

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 2, 2012

The Palestine Board of Trustees met on February 2, 2012, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Larry Surrells, J.R. Dunlap and J.D. Kimberlin and Greta Dennison. Larry Miller was absent.

Other Staff members present: Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk; and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News), Chris Forde (WTYE) and Bob Taylor.

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 January 5, 2012, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update: Condemnation of property at 205 N. Rush St. Discussion: Proposed Agreement from property owner. The property owner has sent another proposal with timelines set for June 1st and August 1st to get the property cleaned up and removing the house, if necessary. Mayor Schofield contacted the Trustees to get their input concerning this proposal. The consensus was that they want to stick by the April 1st date. The court date is February 14th and we will await the judge's decision.

2. Review/Approval of final draft as completed by Attorney Weber: Re: Neighborhood Vehicle Ordinance passed in the Jan. 5th meeting – Illinois Statute 625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1 – Sec. 11-1426.1. Operation of non-highway vehicles on streets, roads, and highways. J.R. Dunlap moved to accept the final draft of the Ordinance. J.D. Kimberlin seconded motion. Motion passed with Gene Purcell, J.R. Dunlap and J.D. Kimberlin voting yea and Greta Dennison and Larry Surrells voting nay. Larry Miller was absent. The amended ordinance is for a trial period of one year beginning January 2012. It will be revisited in December.

3. Formal acceptance of phone poll vote on the contract for Municipal Engineers-Lamac Engineering. Larry Surrells moved to accept Lamac Engineering as the Village's engineers for a term of one year. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed.

4. Hotel/Motel Tax. After Mayor Schofield's meeting with Attorney Frank Weber, he sent us a letter concerning the proposed hotel/motel tax. He stated that it does appear that we would be in a position to collect the tax from those who rent on a short term basis. He said it would be costly to get it set up and the ordinance prepared. Larry Surrells offered to get in contact with Rick Catt and see how they did their ordinance and get a copy of that ordinance. Larry Surrells then made a motion to table this proposal until we can

obtain further information on what would have to be included in an ordinance for a hotel/motel tax. Greta Dennison seconded motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Safe Routes to School-Sidewalk Grant-\$249,893.00. Mayor Schofield said we have not received an official letter concerning the grant but she did get a call from the State saying we were to receive it. We also got a copy of the news release from the Robinson Daily News. Also, Barbara Webster went on line and found where we had been approved for the \$249,893.00. The grant is to be used specifically for new sidewalks and for repairs of defective sidewalks, particularly on Lamotte Street. Lamac Engineering will be heading up the engineering on this project. The Board recognized Barbara Webster, who was instrumental in getting this grant.

2. Mileage for Mayor. Larry Surrells requested this be put on the agenda. The Mayor does a lot of traveling for the Village in her own vehicle and has not been reimbursed for mileage. Larry suggested that she be allowed to fill up her vehicle twice a month from the Village maintenance tank. Mayor Schofield voiced her opinion that twice a month was too much. After a short discussion, Larry Surrells made a motion that Mayor Schofield be permitted to fill up her vehicle out of our maintenance tank once a month; however, it would be left to the Mayor's discretion that if she might need a second fill up, she would be allowed to do so. This will be in effect as long as she is in office. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion passed

DPW Report: Kathy Fuller, Superintendent. Kathy was absent as she was in class working to get certified in Wastewater Treatment Management. Mayor Schofield said the handicap parking spaces up town are painted and being well utilized and the DPW have finished the 'no parking' zones at Palestine Grade School. Jeramie Elder is now a full time employee with the DPW. Tom Herlocher has become a part time employee, per his request, due to some health issues.

Police Report: Jim Clark, Chief of Police. As Jim was absent, Mayor Schofield handed out two reports to the Board from Jim. One was for the last four year stats and the other was for December and January.

Pioneer Room – February – Greta Dennison.

Rick and Kathy Childers experienced a sewer problem and called Biernbaums Plumbing. Ron found it to be on the Village and we repaired it. The Childers' are asking if the Village might reimburse them for their expense in the amount of \$85.00. Larry Surrells made a motion that the Village go ahead and pay their bill from the certified plumber since the problem was the Village's responsibility. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Larry Surrells said the DPW barn needs a new concrete floor. He would like us to keep that in mind and possibly add it to the FY2013 budget.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman. The west discharge line is partially plugged and the DPW are working on taking care of the problem.

Bob Taylor asked how the money from a hotel/motel tax would be spent. There is a state statute that says the amounts collected would have to be used solely to promote tourism or to attract non-resident visitors to the municipality.

Gene Purcell asked if we need to be thinking of getting a generator for our sewer plant, in case of an emergency. The Trustees agreed and Mayor Schofield and Larry Surrells said they have already been on the lookout for a good used 3-phase generator.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Greta Dennison. . Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

PRESIDENT

CLERK