

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

July 2, 2009

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on July 2, 2009, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, J.D. Kimberlin, J.R. Dunlap, Larry Surrells, and David Branson. J.R. Dunlap had an emergency phone call as the meeting was starting and asked to be excused.

Chief Jim Clark was also present. Amber Green was in attendance to continue her training in the Clerk's Office. Margaret Littlejohn was on vacation

Visitors present were Bob Taylor, Lloyd Dunlap, and Skip and Rita Henderson.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Schofield reported that she had met with the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission about a week ago. They discussed the long-range planning for repair and replacement of the Village water lines. The replacements and repairs will be accomplished over a 10-20 year period. The first phase is the Project Engineering Design, for the overall project. In the next phase, an 8" water line will be installed down the entire length of Market St., from Washington Street to Leaverton Street. This will increase the water volume, especially for the East end of the Village as well as to improve the water distribution for use of the Fire Department. The second phase will include an 8" main from the waterfield to the NE part of the Village. The Board for the LaMotte Fire Protection District is also very concerned about the this project.

We have applied for a grant to pay for the Project Engineering Design, and once that has been accepted, the project can officially begin, with further grants and applications.

No further action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Skip Henderson was present to object to a warning of an impending ticket concerning Village Code, Chapter 12 – Nuisances, Code 12:08 Abandoned and Inoperable Vehicles.

Mr. Henderson believes the Code is unclear and ambiguous and should be

changed. Chief Clark said he had issued the ticket based upon prior court rulings in his favor. Clark said the ticket should appear before the judge and that our attorney was prepared to support his position.

The conclusion was that there may need to be some changes in the wording of the ordinance and that Chief Clark may at his discretion, issue tickets as he deems necessary.

Larry Surrells moved, seconded by Gene Purcell, to have legal counsel review the ordinance and clarify “abandoned” vehicles. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Gene Purcell moved, seconded by David Branson, for a one-half page ad in the Palestine Chamber of Commerce Rodeo Program Book, at a cost of \$70. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Larry Surrells moved, seconded by David Branson, to approve and adopt a resolution for an IDOT Labor Day Parade permit. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Larry Surrells moved, seconded by David Branson, of the official approval of a phone poll to replace a hydraulic cylinder for one of the Village tractors, at a cost of \$600. The cylinder had been repaired several times and further repair would likely cost more than a new cylinder. Motion passed unanimously.

5. The Illinois Rural Water Association is having a free Funding Workshop in at the Keller Center in Effingham on July 22 from 8:45-12:00 AM. Anyone may attend.

6. The State has taken money from the Local Government Health Plan for other State usage. An appeal has been made to request that no further raids are to be made on this fund. Letters to that effect have been prepared by Mayor Schofield and were handed out for all employees and Board Members to sign and mail to the Springfield office.

7. We still have a serious cat population problem in the Village with many complaints. The USDA representative has said that only Ferrell cats may be trapped. Persons owning cats must contain them to their property or on a six foot lead. Further action is being considered for this situation.

8. The Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulations has sent a letter warning that there are unlicensed roofers scamming our Illinois citizens. All residents should know whom they hire. All contractors must be licensed, and insured, and obtain the proper building permits.

9. An updated fair housing ordinance has been received from Attorney Frank Weber. Greta Dennison moved, seconded by Larry Surrells, to accept the Ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Chief Clark reported that a large amount of money had been stolen from persons outside the Village boundary. Since this was not in our jurisdiction, our statistics were normal.

11. Village Clerk, Floyd Fuller, reporting on the finances of the Village, noted that the State had since April 1, sent only 43% of the State Income Tax funds as compared to the same months in 2008. A call to the state office revealed that Income Tax Funds have been diverted to pay other obligations of the State. Although the Village is due the full amount as required by law, there is now a question of when the funds will be available. Fuller presented financial data to the Board for review and to be aware that the Budget may become unbalanced before year end if more raids are made on funds due the Village. But reserve funds will probably be adequate for this year to avoid any borrowing.

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 PM.

President

Clerk