

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 2, 2019

Palestine Board of Trustees met for their regular scheduled meeting on May 2, 2019, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, J. R. Dunlap, George Harrison, Brian Nethery, and Tim McDaniel. Mary Michael was unable to attend due to illness.

Staff Members present: Patricia Schofield, Village Consultant, Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk and Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent.

Visitors present: Tom Osborne (Robinson Daily News); Chris DeWitt, WTYE; Len Daugherty; Nancy Jenkins; Kristie and Alyssa Nethery; Lloyd Dunlap; Clint Stephenson; Derek Weiler, Eli Rich, Sara Greer, and Erica Shannon, Leadership Crawford County Group,

Meeting called to order by Mayor Rob Byrley.

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

Minutes were taken by the Pat Schofield, Assistant Village Clerk.

The Minutes of April 4, 2019, were accepted as presented.

Mayor Byrley presented a plaque to George Harrison in recognition of his 5 years and 6 months service as a Trustee on the Village of Palestine Board of Trustees.

Mayor Byrley swore in the new Trustees for a 4-year term, beginning May 1, 2019; Tim McDaniel, Brian Nethery, and Twilla Davis.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Officially approve Phone Poll to approve Palestine Music Festival. Mayor Byrley called for a motion to officially approve the Phone Poll Vote for the approval of the Palestine Music Festival. J. R. Dunlap moved to formally approve the Phone Poll Vote to approve the Palestine Music Festival to be held on June 8, 2019. Tim McDaniel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Approval of 2019 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Gene Purcell moved to approve the 2019 Annual Appropriation Ordinance; Brian Nethery seconded. Motion carried.

3. Discussion and Approval of Levying a Street and Bridge Tax Ordinance for the Village of Palestine. Mayor Byrley called for a motion to approve levying a Street

and Bridge Tax Ordinance for the Village of Palestine. J. R. Dunlap moved to approve said Ordinance with Gene Purcell seconding the motion. In the discussion that followed, it was disclosed that this is not really a new tax for the Village. LaMotte Township already levies a tax for the property owners within the Corporate limits of Palestine, for maintenance of our Streets and Bridges; however, they have never maintained our streets. They have levied this tax for several years. Last year, LaMotte Township levied and received approximately \$7,300.00 which they did not share with the Village of Palestine.

As per our Attorney, under the Illinois Statute, we can levy up to .10% of this tax, by a three-fourths vote of the Trustees. Since the assessed valuation of the District is \$8,822,843.00, this would raise approximately \$8,800.00 additional tax money for the Village. This would, then, eliminate the \$7,300.00 tax levy of the Township, which is already paid for by the Village property owners. So the only difference between the Township levy and the Village levy would be \$1,500.00 on an annual basis.

Mayor Byrley called for the vote, and this motion was approved by 83.33%.

4. Leadership Crawford County – Derek Weiler, representative of Leadership Crawford County, along with other Committee Members, Eli Rich, Erica Shannon, and Sara Greer, addressed the Trustees to introduce The Fitness Connection, which they hope to bring to the Village of Palestine, as well as Hutsonville, Oblong, and Robinson. The Fitness Connection will be a resource for exercise stations, which will be accessible to all ages, and abilities because they will focus on low impact activities. The purpose of The Fitness Connection is to help improve the overall general health of the residents in Crawford County.

The United Way will be funding this entire project for each municipality, with one outdoor gym being built per year, until each Municipality has their own. Each gym will be installed in the area parks and will cost approximately \$13,000.00, which will be funded in full by United Way.

Gene Purcell clarified that our Leaverton Park is not a part of the Village of Palestine, and this project should be presented to the Leaverton Park District Board, for their approval. The Leadership Crawford County will ask to be included on the Park Board agenda at their next available meeting.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent

2 new trees have been planted by our Village/Municipal sign, with our Christmas décor budget.

The DPW addressed Linda Best's 3 issues, of water runoff. The Street, itself, is in very good shape, and not as she presented it. The issue wasn't the street, but a hump in the right-of-way (her property). 1) We removed the hump, graded it to the drain, and seeded and applied straw to the whole area. It already has a great stand of grass. We have been able to observe as the water runs off. There is a little pooling in the street. 2) Her concerns of litter are not exclusive to the alley to which she referred. The DPW picks up Casey's litter all over town. 3) For sewer utility and first response purposes, it is not advisable to close the alley, as she wished. (The Chief

DPW REPORT: (Continued) had also addressed this, and was not in favor of closing that alley.) (As a side note: all of North Bryan Street is paved, not half dirt.)

There is no news on the PER application. Some council members have asked about our engineer Collin's health issues. We are happy to report he is back to work. One of his constituents, in his absence, sought answers of Ameren Construction, concerning our service at the lagoon. He is still waiting to hear from the Ameren Engineer. Collin has asked to be put on our June's agenda.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeff Besing.
No police report. Chief is on vacation

PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY – MAY – TIM McDANIEL
FYI: FALL CLEAN-UP DAYS – OCTOBER 23, 24, AND 25, 2019

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: No fund balances available. Shirley Adams, Chairman.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman - We had two building permits in April – Riggs (4-02) and Ferguson (4-26)

Employee Relations Committee: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman

Ordinance/Grant Committee: Pat Schofield

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Tim McDaniel, Chairman

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: George Harrison, Chairman.

With no further business to discuss Gene Purcell moved to adjourn. Tim McDaniel seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

PRESIDENT

CLERK