

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

July 6, 2023

Palestine Board of Trustees met on July 6, 2023. Trustees answering roll call were J.R. Dunlap, Tim McDaniel, Mary Michael, Gene Purcell and Twilla Davis and Brian Nethery was absent.

Staff Members present: Stacey Myers, Rita Carmouche, Jeff Besing and Jake McGuinness.

Visitors present, please see attached sign in sheet.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Byrley.

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

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of June 2023 were accepted as presented.

Opening of the sealed bids for the sale of Village equipment. Jeff Besing won the bid at \$305.99 for the 2012 utility trailer. Taylor Pinkson won the bid at \$501.00 for the zero turn mower. Gene Purcell made a motion to accept the bids. Mary Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) No Old Business. No update on the Main Street Building.

New Business:

1) Approval of Palestine Chamber of Commerce Request for Labor Day Beer Tent. Tim McDaniel made a motion to approve the Palestine Chambers request for the Labor Day Beer Tent. Gene Purcell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Discussion and Approval to Vacate Votes for the Dispensary from June 1, 2023 Board Meeting. Gene Purcell made a motion to Vacate Votes from June 1, 2023 to approve the Dispensary. Twilla Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Steve McGahey, Penny Shaw, Mark Shaner, Jim Clark, Nichole, Mark Wiseman speaking regarding dispensary in Village limits. Steve McGahey addressed the board with an opening of questions he had in regards to the Dispensary. He asked what kind of marijuana would be sold, medical or recreational. Erick Erickson answered in that it would be at first recreational. Also, he asked what the tax rate is on the sale of cannabis. The tax rate would be 3.5%. Steve went on to ask what Erick's target audience was. Erik answered in that he did not have a target audience and it is up to the individual if they wish to purchase. Steve reported to the board that monies that are related to the cannabis sales cannot be used with Federal Grants. Overall concern was what type of people it would bring to town and community issues it could cause.

Penny Shaw addressed the Board of Trustees as well. Penny's concern was for her business Flying S. Flying S is an employee owned company and a drug free work place. She was worried about what work comp and workplace accidents potentially caused by an employee under the influence. This would become a liability for Flying S. She went on to explain that she has expressed interest in investing in Palestine.

Jim Clark spoke to the board about his history of being a police officer for Palestine. He stated that the dispensary would bring in more drugs to Palestine.

Nicole Martin addressed the board in regards to the positive influence cannabis has had in her life. Nicole stated that she is a business owner, mother and wife. She was dx with Graves' disease and cannabis is the only medication that helps her live a normal life. She went on to say that education is key when speaking on this topic. She is a Christen women that cannabis has greatly helped. Nicole went on to say that alcohol is far worse as well as the meth problem we currently have now in the Village of Palestine. She feels like the "stigma" needs to end and the realization that it is helping people with medical problems.

Mark Wiseman addressed the board in regards that he is a business owner here in Palestine and the positive medical affect it has had in his personal life. He stated that he has been a medical cannabis user and it has changed his life for the better. Doctors are more likely to recommend cannabis over prescription medication. Lastly he spoke about the revenue it would bring into Palestine.

April Wampler spoke to the board about her personal experience with cannabis. April has a criminal education background and has worked for the State of Illinois Corrections for several years. April was in a horrible accident as a young person and has had many surgeries. She stated that she had been addicted to pain medication at one point. She has now retired from the corrections position and has her medical card to use cannabis. Her life and pain have extremely improved.

Mark Shaner addressed his concerns in allowing a dispensary in the Village of Palestine. Mark had many statistics to show the negative affect that marijuana has on a person's life and or a community.

4) Open Discussion on Dispensary. Discussion was "How does it work", citizens asked what the process was to buy at a dispensary. It was answered that the dispensary is very regulated and secure and that you can't just go in a buy it right off the shelves. It was discussed about the dispensary affecting our youth in a negative way. Also stated was that we have five liquor license for roughly 1200 people and that alcohol is actually worse than cannabis use. Young children and or adults are going to get it off the streets one way or another if they wish too. Meth and other hard drugs seem to be a problem in the Village of Palestine and that needs to be address before worrying about cannabis dispensary being in the Village. It was discussion that Palestine needs to move forward with development and the cannabis revenue would greatly help. Many citizens agreed with the use of medical cannabis but concerned about the youth and choosing money over safely. Again, it was expressed that harder drugs are more of an issue here in Palestine and this is a legal substance when sold and regulated properly, which could benefit Palestine in revenue and other business coming to town.

Susan Goodwine presented two letters from Palestine citizens, please see attached letters.

DPW REPORT: None

POLICE REPORT: None

PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY –July 2023 – J.R. Dunlap.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance Committee: Stacey Myers, Chairman. Financials were handed out.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman.

Employee Relations Committee: Mary Michael, Chairman.

FOIA/OMA Officers: Stacey Myers, Chairman. The new Trustees still need to complete OMA training.

Ordinance/Grant Committee: Stacey Myers, Chairman. Stacey continues to work on the Squad car grant and waiting on a conference call with USDA.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Tim McDaniel, Chairman. Hopefully Maxwell Concrete will be starting sidewalks soon.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Brian Nethery, Chairman.

With no further business to discuss, Tim McDaniel made a motion to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

PRESIDENT

VILLAGE CLERK

Village of Palestine

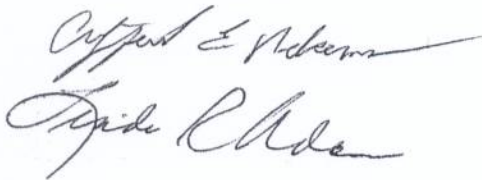
To Whom It May Concern:

As members of this community, we feel it is our duty to see that Palestine stays a safe place for our children and adults to live. For the record we stand firmly against the drug dispensary you have voted to allow to be within our community,

For many years you have had the DARE program in the schools to teach the children the dangers of drugs... Now you are thinking of allowing drugs within our village. This does not make sense at all. If the revenue is all you are concerned about, then your decision to allow this will only bring harm and the revenue will not be worth the final outcome.

Please reconsider your decision to allow this. It is not for the good of the community.

Clifford and Linda Adams

The block contains two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is for Clifford Adams and the bottom signature is for Linda Adams. Both are written in dark ink.

To the Members of the Village of Palestine Council:

This letter is in regards to the matter of the dispensary that is being discussed for the Village of Palestine.

It is of great concern that you have voted to add this facility to the Village of Palestine. Throughout the years, the Village members and the surrounding residents have worked hard to create a Village that could stand the test of time with businesses that contribute to the well being of the community and promote an environment that was inviting to all ages. The addition of a dispensary within the Village limits will only serve to destroy the integrity of the hard work that has been done for decades through its manner of altering lifestyles and providing substances proven to be harmful to the mind and body. Crawford County has a significant amount of existing substance issues. Why does the Village of Palestine want to support this? We should be providing a community that strives to end substance abuse not support it.

If revenue was the reason that this facility was brought in, I ask that you consider the fact of what revenue you will loose once residents and incoming visitors stop coming to the stores and businesses because they do not want to be around this type of facility nor have their families exposed to this type of facility. We enjoy, as a community, the guests that come from great distances to participate in events such as the Rodeo that are family oriented. Hard work on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and area businesses keeps these guests returning and supporting our local businesses. These guests are dedicated to continuing their promotion of Palestine through their visiting with other people of like mind. Why would you want to create an image of a substance promoting community versus a family oriented community? And why would you want to destroy the efforts of your own Village Chamber of Commerce and local businesses?

This facility does not affect just the residents within the Village limits but it affects the entire community of outlying residents of Palestine as well. Residents within and without the Village limits take pride in supporting the hard work of our community and our Village and choose to raise our families within this community. We strive hard to retain our independence in matters such as school consolidation and through your actions, you have drawn us into the cesspool with other municipalities who are not strong enough to stand against the promotion of substance abuse by allowing these types of facilities to exist.

I beseech you to reconsider this dispensary being created and ask that you stand united for the integrity that the Village of Palestine and its community members represent. The task and mission of the Village Council is to promote and support the positive growth of our community and Village for all ages. Please apply your hard work and efforts towards promoting Palestine and its businesses, Chamber of Commerce, and residents with integrity and rescind this vote to add a dispensary.

Thank you

Gayle Bittner

Village of Palestine: Board Meeting Sign in Sheet

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL
Lathin Clark	12531 N 18th St			
Jim Clark	12531 N 18th St			
Shirley Adams	411 1/2 E Walnut			
PAUL GRAY	P.O. BOX 234			
NANCY GRAY	P.O. BOX 234			
John McThum	410 N Fort St			
Mark Shaner	PO Box 234			
Carol McSherry	20598 River Rd			
Steve McCabey	" " "			
Eric Erickson	" " "			
Sharon Mitchell				
Cliff McJannet	414 Rock			
Peggy Shaw	1754 E. 500th Ave			
Kristie Nethery	202 N Pike St			
Scott Campbell	PAKOTINE			
Angela McDaniel	302 S Washington			
Carla Mabe	5. Main			
Mollie Houser	501 E Gr Parker			
Julie Repica	104 S Main St,			
	200 E Market			

penny@lyng-s.com

Ta. ie Tull 301 W. market st.
Nancy Shaw 4241 N. St. Hwy 33
Jackie Shaw " "
Jessica Gill 2132 E 700th Ave
Brandon Gill 2132 E 700th Ave.

Ken Brock 705 W. Market

Kristina Basing 308 E Grand Prairie

Lindsay Kethames 304 W Market
Sanya Goodwin
Kelli Goodwin 302 S. Washington St.

Renee Campbell

303 market

Meri Taylor

303 market

Lara Taylor

Reg Wagner 407 S. Main St

Village of Palestine: Board Meeting Sign In Sheet

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL
Holly Shann	106 S Pike St		618-553-9549	
Cathy York	16672 E 105th		618-562-0703	
Robert York	"		618-562-2702	
Susan Goodwine	405 W LaMothe St.	618-586-2035		
Melinda	15429 N. 820th St	618-2472		
Chae Weaver	80 Box 101 1-1/2 hrs. N. 116			
Teresa K Fielder	305 E Wisconsin Oblong		618-554-2695	
Ryan Shaper	11828 N 1150 Robinson		618-554-4218	
Janet Dashi	17867 E. 100th	Palestine	584-2739	
Donna Bur	313 W. Lamothe	Palestine		
Francis Murphy	308 E Marquet	Palestine		
CLARA LEWIS	204 CLEVELAND			
Alan Lewis	204 Cleveland			
Antia Kush	19123 E 350	Flat Rock		
Jim Bust	" " "	" "		
Stacie Ogle	406 W. Lamothe St.	Palestine		
Tammy Fralick	204 S Washington	Palestine		
Caleb Will	17319 E 1020th Ave			
Bret Callaway	708 S Rose	Hut		
Laurie Mary Lou Surness	409 E Lamothe		618-562-0089	
Colin + Sarah Walls	401 E. Lamothe St.			
Sharon Cornwell	9856 N 1710th St		618-553-1807	