

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

August 5, 2010

A Public Meeting was held at 5:30 PM in the Pioneer Room for the purpose of providing a Truth in Taxation Hearing concerning the proposed property tax increase for the Village. Three guests attended. The Village Clerk presented information showing the need of the proposed tax increase and a short discussion followed. The tax levy was adopted.

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on August 5, 2010, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, J.D. Kimberlin, Larry Surrells, and J.R. Dunlap.

Absent: Harry Gene Purcell

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

Visitors present: Tony Hudson, Lamara Schulz and Bill Snyder.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Schofield.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by Village Clerk, Shirley Adams.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Harrison Annexation – Before proceeding with this annexation, it will be necessary for us to have a Public Hearing before proceeding with the annexation. The Public Hearing will be held just prior to our September Board Meeting, on September 2, at 5:30 PM. We will conclude this discussion at our next meeting.

Condemnation Proceedings for 312 E. Franklin St. – At the recommendation of our attorney, we will not pursue any Condemnation Proceedings for the Martin Property. Our attorney, Frank Weber, is in conversation with the State of Illinois in trying to come to an amicable conclusion for all interested parties. Chief of Police Clark is also in agreement to follow this procedure instead of the Condemnation Proceedings.

Remove from table-Side-by-side Golf Cart Ordinance. A motion was made by Larry Miller to remove from the table the subject of the Side-by-side Ordinance. Larry Surrells seconded motion. The Side-by-Side Ordinance subject was then opened up for discussion. J R Dunlap said he had been in contact with the Mayor and Chief of Police of Oblong concerning their Ordinance on same subject and they reported they have not had any problems or complaints. JD Kimberlin thought having the Ordinance would

bring more revenue to the Village. After considerable discussion, Larry Miller and Greta Dennison still had several pertinent questions, and voiced their opposition to the Ordinance. Dennison didn't feel it would be beneficial to the Village. Larry Miller made a motion to approve an Ordinance allowing Neighborhood Vehicles within the Village of Palestine. J R Dunlap seconded motion. There were three Nays and two Yeas. Motion did not pass.

Golf Cart Ordinance – Clarifications - Larry Miller has spent a lot of time of this. He submitted a list of clarifications for approval. This is for the first draft only. Further information is needed on seating. Motion was made by Larry Miller to accept and move on the Golf Cart Ordinance Clarifications with the addendum of the number of people that can be on the cart. Larry Surrells seconded motion. Motion passed.

Privacy Fence Ordinance - Larry Miller has received questions about the regulations for privacy fencing. As he looked into it, he found there have been amendments to the Ordinance which need to be put in their proper place. Larry Miller moved that the Ordinance that was passed by the Board in 2003 and Building Ordinance in 2004 both contain a section on “setbacks” and that they should be added to them. Larry Surrells seconded motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. State Gaming Board-Approval of State Referendum for State control of gaming machines

This took effect on 7/31/10. The State is now in total control, including receipts, etc. The State will then divide it between the State, County, and Municipalities. Mark Wilson has been attending these meetings and would be available to report (possibly at our October meeting) on why this is for the betterment of gaming issues. It was the consensus of the Board to have Mark come and speak to us.

2. IEMA coverage and approaching severe weather

Mayor Schofield reported that since January we have not received any warnings from our severe weather IEMA support people. Ken Pryor has taken over Jim Wallace's position at the local IEMA and Mayor Schofield has been in contact with him and voiced her concerns. Ken says that we can take responsibility of issuing severe weather warnings if we want to. The Mayor may bring in a radio for us to use for a while or we may look into purchasing one. Tony Hudson said that he is an amateur radio operator and a volunteer member of IMEA and he will look into this for us. He will report back to us at the next Board Meeting. Marathon is still working on getting us a module that would issue us a warning the same time they issue one. Tony Hudson will look into this for the Village and will report back at our September meeting.

3. Renewal of Municipal Insurance

Our Municipal insurance renewal is effective 8/15/10 and the premium has been reduced by \$1053. Some coverage's were increased and added some coverage's to the policy. The annual premium is \$19,000.

4. Report of EEG Grant for new Heating/AC system

Mayor Schofield reported that we did get approval for this grant. She's still in the process of working on the specifications. The grant should be approximately \$18,000. This will be for two air conditioners and one major furnace unit.

5. Consider changing the Village Engineering Firm

The Village has not been satisfied with our current Engineering firm's performance the past two years, and is considering changing firms. After some discussion, it was suggested that Mayor Schofield write letters to a couple of firms and request they prepare a presentation and each come to a Board Meeting. The consensus was that we go forward with this suggestion.

6. Resolution of Support for ITEP Grant

Mayor Schofield presented a Resolution of Support for ITEP Grant and Downtown Streetscape Project. This grant will work in conjunction with the PEDC Grant that we received in April. We are asking for \$900,000, but expect to receive \$500,000 and it is an 80/20 match. The USDA has assured us that we will be eligible to receive a \$99,000 grant that will be the match. For this grant, we will have to do the work, bill it, pay for it and then get reimbursed. We will need to obtain local interim financing until we are fully reimbursed. Motion was made by Greta Dennison that the Board accept the Resolution in support of the ITEP Grant and Streetscape Project. Larry Surrells seconded motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

7. Approve and adopt Resolution for IDOT Labor Day Parade permit

Larry Surrells moved to approve and adopt the Resolution. JD Kimberlin seconded motion and motion passed unanimously.

Police Report: Chief of Police, Jim Clark – Jim gave a good report for this year.

Liquor Commissioner Report – AMVETS has picked up their liquor license from us and are going to Springfield to get their State Liquor License.

Pioneer Room – August 2010 – JD Kimberlin

Budget & Financial Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman – Financial reports for June and July were included this month along with a detailed report of the State Revenue we have received to date.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman - The DPW staff has been working hard on the storm damage. Dee Everingham has been taking down dangerous trees and limbs throughout the Village.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman – Margaret Littlejohn reported that she's received no complaints about the new quarterly billing and the majority of customers have been paying the quarterly amount. The transition has gone very smoothly.

At 7:40 PM Greta Dennison moved to go into Executive Session and JR Dunlap seconded.

The regular session of the Board Meeting resumed at 8:25 PM. The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss the purchase and sale of real estate. The general consensus of the Board of Trustees is that we are interested in the purchase of Bill Johnson's building, but only after an appraisal, negotiations and final Board Approval. The general consensus of the Board of Trustees was also to put the real estate at 210 W. Harrison up for sale, after we get an appraisal. Frank Weber will advise us of how to proceed.

With no further business to discuss, Larry Surrells moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

PRESIDENT

CLERK

