

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 5, 2009

The Palestine Board of Trustees met in regular session on November 5, 2009, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, Greta Dennison, Larry Miller, Larry Surrells and J.R. Dunlap.

Absent: J.D. Kimberlin

Visitors present: Bob Taylor, Tom Osborn, Jodi Ransford

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. The Committee was unable to meet in October, so this has been postponed. Plans are for the Committee to meet and then bring their thoughts and findings back to the Board in December, for their input and approval.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appliance Pick-up. Mayor Schofield reported that Mark Dennis has been contracted to do the pick-up again this year. It will be held on Saturday, November 14th. This pick-up will include all appliances, hot water heaters, lawn mowers, lawn mower parts, car parts, scrap metal and other miscellaneous metal items. Village residents should place their items for pick-up near the curb, but not in the roadway, anytime beginning Friday, November 13, 2009. All refrigerators and/or freezers must have the doors removed before placing them out for pickup.

Dennis has the exclusive contract for this pick-up and the Police Department will be monitoring the situation, and if anyone, other than Dennis Salvage, is caught picking up any items left at roadside, they will be prosecuted.

2. Vehicle for Chief of Police. Jim Clark discussed plans to purchase a new police vehicle for the Village. Jim is working on a grant for this purchase, and says that although the grant would pay for the vehicle, the Village would still be

responsible for the cost of equipping the vehicle with radios and other required equipment. The Village would keep the vehicle we have now as a back-up vehicle, even though it has over 100,000 miles on it.

The type of vehicle the Village is seeking to purchase is a truck or SUV. Many law enforcement agencies, including the Robinson Police Dept. and the Crawford County Sheriff's Dept. are purchasing these types of vehicles instead of cars, to use as police vehicles. Jim is in the process of getting bids, along with a state bid, on vehicles for the Board to consider.

3. Senior Citizen's Rent. The Mayor received a copy of a letter from Jim Goodwine asking for an increase in their support of the Senior Citizen's Center. The Village is currently contributing \$50 a month to the Center. Jim says he has to increase the rent to help defer his costs of increased property taxes, insurance, and high utility bills. Larry Surrells said that the Palestine Chamber of Commerce has agreed to continue their \$40 a month support and that the PDA is considering getting involved. He emphasized the need for a Senior Citizen's Center here, even if there are only 10 people utilizing it at present. He noted that Jim Goodwine has always been very generous with the use of his building.

Mayor Schofield asked what the Board thought about the possible use of the Main Street Park for the Senior Citizens. After some discussion and weighing the pro's and con's, the Board wanted more time to consider this idea. There is a possibility that the Village may consider increasing our contribution. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

4. Proclamation – National American Indian heritage Month. Mayor Schofield read the Proclamation to the Board and encouraged the Village to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

5. Approved date for Village Christmas Party. The date that was approved for the Village Christmas Party is Friday, December 4th, at 6:00 PM.

Committee Reports:

Police Report: Chief of Police, Jim Clark – There were three thefts reported. Jim considered them "crimes of opportunity" and reiterated the importance of keeping our homes and vehicles locked. He says he tries to get this across to the public every chance he gets.

Budget & Financial Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman

Shirley handed out the Village's Financial Statement-Year Ended April 30 2009. She reported that we received our Fiscal Year 2008 Fiscal Responsibility Report Card from the Comptroller of the State of Illinois, showing no errors. This report will be available for public viewing on the internet in January 2010. The Annual Treasurers Report for the fiscal year ending 4/30/09 was published in the Robinson Daily News on 10/29/09, as required, and a copy of the Publisher's

Certificate was sent to the County Collector. Monthly financial reports were given out also. Revenue from the State has been coming in, however, they are behind in their payments.

Bldg. Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Larry Surrells, Chairman
It came to his attention that a resident built an addition with no permit. He spoke to the individual about this and a building permit was obtained.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman
Plans are to work on a few sidewalks soon. There are some significant worn spots on North side of Am Vets. Dave is getting an estimate for repairs, along with an estimate on a ramp on the north door. Larry's only approving the ones that are bad. A couple other small projects may have to be done.

Sewer Committee: Larry Surrells, Chairman
Harrison Street caused some problems recently but was taken care of. It has been reported that there are some sewer line issues that need to be addressed. Larry is working on this and will report his findings.

Additional Notes:

Mayor Schofield gave an open invitation to the dedication of the new military stone at the Main St. Park. The dedication will be held on Wednesday, November 11th, at 2:00 PM.

The property on W. Franklin, discussed at the last Board Meeting, has apparently been cleaned up. Mayor Schofield said she should know more later.

The settlement for Mrs. Murdock has been finalized. The Village received the bill for the deductible and it will be paid this week.

Mayor Schofield showed Floyd Fuller's recognition plaque to the Board.

The leaf pick-up has been going well. The Board applauded the Dept. of Public Works employees in their efforts and said they are doing a great job.

With nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

President

Clerk