

## **MINUTES**

### **PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**January 7, 2010**

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on January 7, 2010, 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.

There were no visitors present.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. The Dog Ordinance. Before making a final decision on the dog ordinance, the committee would like to read other Municipalities' Dog Ordinances to compare with our proposed Dog Ordinance. We need to be considerate to the dog owners as well as the public at large.

2. Ordinance for Political Signs. It was reported that Robinson has an ordinance prohibiting displaying political signs no earlier than 30 days prior to an election. The County does not have an ordinance concerning displaying political signs. The general consensus was not to pursue this.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Redistricting of Illinois – Petition. This is a petition for the voters of Illinois to adopt the 2010 Illinois Fair Map Amendment which amends Article IV of the Illinois Constitution to change the structure of General Assembly member districts and the procedure by which the General Assembly redistricts the Legislative and Representative Districts.

If the voters want to let the politicians do the redistricting it could mean that our local district could lap over into Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky or any of the bordering states. We, as voters, do not want this to happen. We want our Representative to fight for our county and not across the borders in a different state.

Mayor Schofield handed out Petitions to everyone. She encouraged everyone

to get their petitions signed and back to her by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

2. Amendments to the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/). Amendments to these Acts take effect January 1, 2010 (Public Act 96-542) and they require every public body to designate employees, officers, or members to receive training on Open Meetings Act compliance by sending a list of those individual to the Public Access Counselor (PAC). The training must occur through an electronic training curriculum developed by the PAC within 6 months of January 1, 2010 and annually thereafter. In addition, each public body must designate one or more officials or employees to act as the Freedom of Information Officer.

It was Mayor Schofield recommendation that a Primary FIO and Subsequent FIO be designated. Greta Dennison volunteered to be the Primary FIO and JD Kimberlin agreed to be the Subsequent FIO.

The Village Board of Trustees, the Mayor, the Village Clerk, and the Treasurer will all complete the training.

3. Additional sub-standard housing units within the Village need to be identified and addressed. Larry Miller voiced concerns with this matter. He stated, at present, there is no clear definition or criteria concerning what constitute a sub-standard housing unit. Is this residence occupied? Is it owner occupied or a rental? If it is a rental, is the landlord in the area or an absentee landlord? Is the residence truly unsafe or merely unsightly and by whose definition? It was agreed more information needs to be gathered before going forward. Larry Miller said he would do some research and see how other communities are addressing this issue and report on his findings at March's Board Meeting.

If there was a report made that an individual's health may be in jeopardy due to unsafe living conditions at a residence, then the Health Department would get involved.

The Police Report was made by Chief of Police, Jim Clark. In addition to December's Month End Report, Jim distributed the Police Department's Year End Statistics. He also reported that he and Kathy Gonzalez, his Secretary, attended training in Collinsville, IL, on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The training was on statistical reporting for the FBI's tracking system. Jim said that the way the FBI compile their stats and the way we report our stats are not compatible. What we see in the newspaper is not a true picture due to the incompatibility of our reporting procedures. The new changes in reporting procedures will create a major increase in bookkeeping. They have added more categories of offenses and will expect more detailed information on these offenses.

Jim was glad to report that his new police vehicle is performing well, not only on fuel mileage, but it handled very well on his trip back from Collinsville during very inclement weather.

**Committee Reports:**

Budget & Financial Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman.

Along with the Business Summary, Fund Balance Report, and Village of Palestine Income Statement, an Income Statement was given on the Sewer System Account.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman.

Larry reported that the Projects for 2009 have been completed.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman.

Larry said there was report that lights were flickering on a lift station and the problem was taken care of.

**Additional comments:**

JR Dunlap asked if the Village had a Cat Ordinance. We do not at present but it can be discussed later. Also, what about the apparent abandoned vehicles on Main Street at the old Marathon Station? What is the situation and what can be done about them?

Gene Purcell mentioned that the door to the Pioneer Room is still not repaired. He feels it should be repaired or replaced as early as possible.

With nothing further to come before the Board, Gene Purcell moved to adjourn and Greta seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

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President

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Clerk