

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 3, 2011

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on November 3, 2011, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, Larry Surrells, J.R. Dunlap and J.D. Kimberlin.

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

Visitors present: Lynn Meiore (Amvets), Chris Forde (WTYE), Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News), John Houston, and Bob Taylor.

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 October 6, 2011, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Additional Handicap accessible parking space. Larry Surrells pointed out that any action the board takes may likely be temporary once the Streetscape Project starts. After a short discussion, Larry Surrells made a motion that we create as many handicap parking spots with van access as we can from the block in front of the Village Inn on Main Street to Grand Prairie, and we create one handicap parking spot accessible to the ramp around the corner from the Fife Opera House. Larry Miller seconded motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Condemnation of property at 205 N. Rush St. Larry Surrells moved to remove it from the table. Mayor Schofield has met with Frank Weber and followed his guidelines. Our Chief of Police, Jim Clark has also been in contact with Frank and Frank said we have an existing ordinance that we can use. Instead of condemning the property we are going in another direction. Chief Clark has taken pictures of the property and drawn arrows indicating in detail what action has to be taken by the owner to improve the property. This was mailed to the property owner along with a ticket for the Ordinance violation. It is normally \$93 for court costs and fine. If the property owner goes to the court date and requests a bench trial, then the judge would decide the fine, which can be up to \$750 for court costs and fine. If the property owner decides to pay the fine but does not improve the property, then 30 days later he would receive another ticket for Ordinance violation until the property is brought up to the standards that the Ordinance has laid out. Larry Surrells said he is strictly for this process but stressed that we cannot let it drop!

Telephone/Internet Fees – Frontier. We signed paperwork in May for service with Mediacom but it never got processed. We found out later that the fees quoted were incorrect and they would not honor that contract. Mayor Schofield presented the Board with a comparison between current quotes from Frontier and Mediacom for telephone/internet charges. Frontier was \$60 less per month than Mediacom. Larry Miller

moved to accept the bid from Frontier for our phone/internet service. Larry Surrells seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Salt Order. The salt order is still 'iffy' at best. Mayor Schofield finally heard from the supplier but they are having trouble filling their salt orders. When, and if, they can sell us salt, they will contact us.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve purchase of one new root cutter motor. Kathy Fuller informed the Board that the DPW is in need of a root cutter motor for rodding sewers. At present they only have one that runs and it is old. They have no backup if something would happen to it. The estimate she received from Coe for a new motor was \$1,292.85. Larry Surrells moved to approve the purchase of one new root cutter motor. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

Approve list of DPW equipment to bid out. Kathy Fuller and Larry Surrells went over the DPW excess equipment and determined what items could be bid out. Kathy handed out the list of equipment to the Board of Trustees for their review. Gene Purcell moved to accept the equipment listed to be bid out. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

AMVETS-Request for information and help on sidewalk. Lynn Mieuse, Commander for Amvets Post 33, addressed the Board. He was asking for information or guidelines on how to proceed in the matter of their making the sidewalk handicap accessible and what the Village could do to help them. Mayor Schofield told him that she prepared a letter to them outlining what we could and would do. They received that letter from us twice and J.R. also gave them a copy of that same letter. We do not want the sidewalk destroyed due to the kind of sidewalk it is. Larry Surrells said a 5" rise is needed to get in their door. The Village would replace 4" concrete the distance of an existing sidewalk. The responsibility of the rise is up to them. The Mayor suggested to Lynn to get together with Larry Surrells and J.R. for some help in getting the proposal put together. Larry Surrells reminded him that the sidewalk on the Village property has to be poured and finished at prevailing wage. The proposal and the bid for the concrete work would have to be approved by the Board.

Employee, Trustees and Staff Christmas luncheon. The Christmas luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2011, at 11:30 A.M.

Contract for Lawrence Quick. We heard back from Mr. Quick and he has informed us that he can only commit to a 6 month contract. If we feel we absolutely cannot get along without his help after that time, he would try and work out something with us. Kathy Fuller will be finishing up her licensure soon and she will then be an official Operator for our wastewater system. Larry Miller made a motion to accept Lawrence Quick's offer of a 6 month contract. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion carried.

DPW Report: Kathy Fuller, Superintendent. Leaf season is in full swing. For safety purposes they are having a winch fitted to our tractor lift, which will be used in conjunction with a harness when an employee goes down a dry well or pit. Larry Surrells said the DPW do fill out confined space reports.

Police Report: Jim Clark, Chief of Police. Jim reported that we had some thefts last month; some meds were stolen and there was a burglary of approx. \$850. There was also an attempted theft of a dirt bike. Jim wanted everyone to be aware that thefts of dirt bikes and motorcycles are rising.

Pioneer Room – November – J.D. Kimberlin

Shirley Adams, Chairman of the Budget Committee reported that the Village has received the third installment of the Village's Property Tax Distribution. IMRF has set our 2012 rate at 11.68%.

Mayor Schofield distributed Illinois Municipal League Reports to the Trustees to look over. These reports are informative and some of the information is very important.

The Village has received a letter from the Crawford County Board informing us that they have voted to discontinue any further funding for the animal shelter. Their new contract will be written to only include the unincorporated areas of the counties; therefore, they would not provide animal control for the Village. Mayor Schofield asked that the Board consider this and bring any suggestions to our December meeting.

J.R. Dunlap again brought up the possibility of allowing side by sides in the Village since Oblong and Hutsonville have approved them. He believes it would be a step forward for the Village. He will bring his side by side to our next Village Board Meeting for the Trustees to inspect. The Mayor wants everyone to seriously consider this and we may possibly take it to a vote in December.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Surrells moved to adjourn, Larry Miller seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

PRESIDENT

CLERK