

**MINUTES**  
**PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

**January 24, 2017**

Palestine Board of Trustees met on January 24, 2017, at 5:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Rob Byrley, Tim McDaniel, George Harrison, Mary Michael, J.R. Dunlap and Gene Purcell.

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeff Besing, Kathy Clark, DPW Supervisor, Shirley Adams, Village Clerk, and Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk.

Visitors present: Reese & Janice Fuller (The Rocking Horse), Greg Goodland (McNairs Hardware & Flooring), Steve Mitchell, Jim Clark and Cindy York.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Patricia Schofield.

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

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

Business to discuss:

1) Discussion and approval of Condemnation Proceedings on Matteson Buildings – 206 S. Main Street, Palestine, IL.

The property being discussed is located between McNairs & The Rocking Horse. The backside of the building is in imminent danger of collapsing. Bricks have fallen out in several places and there are areas of ‘bulging’ bricks that could go at any time. Being that the building in question is situated between two other businesses, it puts them in danger also of being damaged or destroyed.

The Matteson’s are fully aware of the situation as Mr. Matteson visits his building frequently. Mayor Schofield wrote them a letter concerning the condition of their building last year. They responded that they were in the process of getting a quote for ‘tuck pointing’ it.

Chief Besing submitted a report and pictures of the building. Greg also handed out pictures he had taken. Janice gave out pictures she had from 2014 thru 2016 showing the deterioration that has taken place. No one has entered Mr. Matteson’s building.

Each Trustee was asked specifically what their thoughts were. It was unanimous that we should start condemnation proceedings as soon as possible. Some were concerned about liability issues. If the building would start to collapse out front, it could cause injury to pedestrians walking by. Also, if it collapsed, customers inside the businesses could be injured.

The Trustees felt it would not be good for the Village if all the businesses involved had to be taken down due to damages from Matteson’s building. That would basically be the whole block.

It was agreed that Mr. Matteson should be the one responsible for the upkeep of his building, but that has not happened and something has to be done right away.

Steve Mitchell will be the person to take the building down, if it is condemned. Mayor Schofield and Chief Besing will be searching for a grant to help with the cost as the Village doesn't have the money for this big of a project. Steve is confident that he can demo the building without damage to Greg and Janice's businesses.

J.R. Dunlap asked if we could let Frank know how urgent this situation is and if the court/judge could be made aware that this is an emergency case and maybe we could get something started as soon as possible.

A motion was made by J.R. Dunlap that we start condemnation proceedings for the Matteson building at 206 S. Main Street. Gene Purcell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to discuss George Harrison moved to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

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PRESIDENT

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CLERK