

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 1, 2011

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on September 1, 2011, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, Larry Surrells, J.D. Kimberlin and J.R. Dunlap.

Visitors present: Sally Kimberlin, Brian Nethery, John Nethery, Ann Nethery, James Houston, Ora Hitt, Judy Minor, David Matteson, Jamie Lowe, Richard Lowe, Bob Taylor, Chris Forde from WTYE, and Tom Osborne from Robinson Daily News.

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

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 August 4, 2011, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Storm Shelters. We now have 5 locations for storm shelters in Palestine, i.e. Pioneer Room, First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Methodist Church and Outer West Market Church of Christ. Mayor Schofield asked the Board if they felt she should call a town meeting in order to get information out to the Village residents concerning the storm shelters. The consensus of opinion was that it was not necessary to have a town meeting but a suggestion was made to send a letter out to the residents. Larry Surrells made a motion to have Mayor Schofield prepare a letter of explanation to be mailed with the sewer bills in October. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Reopen Condemnation Proceedings-205 N. Rush St., Palestine, IL. Larry Surrells began by saying the Board had previously set out what was wanted and needed in order to keep the residence from being condemned and only a small portion has been completed. Mr. Matteson, the owner, was present and addressed the Board saying he thought the matter had been dropped. Mr. Surrells assured him it was never dropped; however, it has been overlooked far too long. Several folks who live near this property were also present and spoke up and said there are skunks, raccoons, and other varmints in and around the residence. There is a large hole in the back yard covered by debris creating a hazard along with standing water and a broken fence. J.R. Dunlap had received complaints about this property and presented pictures at the last Board meeting. Larry Surrells moved to reopen condemnation proceedings of the property at 205 N. Rush Street. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion passed with five 'ayes' and one Trustee abstaining.

3) Dog Ordinance-Discuss last ordinance. Mayor Schofield called our attorney and they took a hard look at our Dog Ordinance and it does not specifically say a dog has to be 'chained or on a leash' in an owner's yard. The Board had been asked to see if dog owners could be required to keep their pets on a chain or on a leash even when they are in their own yards. Chief of Police Jim Clark said that the police are asked to deal with animal control problems after the fact. It is his recommendation that the residents call 546-1515 and file a complaint as soon as they see an animal off their property. Larry Miller suggested that we research the Illinois Animal Control Act which gives specific revisions concerning dog regulations, which he agreed to do, as Ordinance Committee Chairman. Larry Surrells moved to table this discussion until further information is available.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) **Fall Clean-up.** This year's fall clean-up will be on Wednesday, October 26, 2011.

DPW Report: Kathy Fuller, Superintendent. Kathy said her crew has worked hard to get prepared for the Labor Day weekend. Wood chips caught fire at the dump and the Lamotte Fire Dept. had to be called to take care of it. The DPW was grateful for their help.

Police Report: Jim Clark, Chief of Police. Jim is still admonishing folks to lock their vehicles! He reported that we are still having a problem with people burglarizing unlocked vehicles. The locked cars have not been bothered.

Pioneer Room – September – J.R.Dunlap.

FYI: The USDA has approved a grant for \$30,000 to finish the Main Street Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. The first installment of our Property Tax Distribution has been received.

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman. Larry will be working on gathering information concerning the Dog Ordinance.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. When time allows and the contractor is available, we will begin working on sidewalks.

Other Business:

There were complaints concerning properties at 300 W. Franklin and 302 W. Franklin.

The odor coming from cats at the 300 W. Franklin is horrible and one complainant said they have gotten fleas on their person just walking by the property on the sidewalk. They are asking if something can be done. The Board will look into this further.

The property at 302 W. Franklin has 'garage sale' items in front and around the house all the time making the place an 'eyesore' not only for neighbors but for people traveling in and out of town. It also creates a safety issue. Larry Surrells said we have had complaints on this property before and the Board will look into addressing this problem.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Surrells moved to adjourn. Larry Miller seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

PRESIDENT

CLERK