

**MINUTES**  
**PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**September 3, 2009**

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on September 3, 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.

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

Visitors present were Larry Miller, Bob Taylor, Aaron Fulling, and Jodi Truitt of Kemper CPA.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read.

Jodi Truitt, CPA, from Kemper CPA's was present to present their audit of the 2008-09 business year. The main issue addressed in the audit was that the Village does not have adequate personnel available to separate the accounting duties as per recommended accounting procedures. There were no misappropriations of funds.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. The Dog Ordinance discussed at the last meeting was revisited. Attorney Frank Weber has been on vacation and just recently returned. He has not had time to review the subject but did suggest a progressive fee structure for continued violations – e.g. \$75 for first offense \$250 for the second offense, \$500 for the third offense, and \$750 for the fourth offense. No further action was taken at this time.

2. Mayor Schofield reported that we have had our salt order confirmed. The salt will be delivered September 27. It is anticipated that the supply will be adequate for the needs of the coming winter season.

3. The Health Department had threatened to condemn the Bailey property at 303 E. Market St. While the owner was hospitalized, the property was repaired and cleaned up. The Health Department will rescind the threatened condemnation.

Larry Surrells moved, seconded by Greta Dennison, to rescind the Villages threat of condemnation. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. The local AmVets had expressed an interest in securing a liquor license for their meeting hall. However, at a meeting last night, Bob Taylor reported that it was decided that they were not sure that it was in their economic interest to acquire a liquor license. He requested that the item be deleted from the agenda. No further action.

2. Mayor Schofield reported that MediaCom has announced that they will raise their residential rates by \$4.00 per family.

3. Mayor Schofield reported on late payment of sewer bills. Some residents are always late in making their payment and have consistently been sent reminder notices. The Robinson-Palestine Water Department has cooperated in helping prompt payment by shutting off the water from the offenders. Some have been shut off for as long as three months. It was suggested that we might dig up the sewer of persistent offenders. A check with the County Health Department said they could not interfere until open sewage became apparent.

By consensus, it was decided to notify persistent offenders that their sewers will be dug up and shut off from the main sewer lines if regular payment is not forthcoming. A tractor will be parked at the residence ready to start digging if the notice is ignored.

4. Village Clerk, Floyd Fuller, suggested that each board member review the financial reports he prepared plus the comments from the Kemper CPA firm.

5. Larry Surrells, Chairman of Streets, reported that a hole in a sewer line under Hwy. 33 had caused a break in the pavement. The Village had to repair the break due to a long ago agreement with the State of Illinois to cover all damage to the highway caused by sewer leaks or other sewer problems.

6. JD Kimberlin reported that he had had an opportunity to attend a Cap-in-Trade meeting held at Effingham. He reported that it was interesting but was concerned about the tax implications.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

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President

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Clerk