

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 6, 2025

Palestine Board of Trustees met on March 6, 2025. Trustees answering roll call were Gene Purcell, Twilla Davis, Tim McDaniel, Leo Stoltz, Mary Michael, and JR Dunlap.

Staff Members present: Kerry Watson, Luke McNair, Cory Williamson, Rita Carmouche, Dan Cheadle.

Visitors present: David Woods, Renee Campbell, Scott Campbell, Rich Nidey, Steve McGahey, Carol McGahey, Ron Brock, Jay Wilson, Carol Mehler, Kim Bailey, Tammy Venatta, Kathy Clark, Tammy Cheadle, Staci Rachoy, Kristy Camden, Cindy Baxter, Amanda Harris, Charles Harris, Hope Harris, Mikey Harris, Addison Heckler, Greta Dennison, Sarah Laski, Peg Waggoner, Resa Shaner, Jenna Aldrich, Linda McDaniel, David Chilcote, Greg Robbins, McKenna Herald, Tara Vennard, Rikki Callaway, Mary Beth Smeltzer, Teresa Fielder, Kurt Holscher, Kaycee Williamson, Mark Riggs, Kara Bickers, Amanda Horton, Travis Horton, Lisa Dennison, Lindsay Kelsheimer.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Rob at 5:00pm.

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

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of February 6, 2025 were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Update on Main St Building- Brett plans to begin work on the building in April 2025.

New Business:

- 1) Review and Approval of IDOT Resolution for Maintenance under Illinois Highway Code for MFT Appropriation. Tim made motion and Gene seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Official Approval of Phone Poll for Termite Treatment at DPW. Gene Opened and Twilla seconded. Voting for Pest Solutions to do the work rather than Salt Creek Pest Control was Twilla Davis, Tim McDaniel and Gene Purcell. Voting Nay was JR Dunlap and Mary Michael.
- 3) AmVets to Discuss Interest in Buying 2 Lots from the Village. Rich Nidey came to represent the local AmVets interest and consideration in purchasing 2 Lots by the Palestine Food Pantry. Steve Green said we would need to get the Lots appraised and post that we are accepting bids. To be considered to purchase the offer would have to be a minimum of 80% of appraisal.
- 4) Discussion and Approval to have Sludge Survey done at the Lagoon. Gene opened discussion and Twilla seconded. Taylor sent us an estimate from "Water Treatment Technology" from Centralia for \$3125. Twill made a motion to table so we can get a couple more estimates. Gene seconded.
- 5) Discussion and Approval of Posting Position of Police Officer. JR made motion and Gene seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Discussion and Approval for PDA Wine and Arts Festival October 4th & 5th. JR made motion and Tim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7) Jake Baxter to Speak. Jake addressed the board members regarding his termination by Police Chief Dan Cheadle. He stated he did not understand why he was being terminated by Dan and believes it was done incorrectly, by not being done by the board or the personnel committee. Jake brought police body cam footage from the county officers that were present at the time of termination, however, under the advice of the Village Attorney, Steve Green, the video could not be shown at the meeting. Jake brought copies of phone texts from Chief Dan which included making malicious comments towards Village residents, board members, employees, and other area police departments. Jake said Dan shows lack of concern for citizens when a citizen has a complaint. Jake also said there are multiple time sheet and schedule discrepancies.

DPW REPORT: Things are going good. Some patch was put on Main Street. Security cameras are being put up at the DPW. Luke would like to get a bigger dumpster and have it at DPW and get rid of the 2 yard dumpster at Village Hall office.

POLICE REPORT: Call out list was given out.

PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY – Leo Stoltz

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance Committee: Kerry Watson, Chairman. Financials given.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman, 0 permits given.

Employee Relations Committee: Mary Michael, Chairman.

FOIA/OMA Officers: Kerry Watson, Chairman.

Ordinance/Grant Committee: Grant was submitted to DCEO for \$32,501 Safety Grant for fence, electrical wiring and salt/sand shed for DPW.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Tim McDaniel

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Twilla Davis

Generator ran for 20 minutes.

With no further business to discuss, Tim made motion to adjourn, JR seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 5:43 pm.

PRESIDENT

VILLAGE CLERK