

Village of Peoria Heights  
Board of Trustees  
February 16, 2021

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, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. Trustees Carter, Mariscal, Khazzam, and DeVore were present by telephone. 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 Goett made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 19, 2021 and the motion was seconded by Trustee Wisenburg. The Board voted to approve the minutes 6-0.

Mayor Phelan praised the Public Works for clearing the roads and thanked them for their hard work.

Clerk Turner read a thank you note from Mr. Joel Laurtenz thanking the Village for supporting him during a difficult time.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Mr. Jeff Heller came forward to explain he owned a rental property in the Village, and he uses a property management company to manage the property. He explained that his tenant accrued high water bills on the property. He explained he had spoke to an employee, Ms. Emily Smesrud, who had provided him with a lot of data regarding the charges and uses. He expressed gratitude for Ms. Smesrud's help and information but expressed concern at the charges. He asked for consideration and a credit on the account. Mayor Phelan offered to speak with Mr. Heller. Chief Sutton explained he was familiar with the situation and expressed concern about the management property's handling of the property. Chief Sutton explained the Peoria Heights Waterworks had notified the contact on file, which was the property management company, of a potential problem. Chief Sutton noted that Ms. Smesrud had removed the late fee due to the extenuating circumstances. He noted the Village could not be responsible for bad tenants. He recommended that Mr. Heller consider updating the contact information to himself so he could address concerns about the property directly. Chief Sutton noted that the PHWW was very proactive about contacting owners regarding high usage and sent staff out to review potential problems. Mr. Heller agreed with Chief Sutton's recommendation. Chief Sutton noted that Mr. Heller wasn't the only individual who to contact the Village regarding property management issues.

Hearing no additional public comment, Mayor Phelan closed the meeting to public comment and moved on to the trustees' reports.

Trustee Carter had nothing to report for Public Works but took a moment to thank the Public Works Department for all their hard work with the snow and water main breaks in the recent weeks. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, stated that the Public Works had a good crew and was thankful for the equipment the Board had provided in order to complete the work.

Trustee Mariscal had nothing to report for building maintenance. Chief Sutton noted that the generator at Village Hall was fully operational.

Trustee Khazzam updated the Board that the Village was continuing to meet with IDOT regarding the capital project on Galena Road. Trustee Khazzam also announced that the Village was in the process of purchasing the compost holders for the grant the Village had received. She noted that the Village was continuing to pursue the housing grant through DCEO. She concluded by noting that Administration was currently very busy meeting with business owners who wanted to open businesses in the Village. Mayor Phelan stated both he and Chief Sutton had attended recent meetings with IDOT regarding Galena Road. He noted that the City of Peoria had representatives at the meeting in well. Chief Sutton noted that the project is still in planning stages, and the Village is very excited.

Trustee Goett praised Public Works noting they did an excellent job. Chief Sutton explained Administration was starting to work on the budget for the next fiscal year.

Trustee Wisenburg provided an update on recruiting for the PHFD. The Peoria Heights cadet program has had two seniors and one junior join the program. Additionally, a new volunteer joined the department recently.

Trustee DeVore thanked the Public Works for doing such a great job and urged residents who were able to park off street to do so in order to keep the Village safe and help Public Works clear off the streets.

Mayor Phelan asked for old business. Hearing none, he moved on to new business.

Trustee Carter made a motion to approve a MFT Resolution in the Amount of \$350,928.64 for Road Salt, Sealcoating, Spray Patching, and Engineering. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Carter explained that it's the typical expenditure program for the upcoming year. The resolution passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Peoria County Night of Hope event in Tower Park on October 2, 2021. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve a donation to the Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair in the amount of \$5,000. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam noted that the request had been discussed previously. Trustee Carter asked if the Village had donated \$5,000 to the last event. Trustee Khazzam explained that the Village had donated services in the amount of \$2,8000. Trustee Carter asked where the money would be coming from, and Trustee Khazzam noted it would coming from the marketing budget. Chief Sutton explained to Trustee Carter that the PHFA Fair had provided a budget to the Board at the previous meeting. Ms. Barb Milaccio came forward to discuss specifics. The Board approved the donation 5-1. Trustee Mariscal voted nay.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-1645: An Ordinance Approving a Franchise Agreement with Comcast for the Provision of a Cable System Within the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee Goett explained the Village approves this contract to allow Comcast to sell their services in the Village. Chief Sutton explained it was a multi-year contract and had been reviewed by legal counsel. Trustee Carter asked if the contract would exclude other service providers. Attorney Walton explained that the Village couldn't make additional providers come to the area, but the contract explicitly stated that other providers could operate in the Village. Trustee Carter asked what the amount of the franchise fees was annually. Chief Sutton stated it was around \$90,000. Attorney Walton explained that the Village had to charge all other providers the same rate. Ordinance 2021-1645 passed 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-1646: An Ordinance Amending Title 9, Chapter 8B of the Village Code of the Village of Peoria Heights, for the Purpose of Establishing Residential Garage Regulations, and Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore stated the ordinance was to require a garage door for safety reasons. Trustee Carter asked if there was a problem with garages not having doors. Trustee DeVore noted that it would help with animals. Trustee Carter asked if people without doors would be grandfathered in. Chief Sutton noted they would not, but the issue would be complaint driven, and the PHPD would work with the property owners. Chief Sutton noted that the ordinance differentiates between car ports and garages. Ordinance 2021-1646 passed 5-1 with Trustee Carter voting nay.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the street closure for the Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted that the closure would close Prospect and reroute traffic along Columbus and Kelly. She noted that the speed limit would be lowered on the side streets, per Trustee Wisenburg's requests, and the PHPD would monitor traffic. Chief Sutton stated that the PHPD would be very sensitive, and it would be well policed with ample signage. The street closure for the Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair was approved 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the street closure for the St. Patrick's Day event. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Mayor Phelan invited Mr. Billy Blasek, owner of WE Sullivan's Irish Pub, forward to speak about the St. Patrick's Day event. Mr. Blasek explained that the event would be scaled down from previous years but noted that he would be working closely with the Peoria County Health Department to make sure the event complied with all mitigation rules. Mr. Blasek noted there would be additional private security and police presence to make sure the event was safe. Chief Sutton explained there would be staff on hand to make sure the event was safe. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the letter requesting the event had been sent to the residents along route. Chief Sutton noted that the Village could, but it was currently posted on social media. He stated the Village worked to make sure the information was easily accessible. Trustee Mariscal asked how Mr. Blasek would control attendance. Mr. Blasek stated there would be limited entrances and attendees would be counted. He noted that they were planning to set up more tables and chairs, if allowed, in order to limit movement. Trustee Mariscal asked if there were any restrictions on attendees to outdoor events. Chief Sutton stated he believed attendance restrictions were on indoor events, but Mr. Blasek would comply with any requirements from the Peoria County Health Department. The street closure was approved 6-0.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Hearing none, he asked to hear the Treasurer's Report.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of January, there was \$3,983,559.48 in the Village controlled accounts and \$1,443,962.95 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded. The Treasurer's report was approved 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk