

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 7, 2019

Palestine Board of Trustees met on February 7, 2019, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Tim McDaniel, Mary Michael, Gene Purcell, George Harrison, Brian Nethery and J.R. Dunlap.

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeff Besing, Shirley Adams, Village Clerk, Patricia Schofield, Mayor's Consultant and Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent.

Visitors present: Kenny Griffith, Nancy Jenkins, Bill Burke, Len Daugherty, Tom Osborn (Robinson Daily News, and Chris DeWitt (WTYE).

Meeting called to order by Mayor Rob Byrley

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of January 3, 2019, accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Update on Ramsey Properties. We've received the deed to all properties in back that belonged to Loren, 4 ½ lots; received contract on the property of Lot 15 & Lot 10. Waiting for Kathleen Farmer to get back to us.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Officially approve transfer of funds to pay for new Police Vehicle. Due to the government shut down we had to transfer funds from our Sewer Fund to pay for the new squad. When the government re-opened we received the grant money and then transferred the difference back to the Sewer Fund. This was unanimously approved by a phone poll taken on January 17, 2019. Gene Purcell made a motion to formally approve the transfer of funds to pay for the new squad. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Bill Burke – Ref: Presentation of a possible Local Government Auction. Mr. Burke presented a proposal for auction services for the Village. They would sell at public auction the personal property owned by the Village that were no longer needed, including seized vehicles. Their proposal included their fees. They would like us to keep them in mind in the future if we had any need for this service.

3) Prevailing Wage Ordinance. As per our attorney, Frank Weber, we no longer have to adopt an annual Prevailing Wage Ordinance. (See copy of Frank Weber's email.)

4) The 2019 Freedom of Information/OMA/Officers Training is now up on their website and ready for your study and training. These need to be completed by March 1st and a copy of the training records brought into the office for filing.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent

Following the failure of a lift station, Kathy was called out to service the lift station on S. Bryan. The high level float failed. Sewage filled Mr. Garrard's basement and caused Mr. Ford to call a plumber, as it had started to back up in his shower. Kathy immediately contacted Robinson sewer crew to pump out

sewage with their frack truck, to give those residents relief. A float failure allowed one pump to operate, but not pump. She changed floats for normal operation of one pump and took the other pump out of service. It was producing a 'roar', but not pumping. The check valve on the pump is locked up. She has contacted the lift station installer to inspect every aspect of the station and pumps. Due to inclement weather, it is rescheduled for Feb. 13th. Mr. Garrard suffered damages to some possessions. We hauled off all the damaged materials and provided some cleaning and disinfecting products the Village had on hand. Kathy advised Mr. Ford of the Village's protocol concerning sewer issues and took the responsibility of paying his plumber's bill.

The following week another float failed but no one was affected. Kathy changed that float as well. Approximately 1 ½ years ago LeFever changed the leads to the floats with all new ones.

Now that the government has re-opened, HLR is forging ahead with our treatment plant upgrade.

The Motor Fuel Tax Estimate of Maintenance is complete and been sent to HLR. They will send the completed forms back to us for the Resolution to be approved and then it can all be sent to IDOT.

Kathy has contacted LeFever Electric to begin power service to the "Welcome to Palestine" sign. They are meeting next week.

The DPW department has been taking online safety refresher courses, along with new training. Jack has finished plow training and can now assist with some of the plowing.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeff Besing.

The new squad car has arrived and been put into service.

Jordan has the 2016 squad and is currently in the police academy; he passed his physical agility test on the first day and tomorrow will complete his first week with 13 more weeks to go.

The Chief has started the process to file for an abandoned title for the 1997 Dodge Ram truck that was impounded as a result of the arrest from a pursuit and man hunt last July. He has received the certified return mail card and has to wait until February 11th before he can apply for an abandoned title. Once he obtains the abandoned title, we can move forward on a sealed bidding process which the funds from the sale will be used towards the purchase of the new squad.

The PDA has committed to \$2,000 towards installing electricity to the pocket park for the informational marquee. Their only request is that 2 electrical outlets be installed for use of Christmas decorations, etc. Kathy has contacted LeFever Electric and they have put us on their list of jobs to do.

PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY – FEBRUARY – BRIAN NETHERY

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. January and February financial reports were handed out to Trustees. Shirley will start working on the new FY 2019-2020 budget at the end of the month.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. Issued two permits this month.

Employee Relations Committee: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Reminder to trustees to work on their OMA. They are due on or before March 1st.

Ordinance Committee: Pat Schofield.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Tim McDaniel, Chairman.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: George Harrison, Chairman.

Motion to go into Executive Session under 2(C) (11) for the purpose of possible litigation – Revolving Loan, was made by Tim McDaniel and seconded by J.R. Dunlap. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular session reconvened at 6:41 PM. J.R. Dunlap made a motion that the Village take all the information concerning Mario Bantican’s delinquent Revolving Loan, from the Village, to our attorney, Frank Weber, and have him proceed with collections. Motion was seconded by Tim McDaniel. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

Kenneth Griffith asked if something can be done with flooding between Washington St. and Bryan St., when we get heavy rains. It’s been an ongoing problem for some time. Kathy said that if we get the loan/grant we are working on that this will be one of the priority items.

With no further business to discuss Tim McDaniel moved to adjourn. Brian Nethery seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

PRESIDENT

CLERK