

Village of Peoria Heights  
Departmental Meeting – Administration & Economic Development  
January 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone stood for a moment of silence and the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon calling roll, the following Trustees were present: Sherryl Carter, Diane Mariscal, Beth Khazzam, Jeff Goett, Trustee Brandon, and Trustee Sarah DeVore. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the minutes from the Departmental Meeting on December 3, 2019, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no public comment, Mayor Phelan moved on to new business.

Trustee Khazzam moved to approve Board support for Robocomets fundraising for universally accessible playground equipment at Tower Park. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained she had spoken to representatives of the group, and the item was merely to provide permission for the group to move forward with the placement in Tower Park and the concept. Trustee Khazzam noted that there will be more meetings to discuss time frames, budget, and other specifics for the project. Trustee Wisenburg is going to be the liaison for the project, and stated businesses have already made commitments to donate to the project. The motion to provide support for fundraising for universally accessible playground equipment passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the site plan for ground mounted solar energy panels at 5123 N Longview Place. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the site plan had been through Peoria Heights Zoning Board of Appeals and approved with some conditions. Trustee DeVore questioned if the conditions for a fence specified it must be a privacy fence. The conditions did not contain that specification. Trustee DeVore made a motion to include a condition that there must be a privacy fence installed to prevent glare from disturbing the neighbors. Trustee Carter seconded the amendment. The motion to amend the site plan to passed 6-0. The motion to approve the site plan, with the condition a privacy fence must be installed, passed.

Trustee Mariscal made a motion to approve the replacement of the boiler at Village Hall. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Chief Sutton explained there was only one proposal to replace the boiler, and Ruyle is the company which the Village uses for maintenance. The motion to approve replacement of the boiler passed 6-0.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Trustee Wisenburg stated he would like the Board of Trustees to consider recording every meeting held by the Board of Trustees stating it would be a benefit of the community. Trustee Khazzam pointed out that minutes are taken at every meeting. She expressed concern that recording the departmental meetings would lose the conversational tone which allows the Board discuss ideas and to make decisions. Mayor Phelan stated the topic would come back to Board for further discussion. He noted that the style of the meeting would change if the meeting was

recorded, and the informal conversations would not be allowed. Mayor Phelan noted that the Board is already televising meetings when there are significant topics and that more meetings than ever are televised. He also noted the Village's videographer might not have availability for every meeting. Trustee Carter agreed with Trustee Wisenburg that departmental meetings should be recorded if the agenda included action items. Trustee Goett stated he thought filming two out of three meetings would be sufficient but didn't agree with filming all three. Trustee DeVore asked how difficult it would be to not vote at departmental meetings, and Chief Sutton stated staff would comply with the Board of Trustees' policies. Mayor Phelan noted that the meetings could be structured based on the Board of Trustees' decisions. Trustee Wisenburg reiterated his request that every meeting be recorded, and Mayor Phelan agreed.

Trustee Carter questioned if there was a name for the park at the corner of Marietta and Columbus Avenues. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, stated he wasn't aware of a name.

Trustee Wisenburg stated he had gotten complains from the residents on Terrace View Lane that the road is narrow for the posted speed limit of 30 mph. He said he thought the speed limit should be reduced, and all speed limits should be reviewed. Trustees DeVore and Khazzam agreed. Trustee DeVore asked what the procedure was for changing the speed limit. Chief Sutton stated changing the five busiest streets would be a good place to start and changing the speed limits is a process. He noted that in addition to sign changes there would be an enforcement component which would be handled by the Village's traffic patrol car. Chief Sutton stated the process would need to be coordinated through the Police Department and Public Works Department.

Trustee DeVore requested the speed trailer be moved to Kelly Avenue, and Chief Sutton agreed.

Mayor Phelan noted that Senator Dale Risinger had stopped by the Village recently. Senator Risinger used to be employed by the Illinois Department of Transportation as an engineer, and he offered to be a liaison to IDOT regarding the Galena Road improvements. Mayor Phelan and Senator Risinger will be composing a letter to IDOT to try to secure the release of funds to begin the engineering study to the improvements can move forward.

Trustee Khazzam reported the process for creating the Village's comprehensive plan was beginning, and Administration would be meeting with Houseal Lavigne the following week.

Trustee Goett made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Wisenburg seconded motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to pay the bills.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:37 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk