asked to review the letter and think it over. We will put it on the agenda for August and discuss it then.

J.R. Dunlap asked for an update on the Matteson property. Mayor Schofield said it is in the court's hands. He also asked how the land fill sale was coming along. The Mayor said she hasn't heard anything from Bob Crocker, so she may have to get another appraiser.

J.D. Kimberlin said he has noticed a lot of unkempt lawns. Chief Besing is aware of this problem and has sent out around 30 letters to property owners to mow their lawns. They were given a certain number of days to comply and if they did not comply, then a citation would be issued.

Larry Surrells said he had heard that the mill was going to tear down one of the old grain bins. If so, he said we'd have some critters to deal with when it was torn down.

Greta Dennison said it was time something was done about the trailer on the corner of North Lincoln and Perry Streets. It is in horrible condition. Larry Surrells moved to initiate condemnation proceedings against the property owner, Paula Perrine. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Larry Surrells had second thoughts and rescinded his motion. Greta then rescinded her second. Mayor Schofield said she believes someone else owns the trailer now and that Paula owns the land. Larry made a motion that the Village contact the owner of the trailer and try to come to an amicable decision of what to do with it. Rick Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Besing has been asked about the apartment complex where Bob Taylor lives. Although Bob attempts to keep the lawn mowed, there is foliage growing everywhere. Mayor Schofield said she believes the property owner is a lady that lives in Texas. Larry Surrells suggested we write her a letter asking what she intends to do with the property and see if we can come to an agreement to clean it up.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Surrells moved to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK