

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 4, 2010

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on February 4,, 2010, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Greta Dennison, Larry Surrells, J.R. Dunlap. Larry Miller, J.D. Kimberlin and Gene Purcell were absent.

Chief Jim Clark and Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk, were also present.

Visitors present: Robert Taylor, Tom Osborne from the Robinson Daily News, and Veolia Representatives Camelia Kessel, Tony and Ron.

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. Postponed until all Board Members are present.
2. Ordinance for Political Signs. Suspended.
3. Petitions – Redistricting of Illinois. Three petitions have been completed. Mayor Schofield emphasized the importance of getting these petitions signed and back to her as soon as possible.
4. Open Meetings Act Training. It has been determined that Greta Dennison, Primary FIO, and J.D. Kimberlin, Subsequent FIO, Mayor Schofield, and Shirley Adams will be required to take this training.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Veolia – Five Year Service Contract renewal; w/auto-renewal service Agreement. Veolia has proposed the following for curbside recycling in addition to its trash removal services:
 - a. Veolia will provide approximately 585 residential customers with one green 96 gallon waste cart on wheels for trash picked up one time per week curbside on Wednesdays.
 - b. Veolia will provide one green 64 gallon waste cart with a yellow lid for co-mingled recycling picked up one time per every other week curbside on Tuesdays. Items to be accepted are: office paper and junk mail, magazines, catalogs, corrugated cardboard and paper bags, aluminum and tin/steel cans, and plastics #1-7.

- c. Residential rates will be \$9.62 per month for the first year and subsequent years will include a 4% increase annually.
- d. Additional waste carts are available for \$3.00 per month per cart.

It was noted that Fuel Fees will be waived with a five year signed agreement.

Larry Surrells made a motion to accept the Proposal as written and Greta Dennison Seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

2. Bio-degradable trash bags. Mayor Schofield discussed this option. She reported that there is a big cost difference between bio bags and regular plastic bags. The cost of recycling is not inexpensive. If we do not address the issue soon and continue to use the regular trash bags, not only will we run out of landfill space, but the cost will skyrocket. She said it is a kind of 'Pay me now or Pay me A LOT later'. Right now it isn't government mandated and although considered costly, it is nothing compared to what it will cost when the government starts dictating that it be done. At least if we are doing something prior, we might be 'grandfathered' in.

3. Illiana Cores Parking Lot. Larry Surrells said the parking lot at Illiana Cores is in very bad condition and gravel needs to be added. In addition, some work needs done at Goodwine's Crematorium. He stated that there is enough money left from the 2009 Motor Fuel Tax Fund to cover the cost. Larry then made a motion to re-set the culvert into Goodwine's Crematorium and re-cut the ditch that goes to it and gravel the entire parking lot at Illiana Cores. Greta Dennison Seconded Motion. There were two votes for and one against. Motion did not carry.

4. Resolution - Spay & Neuter Month. February has been designated as 'Spay & Neuter Month'

5. Spay & Neuter Program for Feral Cats in Palestine. The Crawford County Spay Neuter Foundation has been in contact with Mayor Schofield concerning their program. They have received a number of calls from concerned citizens of Palestine describing issues with colonies of feral cats. The Foundation would like us to partner with them on their spay/neuter program. They have requested a \$500 donation from the Village. The Foundation picks up all feral animals in the community. The sick or diseased animals are disposed of and all healthy animals are spayed or neutered and returned to the area in which they were captured. The feral animals are identified by spotters and captured using live traps. Motion was made by Greta Dennison to make the donation. Motion Seconded by Larry Surrells. Motion carried.

6. Cell Phone Tower Update. Mayor Schofield said the paperwork for this project was completed on January 14th by the Village of Palestine and that the project is proceeding. The new cell phone tower will be located at the end of

East LaMotte Street. The tower will improve the service of Cellular One customers. At present, it is uncertain if it will help Verizon Customers.

7. Set Budget Meeting date-Saturday 4/10 or 4/17. Saturday, April 10th, was approved as the date to have the Budget Meeting.

Police Report: Chief of Police, Jim Clark. There was one theft and one attempted theft reported during the month of January.

Jim is also continuing to work on abandoned vehicles.

Margaret Littlejohn reported that Sewer collections have been good.

Greta Dennison will be in charge of the Pioneer Room for February.

The 2009 Fiscal Report for NPDES has been submitted.

Pat attended two meetings last week. One was given by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources concerning flood maps. There was a presentation of how the maps are presented now, and how they will be presented in the future. The maps will be made available digitally in the future.

The second meeting was given by the USDA pertaining to how to go about making loan funds/grants available to local communities.

Pat also reported that the financial market in 2009 rebounded significantly from the sharp drops in 2008. The estimated 2009 investment return for IMRF for 2009 is 24.5%. Employer Rate Meetings will be held throughout the state beginning in April.

Committee Reports:

Budget & financial Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman.
Handed out monthly financial reports.

Employee Relations Committee: Greta Dennison, Chairman
Mayor Schofield requested that Greta put together a wage report by the April meeting.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman
The sidewalks that were in bad condition have all been patched.

With nothing further to discuss, Motion was made by Mayor Schofield to adjourn, Seconded by Larry Surrells. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

President

Clerk