

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 6, 2014

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

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

Visitors present: Perry Graves, Rene (Manager) and Bill (Assist. Mgr.) from Casey's, Janice Fuller, Peg and Red Waggoner, Len Daugherty, Bob Taylor, Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News), and Chris Dewitt (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 October 2, 2014, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Update on Lagoon Fence – Bank Loan Completed. They were scheduled to start today. They've been given the first part of payment.

2) Update – Matteson Property – 205 N. Rush St. Attorney has not returned our calls and e-mail yet.

3) Update – Matteson Property – 415 S. Main St. Status same as above.

4) Update – Progress on repair to sidewalk at Verizon Tower. Kathy Clark spoke with Earl (from Verizon) on Wednesday. The bid has been turned over to Accounts Payable. Check should be in early part of next week and she will schedule Maxwell.

5) Vacating Alley – UPDATE. Some folks are not wanting it to be vacated. They are concerned about the utility pole in the alley...whose responsibility would it be? It will be discussed further. Looks like it might not go through.

6) Report – Village Trunk or Treat – October 31st. Proved to be successful. Lots of families came out even though the weather was so cold. There is a possibility the Palestine Chamber may be involved next year. Same with businesses along Main Street.

7) Appraisal Reports completed. Received the completed appraisal reports on the property behind Dollar General and the 18 acres where the old land fill is located.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Approve Final Ordinance #2014-O-07 re: trash totes. J.R. Dunlap said he did not think this was a big enough problem to have an ordinance for it. Larry Miller said that if we don't have an ordinance in effect, then the Police Officers wouldn't have backup for those that don't comply. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the Final Ordinance for trash totes. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried with five ayes and one nay from J.R.

2) Review and approve Synthetic Alternative Drug Ordinance – 2014-O-08. At present, there is no state law against these drugs but with a Village Ordinance in place, the Police will be able to enforce the ordinance. Chief Besing said there has been a big influx in the Village of synthetic alternative drugs and this ordinance is needed. George Harrison made a motion to approve the Ordinance 2014-O-08. J.R. Dunlap seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Review/discussion of Proposed Smoking Ordinance – Village of Palestine. The State is on us to get an ordinance passed. As it is already a State law, we have to have an ordinance in place in order for our Police Department to enforce it. Larry Miller pointed out that some verbiage needs changed. Ricky Stork moved to accept the draft with the changes. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Len Daugherty, representing the Eagles, addressed the Board. It is his contention that if this ordinance is passed, it will mean "a death sentence" for the Eagles. He said business has gone downhill since the State law was originally passed. Ricky Stork said the AmVets business has actually grown since they've not allowed smoking. They have members coming back because of the no smoking policy.

Perry Graves, environmentalist from the Heath Dept. reminded everyone that this ordinance is for "public health and safety" and not to target individuals or close businesses. He assured Len that if they have to become involved, the penalties will be far greater than with our local Police Dept.

4) Kathy Clark – Information from INRD concerning upgrade to Lincoln St. Crossing. Kathy received an email from Aaron Toliver from Indiana Railroad saying we have been selected for an upgrade. They want to install flashing signals and swing arms at the Lincoln Street crossing. The Village would be responsible for some of the cost. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that we do not install the upgrade they proposed. However, the Village will replace the current cross buck signs and posts to ensure traffic warning, visibility, and safety. Kathy will write a letter to Mr. Toliver explaining why the Board came to this decision.

5) Left over old (replaced) street signs. We have a person interested in purchasing the balance of the old street signs for \$150.00. The consensus of the Board was to let this person purchase them.

6) Discussion about 206-208 S. Main St. – Deterioration of Building – Causing serious damage to neighboring buildings. Janice Fuller addressed the Board and presented pictures of the building. It is in such deplorable condition that it is causing serious damage to neighboring buildings. After further discussion, Gene Purcell made a motion that the Board approach this with condemnation in mind and allow our attorney to guide us. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried with five ayes and one abstaining.

7) Employee Christmas Party – December 5th. – Party will start at 6:00 PM.

8) Casey's – have added diesel fuel – requesting upgrade on Liquor License. When Casey's initially requested a liquor license, it was agreed by the Board that if Casey's put in diesel fuel, the Board would be favorable to allow them to sell 'hard' liquor. They chose not to sell diesel at that time. They have now put in #2 diesel fuel and are requesting that the Board allow them an upgrade to sell 'hard liquor'. They will have a limited selection and it

will be kept in a locked cooler. J.R. Dunlap made a motion that we allow Casey's to upgrade their liquor license to include 'hard' liquors. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9) Alley behind Fife, Village Framery, Goodwine's, Thompson's, etc. is in dire need of upgrade. It appears the storm drain has failed and is collapsing. An estimate from Steve Mitchell for repairs is \$8880, which includes pipe, manholes, installation, and concrete. Ricky Stork made a motion that we have Steve Mitchell install a new storm sewer line not to go over \$8880, excluding any unforeseen expenses. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Kathy and Ricky Stork met with Cleman Parish concerning mowing at the lagoon and he is confident he can perform the mowing that we need done. This has been approved by George Fulling, Township Highway Supervisor.

Materials have been delivered to the lagoon for the fence replacement. They have assured Kathy that they will replace the fence as they tear the old fence down, to protect our liability.

Verizon has agreed to pay part of the sidewalk repair at \$648.00. The representative has turned it over to Accounts Payable.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. The Police Dept. received a grant from the Leo Herning Trust Foundation for \$3,020, which will go toward the cost of equipment for the new squad car.

Chief Besing and Officer Carpenter have been taking an aggressive role with the "drug" houses in the Village. They've been visiting the locations letting them know we are aware of their activity and are being watched.

The Department will be purchasing two digital cameras for the squads.

They have been stepping up traffic enforcement at the north entrance to the Village. The Department has received numerous complaints about speeding vehicles coming into town which creates a traffic hazard for customers at the Dollar General Store.

PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREET PARK – NOVEMBER – LARRY MILLER.

FYI: Tom and Betty Woodward sent us a thank you card for our help in acquiring and cleaning up the lot on North Lincoln St.

FTI: Indiana Railroad called and said their SANTA TRAIN will be in Palestine on Dec. 7th, at 1:00 PM. This will be their 25th Anniversary. They will be presenting Mayor Schofield with a plaque for this occasion. The Board and staff are encouraged to be there for the presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Sept. and Oct. financials were given to Trustees. Shirley reported that since Dollar General has been in Palestine, our State Sales Tax Revenue has increased. We will be calling for a special meeting regarding the upcoming caucus for those who are intending to run in the April election.

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

Employee Relations Committee: Patricia Schofield, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman.

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

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Miller moved to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK