

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 5, 2026

Palestine Board of Trustees met on March 5, 2026 at 5 pm. Trustees answering roll call were Tim McDaniel, Mary Michael, Twilla Davis, Scott Campbell, Rikki Callaway and Staci Rachoy.

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

Visitors present: Don Tracy, Eric McCoy, Haley Bricker, Kathy Clark, Luke Hahn and Sheila Tracy

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

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. No additions or corrections needed. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Business:

1) Discussion and Decision/Action of Engineering Plan for Main Street, Engineer Luke Hahn present to answer questions. Rikki made motion, Mary seconded. Mayor David opened by introducing Engineer Luke Hahn with Hampton Lenzini and Renwick Inc, Mt Carmel, IL. Luke informed the board that his company would do the preliminary work for repaving Main Street, 4 blocks, to potentially receive State of Illinois funding. He explained having the preliminary engineering work prior to asking for funding may improve the likelihood of success and further demonstrate our commitment to the project. Luke said we can set the limit on what we would like to spend. Mary made a motion to spend up to \$10,000 for the preliminary costs, Tim seconded. All board members were in favor of this opportunity. Motion carried unanimously

2) Discussion and Decision/Action of Carol Holberts Proposal for Future Audit Services. Twilla made a motion to discuss and act and Staci seconded. Carols proposal was for 3 years and fees as follows: FY 2026 - \$9,500, FY 2027 - \$10,500, FY 2028 - \$11,500. We currently pay \$6,600 and has only increased by \$400 in an eleven year period. Carol is a true asset to the Village of Palestine and her work is very much appreciated. All board members were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Discussion and Decision/Action of Purchasing a New Fuel Tank for DPW. Tim made a motion to open discussion and take action and Scott seconded. The current 300 gallon un-leaded tank has a crack in the inner lining. Currently we receive our fuel from Fuller Petroleum, Senco, and they will sell us a new tank for \$2035 for a 300 gallon tank and \$2651 for a 500 gallon tank. All hoses and parts should fit whichever new tank we decide on. Luke priced tanks from 2 other places online, both significantly higher in price. Luke asked the board to consider the 500 gallon tank since all city vehicles use the fuel. Fuller's is coming approximately every 10 days to fill the tank. Last fuel price was \$2.39 per gallon from Fullers. Tim made a motion to purchase the 500 gallon tank, Mary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Discussion and Decision/Action of Advertising that we are taking Applications for Part-Time DPW Employee. Mary made a motion to discuss and take action and Rikki seconded. Our part-time employee Mark Newlin will be retiring March 26, 2026 from DPW. Scott's opinion is to hold off on hiring someone at this time, to try to save money. Other trustees feel we need the part-time employee. Mary made a motion to take applications for part-time DPW and Twilla seconded. Scott voted no, while all other trustees, Mary, Rikki, Twilla, Tim and Staci voted yes.

5) Discussion and Decision/Action of Amending Village of Palestine Ordinance Number 2024-O-04 and ordinance for the Establishment of an Enterprise Zone in the Village of Palestine, Illinois, and Amending the Intergovernmental Agreement to add Territory to the Robinson, Crawford County Enterprise Zone. Staci made a motion to discuss and take action, Twilla seconded. This is an updated agreement that is needed due to 3 additions to the Enterprise Zone. Roll call was taken voting yes was Scott, Mary, Tim, Rikki, Staci and Twilla. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Discussion and Decision/Action on Changing Meeting Start Time. Tim made a motion to discuss and take action, Staci seconded. Scott suggested changing the board meeting time to 6pm. Staci suggested we try it for a couple of months. April's board meeting will begin at 6pm. Rikki and Mary had to leave the meeting at 5:30pm so they were not in attendance to vote. Scott, Twilla, Tim and Staci voted in favor. Motion carried.

7) Discussion of Sewer Rates. Staci made the motion to discuss sewer rates, Tim seconded. Village of Palestine is unable to apply for any Sewer Grants due to our monthly sewer rates being so low. The board was in agreement that an increase in sewer rates is needed but want to do so slowly. They would like to possibly look at the sewer budget to see if we can cut some expenses in any way to help as well.

8) Discussion and Decision/Action of Purchasing New Laptops for the 2 Squad Cars. Tim made a motion to discuss and take action on new laptops, Twilla seconded. Caleb explained that the laptops they currently have do not work properly and cannot do all the functions that need to be done for policing. The laptops we have are 8 years old. Caleb received a quote from CDS Office Technologies for 2 Panasonic Toughbooks FZ-55 Mk3, 2 docking stations and 2 extended warranties for \$7,546.00. Caleb spoke with Flying S computer supplier, he could not get us a quote under that amount. Dan has spoken to a not-for-profit organization asking if they would be willing to help purchase. They will be getting back to Dan. All board members voted unanimously in favor of the said amount of \$7,546.00. Motion carried.

9) Discussion and Decision/Action of having American Graffiti Cruise In in July 2026. Tim made a motion to discuss and take action, Scott seconded. Eric McCoy spoke to the board on behalf of himself and Chris Winters, the founder/sponsor about having American Graffiti Cruise In come to Palestine at the old Shell Station July 25, 2026 from 3pm-8pm at 120 W Grand Prairie, and along the streets nearby. They would like some food vendors, will have music playing and are expecting 80-100 cars to participate. The board voted unanimously in favor of having this event. Motion carried.

10) Discussion and Decision/Action of Resident Tapping into Sewer. David said no discussion and/or decision/action was needed any longer. This was for Don and Sheila Tracy, at 421 E Grand Prairie, their sewer currently runs laterally to their neighbors. The Tracy's are going to tap straight into the main sewer line. The board agrees to wave the \$400 tap in fee due to this being done laterally to begin with.

DPW REPORT: Luke: DPW- Luke reports there have been 5 Canadian Geese found dead at the lagoon. The Health Department Luke and Cory on discarding of the birds, keeping track of how many are found dead at the lagoon and documenting any symptoms the workers may have for the next 30 days. The geese are believed to have bird flu. There was 1 sewer plug on Jackson Street in between E

Market and E Grand Prairie. There was a tree taken down on the 500 block of E Market and a branch took down a cable/phone line. Mediacom was called but still hadn't come to repair.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Cheadle: CAD Call was handed out. Dan reports that Caleb is done with all training and on his own. The squad cars are both marked now and look great, done by Phoenix Graphics.

PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY – Staci Rachoy

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance Committee: Kerry Watson, Chairman. Kennedy and Home Plate are paid up to date on the Revolving Loans.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance Streets, Sidewalks and Alleys: Tim McDaniel, Chairman: There were no new permits issued.

Employee Relations Committee: Mary Michael, Chairman. Nothing new at this time.

FOIA/OMA Officers: Kerry Watson, Chairman. Had 8 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 Twilla seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other:

With no further business to discuss, Tim made motion to adjourn, and Scott seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 6:24pm.

PRESIDENT

VILLAGE CLERK