

Village of Peoria Heights  
Departmental Meeting  
February 4, 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, Beth Khazzam, Jeff Goett, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. Trustee Diane Mariscal was absent. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, and Village Clerk Stephanie Turner.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the minutes from the Departmental Meeting on January 7, 2020, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Barb Milaccio, of Exhibit A Gallery, came forward to speak about a recent trade convention she had attended. She explained the panel's speakers talked extensively of shrinking urban areas, and by their criteria she was one of only twelve attendees out of hundreds who had their business in a thriving community. She praised the Board for their work in making Peoria Heights so successful. Trustee Goett expressed his appreciation for the businesses that chose to stay and work in the Village.

Hearing no other public comments, Mayor Phelan moved on to old business.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the maintenance agreement with Pearl Technology to cover Village Hall and Fire Department computers and server. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Chief Sutton explained that he had previously presented an IT maintenance contract with Pearl Technology that had a cost of \$1,353 / month, and, after continued negotiations, Pearl Technology had reduced costs to \$929 / month. The Board of Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the contract.

Mayor Phelan moved on to new business.

Trustee Khazzam noted she, and several other trustees, had not been present at the previous meeting when the street closure for the Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair was discussed, and she was very disappointed in the decision. She noted the event's impact on sales tax receipts and expressed concern the decision implied a lack of support for businesses. Trustee Goett noted closing both lanes of Prospect Road for the Fine Art Fair set a precedence and questioned if the attendance necessitated closing both lanes. Chief Sutton stated the Fine Art Fair's attendance necessitated full road closure, and Trustee Goett deferred to his expertise. Trustee Wisenburg questioned the criteria for closing Prospect Road and if the street was the appropriate place for the Fine Art Fair. He noted that the Board had already discussed Prospect's use when considering stop sign fundraisers and restricted the number to avoid imposition. He stated Prospect would be closed for events five times this year as opposed to the four times allowed for stop sign fundraisers. He noted that closing Prospect Road causes difficulties for the residential neighborhoods around the road. He asked the Board of Trustees to consider developing a policy for closing Prospect Road. Trustee DeVore stated stop sign fundraisers were organizations making requests for donations from the residents and restricted because of that. Trustee DeVore said

closing Prospect Road for an event is not the same. She noted the Fine Art Fair was a large event which is family friendly and free and stated she didn't see how the Board could ask for such events then deny the street closure by the Fine Art Fair while approving a street closure for the St Patrick's Day event. Mayor Phelan stated Trustee DeVore's point was well said, but reminded the Board of Trustees to limit discussion to the street closure request rather than a policy discussion. Trustee Goett explained he didn't have a problem with the request having learned that the attendance required closing the full street. Chief Sutton stated his recommendation was to close the street. He explained he hadn't the first year, but he had been pleasantly surprised by the turnout. He acknowledged detours were an inconvenience to the residents, but said residents had thanked him for coordinating traffic enforcement in the neighborhoods effected by events. Chief Sutton said the residents were pleased by the event. Mayor Phelan invited one of the event coordinators, Ms. Barb Milaccio, forward to speak. Ms. Milaccio stated the Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair was put on by the Peoria Heights Art Collaborative which is a 501-c(3) charity. She stated there were forty artists last year, and they're hoping for between sixty and eighty artists this year. She explained that the event had a children's tent in Tower Park and noted that the committee had more time to plan this year. Trustee Carter asked about the timing of the street closure, and Ms. Milaccio answered set up was from 6:00 am to 9:00 am. The event takes place from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Tear down was completed by 6:00 pm last year. Ms. Milaccio stated she tried to time the event so evening traffic wouldn't be impaired. She noted that multiple businesses had told her that the Fine Art Fair had been one of their busiest days. Trustee Carter asked if the business owners had been notified of the event, and Ms. Milaccio stated the Fine Art Fair will be reaching out to the businesses to engage them on how to work with the event. She noted that there will not be food trucks coming in because she hopes attendees will eat in the restaurants. Mayor Phelan stated Peoria Heights Art Collaborative was initially created by the Village in order to help maintain and expand the Village's art community. Mayor Phelan noted that he hears from residents all the time they want more events to bring the community together, and he thinks the Fine Art Fair is perfect for that. Trustee Wisenburg clarified he believes closure of Prospect Road should be restricted to avoid inconvenience to the residents. He questioned the cost of the public services needed for the event noting that requests for port-a-potties and police services had been discussed. Chief Sutton noted no requests had been submitted, but police officers are provided for every event in Peoria Heights. Ms. Milaccio stated previously the Village and the Chamber of Commerce had split the cost for a musician in Tower Park, and Chief Sutton stated that expense hadn't been discussed for the current year but would be brought separately. Mayor Phelan explained half the trustees had missed the previous vote due to travel and illness which had created a unique parliamentary situation. Trustee Khazzam made a motion to send back the street closure request for the Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair to the Board of Trustees meeting for a vote. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Mayor Phelan asked for final comments. Trustee Khazzam pointed out that the charities which hold stop sign fundraisers don't promote business in Peoria Heights which is a major difference in comparison to the Fine Art Fair. The Board voted 4-1 to send the street closure back to the Board of Trustees meeting for a vote. Trustee Wisenburg voted nay.

Mayor Phelan invited Mr. Billy Blasek forward to explain his request to close Prospect Road for a St. Patrick Day's event. Mr. Blasek outlined the plan to close the street at midnight on March 17 for set up and to keep it closed through the day for music. The street would remain closed until the early hours of March 18 after clean up had finished. Trustee Khazzam noted it was an annual event, and very successful, and she hoped the Board of Trustees would be able to accommodate the request. Trustee Goett noted that he'd spoken to residents who had acknowledged the inconvenience but also spoke about the joy of being able to walk to the event and join in. Superintendent of Water, Mr. David Marfell asked Chief Sutton if the conditions of approval required WE Sullivans to open the street back up after the event. Upon confirmation, he noted that hadn't been done the previous year. Mr. Blasek

apologized for the confusion and stated it would be corrected. Mayor Phelan noted the street closure request would be considered at the next meeting but the result could depend on the result of the street closure request by the Fine Art Fair.

Mayor Phelan introduced the request for the use of Tower Park for the Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides event on October 3, 2020. The event is an annual event, but the coordinator was unable to attend due to illness. Hearing no objections to the event, Mayor Phelan stated he would put it on the next agenda.

Trustee Wisenburg asked Mayor Phelan to clarify his statement that WE Sullivan's request to close the street had to wait on a decision to close the street for the Fine Art Fair. Mayor explained the discussion of closure of the street for the Fine Art Fair had included concerns the Board was setting a policy for street closure. Mayor Phelan stated as such the Fine Art Fair's request would impact WE Sullivan's request. He asked Trustee DeVore as she had been one such person to raise a concern, and Trustee DeVore stated she didn't believe it was fair to close the street for one event while denying another. Mayor Phelan agreed with her assessment. Trustee Wisenburg explained he didn't feel the two street closure requests were equal and asked if the Board would consider closing the street for a fish fry. Trustee Goett stated the Board of Trustees closed the road based on attendance. Trustee Khazzam questioned Trustee Wisenburg's point, and Trustee Wisenburg stated the two events were not equal. He stated closing the street for every event was not possible. Trustee Goett noted the Board of Trustees already considers street closures on an individual basis. Mayor Phelan gaveled the discussion and noted discussion of street closure policy was not on the agenda.

Trustee DeVore introduced the discussion of the speed limit on Terrace View Lane and stated the item was to consider lowering the speed limit. Trustee Goett stated he had no problem with that. Trustee Wisenburg showed the Board of Trustees a photo depicting the narrowness of the road. He stated he'd like to see all residential neighborhoods reduced to a 20 mph speed limit. Trustee Wisenburg suggested installing differently designed speed limit signs to differentiate the lower speed. Trustee Carter questioned the cost. Chief Sutton noted Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, was looking into the number of street signs that would need to be replaced and didn't have a cost yet. Trustee Khazzam noted she wasn't opposed to lowering the speed limit to 25 mph as she agreed that 30 mph was too fast. Trustee Khazzam also noted the Village comprehensive plan might address some of these issues. Chief Sutton recommended the Board of Trustees choose the top five streets which could most benefit from a reduction in speed. He stressed that enforcement would be key to addressing the issue. He noted signage could help but suggested starting in a few areas would be best. Mayor Phelan noted that typically these speed limit changes had been driven by petitions from neighbors, and Chief Sutton agreed. Mayor Phelan asked if Chief Sutton had heard from any of the neighbors, and Chief Sutton stated he had not. Mayor Phelan recommended that Chief Sutton and Trustee Wisenburg reach out to the neighbors about organizing a petition. Mayor Phelan questioned if the item needed additional discussion, and Trustee DeVore requested the cost of signage be presented at the next discussion.

Trustee Goett explained the ordinance under discussion would amend video gaming regulations. The State of Illinois had changed its rules regarding the number of video gaming machines which are allowed in a business increasing it to six from five. Trustee Goett stated he thought the Village should increase the number of allowed machines to match the State's. The Board of Trustees agreed to send the ordinance to the Board meeting for additional action.

Trustee Goett made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Wisenburg seconded motion. Trustee Carter asked about a bill labeled waste disposal paid by the Waterworks Company, and Clerk Turner explained

it was a transfer of waste disposal fees which are paid on the water bills. The Board of Trustees voted 5-0 to pay the bills.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:48 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk