

Village of Peoria Heights
Departmental Meeting
February 23, 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 Khazzam and Mariscal were present by phone. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, and Village Clerk Stephanie Turner.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the minutes from February 2, 2021. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no public comment, he closed the meeting to public comment and moved on to old business. Hearing no old business, the Board moved on to new business.

Trustee Khazzam introduced the request to use Tower Park received from the Peoria Drum Circle. She explained that Ms. Natasha Greene requested the use of Tower Park on the second Fridays of April through October from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. She stated she was in favor of the events. Mayor Phelan invited Ms. Natasha Greene forward to explain the event. Ms. Greene explained that they had had to restrict the event during 2020 due to state guidance, but there were about 35-50 people between participants and vendors. She noted she's a music teacher, and she started the event in order to provide an outlet for her students. She explained previously the events had been held at Forest Park Nature Center, but they had moved in 2020 due to space requirements. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the events would be held in Tower Park in the future. Ms. Greene explained that the space was now very beloved by the group so they hope to use the space going forward. Ms. Greene stated she brings 25 drums herself and several of the regular participants had drums as well. Trustee Goett expressed support for the event. Trustee DeVore asked Ms. Greene if she was willing to work the Peoria Heights Art Collab since she'd work with the Peoria Art Guild in the past. Ms. Greene expressed interest. Trustee Wisenburg asked why the event was called the Peoria Drum Circle if it was in Peoria Heights, and Ms. Greene explained it had originated in Bradley Park. The Board will consider the event request for approval at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Goett explained the budget was balanced. Chief Sutton thanked Clerk Turner, the department heads, and the trustees for their work and comments on the first draft of the budget. Chief Sutton noted that the Village was expected to have a surplus at the end of the current fiscal year. He stated he was very pleased with the first draft. Clerk Turner provided a presentation of the highlights of the budget for the Board. Trustee Goett thanked Clerk Turner for her hard work. Trustee DeVore asked about setting aside funds for capital improvements. She suggested that the Village should set aside \$50,000 annually for capital improvements. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the Water company had budgeted to make previously discussed well repairs. Superintendent of Water, Mr. Chris Chandler, replied it had been budgeted. Trustee Wisenburg also supported Trustee DeVore's suggestion that the Village make efforts to fund the capital improvement fund. Mayor Phelan noted that the Village was in a strong financial position which would allow discussions about capital improvements and

recommended that the Board start to work on identifying capital projects for completion within the next 5 years. Trustee Goett also provided support for funding capital projects. Mayor Phelan noted the budget was a draft and directed the Board to send any questions to Chief Sutton. Trustee Carter asked if the groundskeepers had been budgeted for the next fiscal year, and Clerk Turner stated they were split between Street and Tower departments.

Trustee Goett made a motion to enter executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) for purposes of discussing personnel. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to enter executive session at 6:36 pm.

Trustees Mariscal and Khazzam left the meeting at 6:36 pm. Mayor Phelan exited executive session at 6:42 pm.

Regular session reconvened at 6:51 pm. Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 6:52 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk