

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

August 7, 2025

Palestine Board of Trustees met on August 7, 2025. Trustees answering roll call were Rikki Callaway, Twilla Davis, Tim McDaniel, Mary Michael, and Scott Campbell. Staci Rachoy being absent.

Staff Members present: Rita Carmouche

Visitors present: Teresa Fielder and Janice Fuller. Taylor Pinkston came in late.

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

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

Minutes were taken by the Utility Clerk in the absence of the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of July 3, 2025 were presented, Twilla asked to include the hour meter on the tractor is not working and in need of repair. That will be added and accepted.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Business:

1) Discussion and Approval of Allowing ATV's on Village Streets. Mary made a motion to discuss, Rikki seconded. No discussion was had, the board unanimously opposed allowing ATV's on Village Streets.

2) Discussion and Approval of Adopting a Resolution for a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Rikki made a motion to discuss and Twilla seconded. This Mitigation needs to be adopted in preparation of a natural disaster so we may receive FEMA funds. Board voted unanimously in favor of this plan.

3) Discussion and Approval of Adopting an Ordinance for a Truck Route. Twilla made a motion and Mary seconded to discuss. Trucks and tractors are damaging Main Street and the street is already in poor condition. All board members are in favor of adopting an ordinance in the future. David will be looking into what we need to do.

4) Discussion and Approval of Purchasing Aerator for Lagoon. Rikki made motion Mary seconded. No discussion was needed, motion carried. Board passed unanimously.

5) Discussion and Approval for PDA 22nd Annual Wine and Arts Festival October 4th and 5th. This was taken care of in the previous month's meeting.

6) Discussion and Approval of a Contract with USDA for Wildlife Services for 1 Year. Twilla made motion and Rikki seconded for discussion and approval. USDA comes to trap skunks and other varmints around the Village. Board passed unanimously.

7) Discussion and Approval of Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Public Real Estate, 206 S Main Street and 208 S Main Street, Palestine. Rikki made a motion and Mary seconded. Board voted by roll call, AYE's are Rikki Callaway, Twilla Davis, Mary Michael, Tim McDaniel and Scott Campbell, with no NAY votes.

8) Discussion and Approval to Pay Dump Truck Loan off Early. Mary made motion and Tim seconded. The Mayor said this would save us in interest money, though it's not a lot, it is a savings. No questions or comments from the board. Board voted unanimously to pay off early.

9) Discussion and Approval of New Hire Recommendation. Scott made motion Rikki seconded. The Personnel/Employee Relations Committee is recommending the hire of Caleb Higgins. Caleb would be going to the Academy on August 18 and will be finished the first part of December. Board voted unanimously on the hire of Caleb Higgins.

DPW REPORT: Luke was absent, no report.

POLICE REPORT: Chief is absent, he has been working nights. No report.

PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY – David/Office Staff

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance Committee: Kerry Watson, Chairman. Kerry is absent, on vacation. Fund Balance Report given. Revolving Loan, all accounts are up to date on paying. Revolving Loan monthly totals were given.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance Streets, Sidewalks and Alleys: Tim McDaniel, Chairman: Mike Richart has completed most of the sidewalks totaling \$12,000. There are a few more that will be done after Labor Day. One building permit was given for new fence.

Employee Relations Committee: Mary Michael, Chairman. Mary thanked the board for approving our recommendation, stating Caleb will be a great addition.

FOIA/OMA Officers: Kerry Watson, Chairman. No new FOIA's

Ordinance/Grant Committee:

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Twilla Davis, Chairman. Aerator was installed and is working well.

Motion to approve monthly bills: Twilla and Staci are still checking over monthly bills.

With no further business to discuss, Tim made motion to adjourn, Rikki seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 5:28 pm.

PRESIDENT

VILLAGE CLERK