

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

JUNE 6, 2019

Palestine Board of Trustees met on June 6, 2019, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Tim McDaniel, Mary Michael, Gene Purcell, Twilla Davis, Brian Nethery and J.R. Dunlap.

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeff Besing, Shirley Adams, Village Clerk, Jordan Bowen, Patrolman, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent.

Visitors present: Colin Dunn (HLR), Bruce Bowen, Pam Bowen, Courtney Bowen, Kelsa Bowen, Susan Goode, Nancy Jenkins, Bob Taylor and Chris DeWitt (WTYE).

Meeting called to order by Mayor Rob Byrley

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

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of May 2, 2019, was accepted as presented.

Mayor Byrley officially swore in the Village's new Officer, Jordan Bowen.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) HLR Engineering – Colin Dunn, Engineer – Update. Colin handed out a copy of the draft of the Preliminary Engineering Report for Village of Palestine Sanitary Sewer Lagoon Improvements. The purpose of this project is to improve the existing sanitary sewer lagoons through odor reduction and increased mixing.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Discussion and approval to move ahead with Bridge repairs/replacement on South Main Street. Per Justin Childress, County Engineer, after a Judicial Transfer has been made of the property to the LaMotte Township, then the County can do the work. When work is complete, then a Judicial Transfer will be made to transfer the property back to the Village J.R made a motion that we approve the Village to go ahead with the Bridge repair/replacement. Gene Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent

When Chester Greene returns from his vacation, he will discuss a new bar for the Pioneer Room door with Kathy.

DPW has made their way through half the Village in jetting sewers. They thanked the Police Dept. for their assistance with traffic control, while working in the highway. They hope to finish when mowing slows down.

Kathy said they have had great results from the Xpeller impeller installed on the lead pump at the east lift station. They've not had to pull that pump since the install. A second one has been ordered for the station.

Kathy was happy to report that Tom passed the General Standards testing to assume crew mosquito spraying duties.

They are going to raise two sewer manholes in the near future, one on N. Steele and one on S. Illinois.

They are also going to cut a section of E. Harrison, at S. Illinois, to clean the culvert and replace bad rough road surface. That project will call for a concrete basin, at the N/W corner, to avoid the culvert filling with sediment. They are also going to cut out a section of W. Grand Prairie at S. Washington to smooth the surface. (All according to sidewalk work and Steve Mitchell's availability.)

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeff Besing.

Officer Bowen has been riding with the Chief since he graduated from the academy and is doing quite well. He is learning the street names and layout of the village, and our Spillman Management system. They recently worked an accident south of Flat Rock, on Route #1, giving Jordan hands on experience investigating a traffic crash and completing the report. If everything progresses as it should, Jordan will be released to patrol on his own by July and the Chief will go back to working his regular shift.

They are preparing for the Topsy-Pig Festival this weekend with staggered security shifts, along with two of our part-time officers and two auxiliary officers from the Sheriff's Department. Main Street will be closed from LaMotte to Market Friday evening so vendors who come in early will be able to set up their stands. Kathy has already provided the barricades to do so.

Officer Bowen and Chief Besing canvassed the community 2 weeks ago taking inventory of abandoned vehicles that do not meet the criteria per our Village ordinance. They found 16 vehicles of which they had until June 4th to correct the issues. Fourteen vehicles have been corrected. We have two more to check on once the owners are contacted.

PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY – JUNE – TWILLA DAVIS

FYI: New Committee Schedule – Effective May 1, 2019.

FYI: Fall Clean-up Days – October 23, 24, and 25

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. April & May financial reports were handed out. Carol Holbert, our auditor, is tentatively scheduled to be here week of July 9th for the FY 2019 audit.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. Gene reported two building permits were issued.

Employee Relations Committee: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Twilla Davis is working on completing her training.

Ordinance Committee: Pat Schofield. Preparing paperwork for the bridge on S. Main.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Tim McDaniel, Chairman. David Maxwell is working on an estimate to get four areas of sidewalks to be repaired/replaced.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: George Harrison, Chairman.

Other Business:

J.R. wanted the board to consider taking out the "welcome" sign (by the ball diamond & Ethanol plant) as it is located just before folks come into town and see some unkempt properties.

Also, he was asking if the Board would be interested in an LED lighted sign, in place of the sign we have up in the Pocket Park right now. Feels it would be an upgrade. Perhaps we could get some financial help with it. It could be used for Village events and maybe even have folks pay a stipend to put up personal notices, such as birthdays and anniversaries, etc. Something to think about.

With no further business to discuss Gene Purcell moved to adjourn. Brian Nethery seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

PRESIDENT

CLERK