

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 2, 2017

Palestine Board of Trustees met on February 2, 2017, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Rob Byrley, Tim McDaniel, George Harrison, Mary Michael, J.R. Dunlap, and Gene Purcell.

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

Visitors present: Brian Nethery, Larry Surrells, Kent Boyd, Janice Fuller, Greg Goodland, Jim Clark, Frances Murphy, Chris DeWitt (WTYE) 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 January 5, 2017, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) UPDATE – Ramsey Properties – Started demolition on Tuesday, Jan. 24th. Property looking great. Kudo's to Steve and the DPW crew.

2) Discussion and approval of a burn ban 24/7 for the Village of Palestine, excluding fire pits, friendly fires (completely enclosed) and wiener roasts (without permit); as per current ordinance. Most of the Trustees said the feedback they received from their constituents was in favor of a burn ban. We have to consider the health of our citizens and burning does adversely affect some folks. Gene Purcell moved for approval of a burn ban 24/7 for the Village. Tim McDaniel seconded motion. Motion carried with five 'ayes' and one 'nay' by J.R. Dunlap.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) UPDATE: Discussion of Special Meeting of Jan. 24th, re: Condemnation Proceedings on Matteson Building at 206 S. Main St. The condemnation was approved, re: Ordinance 2016-O-13. Condemnation proceedings in place and we are waiting for a court date. Chief Besing sent Mr. Matteson a letter saying he wants to go in and inspect the inside of the building. Janice and Greg said that Mr. Matteson had someone on the roof a couple times this past week. Greg called to speak with Mr. Matteson and his wife told him that he had been out of town and would call him when he got back, but he did not return the call.

Chief Besing thought the Health Dept. might gain entry since Janice says there is mold coming from the Matteson's building.

2) PDA Representatives Larry Surrells and Kent Boyd were here to discuss the Village Lot next to the Community Facility. Larry and Kent presented an idea the PDA had for a project to possibly build a pavilion with a stage on the Village lot by Peg & Red's. They would have it built at no cost to the

Village and it would then be property of the Village. The community could utilize it and it could be rented out to organizations for special occasions. At this time, they are just wanting to know if we would be interested in something like this before they would start working on plans. The consensus of the Trustees was that they were excited about this idea. J.R. and others felt we would need to see the plans before completely signing off on the project. Larry & Kent readily agreed.

3) Discussion of DPW Policy to be included in Employee Policy Manual. Tabled for tonight.

4) Approve Motor Fuel Resolution/Budget for 2017. A copy of the Motor Fuel Resolution and Budget for 2017 were presented to the Trustees. After review, J.R. Dunlap moved for approval of the Resolution and Budget. George Harrison seconded motion, Motion carried unanimously.

5) Approval of PDA request for the 2017 15th Annual Wine and Arts Festival – October 7th & 8th (see copy of formal letter of request). J.R. Dunlap moved for approval of the PDA request for the 2017 15th Annual Wabash Valley Wine & Arts Festival to be held on the 7th & 8th of October, 2017. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Discuss Budget Work Day – either Saturday, March 18th or March 25th. The consensus was that we hold the work day on Saturday, March 25th.

7) Crawford County Indoor Sports Facility for all residents of County – Organizational meeting to be held Feb. 8th at 5:30 PM at the Bella Vista Winery. Need Village volunteer(s) for the committee to be formed for this goal. Chief Besing and J.R. volunteered to attend the meeting on Feb. 8th.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent.

The sinkhole at the lagoon seemed to be nothing more than water runoff. They found no evidence of a leak in the flange or piping. They are going to bring in 2" white rock to dress the area of the dig.

For the safety of the crew, Kathy has added a few features at the Village barn. They installed an eyewash station at the chemical loading area and bought splash guard goggles (with no-flow back). They also installed a ceiling mounted exhaust fan, for welding, grinding and vehicle exhaust purposes.

She replaced the burnt emergency light on the pickup with a mini light bar. The Ford can be used for sewer maintenance once again.

Kathy has recorded proper Emergency Operations Procedures, as well, concerning Village operations. Procedures for equipment and safety have been recorded, printed and reviewed. Each member has signed off upon review.

The entire DPW staff has completed CPR/AED Training.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing.

January was a busy month. We had a substantial drug related arrest with the seizure of several different types of drugs and \$385 in cash.

There was also a trailer fire in which a deceased female was found inside. There was no suspicious causes related to her death.

Jeff reported that an elderly lady struck a power pole which caused 320 residents to be out of power for about an hour. The DPW was a big help providing barricades to help with traffic flow.

Chief Besing has an intern from the high school riding with him in the afternoon who wants to pursue a career in Law Enforcement.

In June 2016, Jeff applied for a grant with the Indiana Rail Road Company seeking funding for the Spillman Report Management System. In December, he received a check for \$1,000 from the Rail Road Company which was then donated to the Robinson Police Department to help off-set the cost of the program.

PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREET PARK – FEBRUARY – ROB BYRLEY

FYI: Reminder: Freedom of Information – Due March 1st, 2017.

FYI: Spring & Fall Cleanup Schedules: Spring: April 19, 20, & 21, 2017. Fall: October 18, 19, & 20, 2017.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. The December financials were given to the Trustees. Shirley will begin working on the new budget after the end of February. We'll have the budget meeting on March 28th.

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

Employee Relations Committee: Patricia Schofield, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman.

Ordinance Committee: Pat Schofield

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Rob Byrley, Chairman.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: George Harrison, Chairman.

Motion was made by J.R. Dunlap to go into Executive Session for the purpose of 2(C)(11) Probable litigation forthcoming. Motion seconded by George Harrison. Motion carried.

Regular session resumed at 7:14 PM. The meeting was to let the Trustees know about possible litigation we may be facing concerning the building at 206 S. Main Street.

With no further business to discuss Tim McDaniel moved to adjourn. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

PRESIDENT

CLERK