

## MINUTES

### PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

October 1, 2015

Palestine Board of Trustees met on October 1, 2015, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were George Harrison, Ricky Stork, J.R. Dunlap, Rob Byrley, Gene Purcell and Tim McDaniel.

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

Visitors present: Adena Rivas, Jim Ellis, Brian Nethery and Chris DeWitte (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 September 3, 2015, were accepted as presented.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1) Approve Draft for Golf Cart Ordinance. An amended draft was given to Trustees for their review. After reviewing the changes, Tim McDaniel made a motion to approve the draft of the amended Ordinance 2015-O-06, which amends Ordinance 2005-O-09 and 2013-O-01. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) YICAN Property Update. Letter to attorney and Release of Mortgage completed and signed and in hands of bankruptcy attorney.

3) Reminder: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Day – Saturday, October 24 – 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Marathon and MAPCAP – Robinson Wastewater Plant on Mitchell Ave.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Elevate Energy – Adena Rivas, Representative – Informational. Ms. Rivas addressed the Board telling them about the benefits of the Smart Grid.

2) Community Garden Project Request – See attached information. Jim Ellis has requested the Board to consider allowing chickens in the Village under certain situations and guidelines. The Community Garden is converting the garden to a method that uses organic principles and practices. They will need lots of compost for this and chickens are one of the best providers of compost. After further discussion, Gene Purcell made a motion to table this request until next month in order for the Board Members to look into this more thoroughly. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Formal Approval of Phone Poll for purchase of new pump for Street Sweeper. Rob Byrley made a motion to approve the purchase of a new pump and injectors for the street sweeper. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Fall Clean- up scheduled for 3 days: October 21, 22 and 23, 2015. This is for all paid up customers. Mayor will notify media and put on Facebook.

5) Approval of new contract with USDA for ‘critter’ control. The cost is \$1500.00 for a Term of 1 year. (Contract will automatically be extended until all funding runs out.) Ricky Stork moved to approve the new contract with USDA. Tim McDaniel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Approve Halloween Trick or Treat for Palestine residents – Suggestions: Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The consensus of the Board felt it should start a little earlier. Trick or Treaters should only go to residences with porch lights on. J.R. Dunlap moved that Friday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 PM be approved for Halloween Trick or Treating. Tim McDaniel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**DPW REPORT:** Kathy Clark, Superintendent. No report.

**REPORT:** Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. The Police Dept. statistics for August and Activity Report were handed out.

Thanks to J.R., the Nitro has been sold for \$7,250 which results in the following break down for the out of budget expense for the 2016 new squad car:

Invoice price for squad car:	\$36,379
USDA grant	\$19,600
Sale of 2003 Monte Carlo	\$2,100
Sale of 2009 Dodge Nitro	\$7,250
Donations & grants proceeds	<u>\$2,710</u>
Total ‘out of budget’ expense	
For the new squad car:	\$4,719

We had originally budgeted \$50,000 for the purchase of the new squad car.

Chief Besing has submitted a grant to the Leo Herning Foundation for the Rescue ATV project that he is working on and he will be submitting a secondary grant to Mary Heath in November. He has also sent a donation request to the area emergency service agencies to help with this project.

Officer Carpenter and Chief Being will be participating in the Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Week at our local schools the last week of October with the Robinson Police Department K-9 Unit coming over to put on a demonstration for the kids.

## **PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREET PARK – OCTOBER – GENE PURCELL**

**FYI:** Prairie Engineers accepted Board proposal for payment of their account. Shirley and I took care of this immediately upon receiving their acceptance.

**FYI:** Steve McGahey has been working diligently to see about getting the bridge West of the Grade School repaired. He has received word from Gerald Bilyew, Co. Board Chairman, that all they have to do is replace the deck. They have ordered the beams but the beams have to set for 30 days for the curing process.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Budget Committee:** Shirley Adams, Chairman. The Village received the second property tax distribution in the amount of \$36,222.73.

**Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance:** Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. Gene said there have been a couple of building permits issued recently.

**Employee Relations Committee:** Patricia Schofield, Chairman. Shirley will discuss Long Term

Care Insurance, endorsed by IMRF, with employees.

**FOIA Officers:** Shirley Adams, Chairman.

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

**Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee:** Rob Byrley, Chairman. The repairs/replacement of the sidewalk by the AmVets has been completed.

The leaf blower is in need of new tires.

Rob and Ricky are going to get with Kathy and see if we can do some of our own concrete work.

**Sewer/Lagoon Committee:** Ricky Stork, Chairman. The portion of the lagoon fence that was damaged has been repaired.

**Other Business:**

The Village received a letter from Mediacom saying they are going to petition the State of Illinois for the only licensure for cable. The Mayor will write a letter of protest to Mediacom and will send copies of the letter to both our State Senator and State Representative.

Mayor Schofield signed a Proclamation proclaiming the week of September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

We received two estimates for a new generator for the Village Hall. When power goes off, the generator will come on and is capable of running everything in the Village building. It will be purchased with DCEO Grant money. After the Board reviewed both estimates, Gene Purcell made a motion to purchase the generator from LeFever Electric. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

We are still getting complaints about the trains blocking our crossings for an extended length of time. Indiana Railroad has sold to another company. We would like to meet with them about the blocking issues.

Ricky Stork received an anonymous note from the “neighbors” from 300-400 W. Grand Prairie concerning Mr. Harris having a business “Wicked Trucking” at 309 W. Grand Prairie and parking his semi out in front on the street. Since this seems to be an issue, J.R. offered to speak with him about the possibility of him parking someplace else.

J.R. suggested we write the PDA a ‘thank you’ note for the new power pole.

Brian Nethery offered to pay half of the repairs to the alley behind his house this winter, if they are needed. Rob and Kathy will keep an eye on it.

With no further business to discuss, J.R. Dunlap moved to adjourn. Tim McDaniel seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

---

MAYOR

---

CLERK