

## MINUTES

### PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

April 2, 2026

Palestine Board of Trustees met on April 2, 2026 at 6 pm. Trustees answering roll call were Tim McDaniel, Mary Michael, Twilla Davis, Scott Campbell, and Rikki Callaway. Staci Rachoy absent.

Staff Members present: Kerry Watson, Danny Cheadle, and Luke McNair.

Visitors present: Tyler Watts, Heather Watts, Laura White, Haley Bricker, and Sheila Tracy

Meeting called to order by Mayor David Woods at 6:00pm.

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

Roll call taken by the Kerry Watson the Village Clerk.

Minutes were taken by Kerry Watson the Village Clerk.

Rikki moved to accept the Minutes of the February 5, 2026 board meeting and Mary seconded. One addition or correction is needed, after correction is made minutes are accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **New Business:**

- 1) Discussion and Decision/Action of Chamber of Commerce to use the Pavilion with sound system and chairs, community facility and Pioneer room during Labor Day festivities on Saturday Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Rikki made a motion and Twilla seconded. No discussion needed. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously
- 2) Discussion and Decision/Action of Palestine Chamber of Commerce requesting to have the Annual Labor Day Parade, which will allow the closing of IL RT #33 and E Harrison 9am-12 noon on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Rikki made motion and Mary seconded. No discussion needed. All board members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Discussion and Decision/Action of Issuing the Chamber of Commerce a license to sell Alcohol at the beer tent on the West End of the Arena from 12 noon Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 to 1:00 AM Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Mary made motion and Tim seconded. The start time hours of noon Thursday was questioned. Luke, Laura White and Rikki all assured the board that no beer sales are made until Thursday night at the first beer tent of the week. The board voted to keep the wording as it is with 12 noon Thursday. All board members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Discussion and Decision/Action of Raising Sewer Rates. Tim made motion and Rikki seconded. The board was given some information regarding our sewer income and sewer expenses. Kerry spoke to our auditor Carol about discontinuing paying Luke, DPW Supervisor, out of the sewer account. Carol said Luke shouldn't be getting paid out of the sewer fund, only Rita. Kerry also suggested the Village stop charging \$1200.00 a quarter for sewer office rent, which is paid to the general fund from sewer account. Luke's salary and the office rent will keep approximately \$55,000 more money in the

sewer account. The increase in sewer rates and the extra monies from salary and office rent will help address deferred maintenance before it becomes urgent. Mary stated it is too much of a jump to raise the rates to nearly \$50 a month, which is the minimum monthly rate we need to be eligible for grants. Mary made a motion to raise the monthly sewer rate to \$27 and to revisit at November board meeting about another possible raise. All present board members voted in favor. Motion carried.

5) Discussion and Decision/Action of Purchasing John Deere Zero Turn Mower that we have, the Lease is up on May 26, 2026. Rikki made motion to open and Twilla seconded. Sloan Implement is asking \$3500 to buy the mower in May at the end of our lease. Luke spoke about the good condition the mower is in and also gave the board members information on 2 other John Deere zero turns similar to what we have showing that we are getting a good deal at \$3500. The two estimates were \$7450 and \$10490. Twilla made a motion to offer Sloan Implement \$3000 for the mower and Tim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Discussion and Decision/Action of Signing Contract with Holbert & Phipps for our 2026 Auditing Services. Scott made a motion and Twilla seconded. This was discussed last meeting and agreed upon. Roll call was taken, all were in favor of keeping the contract with them. Motion carried.

**DPW REPORT:** Luke: DPW- Luke reports it was a challenging month. There was a plug in the alley behind the Fife between Grand Prairie and Market. Robinson had to come help with it, turned out to be a bad plug. Brush route will be on Tuesdays weather permitting.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief Cheadle: CAD Call was handed out. Dan reports that Spring cleanup is April 21 and would like to see the residents take advantage of this by cleaning up their properties.

**PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY – Mary Michael**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Budget and Finance Committee:** Kerry Watson, Chairman. Kennedy, Bantican and Home Plate are paid up to date on the Revolving Loans. Plan to have budget/appropriation meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in April. Luke Hahn said the preliminary work for the Main Street project should begin within the next month.

**Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance Streets, Sidewalks and Alleys:** Tim McDaniel, Chairman: There were no new permits issued. Tim spoke with Mike Richart and he would like to start the sidewalk repairs sooner this year. It was reported that we have a sidewalk in desperate need of repair on W Lamotte, close to the corner of Washington Street.

**Employee Relations Committee:** Mary Michael, Chairman. Applications are still being accepted for part-time DPW, we will interview in a couple weeks.

**FOIA/OMA Officers:** Kerry Watson, Chairman. Had 3 FOIA's this month.

**Ordinance/Grant Committee:**

**Sewer/Lagoon Committee:** Twilla Davis, Chairman.

**Motion to approve monthly bills:** Tim made a motion to approve and Mary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Other:** Residents Tyler and Heather Watts spoke to the board requesting action with dogs at large. Their leashed dog was attacked by a dog on the 500 block of West Grand Prairie, with injuries. This is not the first time this has happened and they would like to see action taken for improvement. They walk with their dog and 6 year old daughter. Chief Dan Cheadle spoke to them recognizing the severity of the problem and plans to address it.

Haley Bricker announced the CCDA was awarded \$2,164,842 for the acquisition of 123 acres to create the Crawford County Industrial Park.

With no further business to discuss, Tim made motion to adjourn, and Rikki seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 6:45pm.

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PRESIDENT

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VILLAGE CLERK