

Village of Peoria Heights
Departmental Meeting
April 5, 2022

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: Sarah DeVore, Beth Khazzam, Jeff Goett, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Trustee Sarah DeVore was present by telephone. Trustee David Marfell was absent. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

Attorney Walton asked Mayor Phelan to confirm that he believes it is not prudent to require in person attendance due to the ongoing situation with COVID. Mayor Phelan agreed.

Mayor Phelan announced there would be an Easter Egg Hunt at the schools on Saturday, April 9, 2022. He asked Ms. Julie Bielfeldt to come forward to speak about the Peoria Heights Farmers Market. Ms. Bielfeldt shared she was working with others to bring back the Farmers Market to the parking lot of the Pabst Building. The market will be on Thursdays from 3:00 – 6:00 pm from May 26 – September 29, 2022. The event will be rooted in the community include things like donation baskets for the food pantries and booths for non-for-profits. Ms. Bielfeldt asked that Seiberling Avenue be closed west of Prospect Road. Chief Sutton noted that he was aware of the request, and he didn't see a problem. Administration will work with the event on the road closure.

Mayor Phelan announced Trustee David Marfell had submitted his resignation effective April 22, 2022. Clerk Turner read his resignation into record. Mayor Phelan asked Attorney Walton to explain filling the vacancy. Attorney Walton stated the mayor would appoint a person to fill the vacancy, and then the seat would be open for election of a partial term in the next election. Trustee Wigginton made a motion to receive and file the motion of resignation. Trustee Wisenburg seconded. The Board approved the motion 5-0.

Clerk Turner read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce thanking the Village Board for allocating funds in the FY22-23 budget to the Chamber of Commerce.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the minutes from March 1, 2022. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

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

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the use of Tower Park for second Fridays in April through October 2022 for the Drum Circle event. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Ms. Natasha Greene came forward to explain the event, which is in its second year at Peoria Heights, was meant to give children and adults a chance to enjoy music. She noted the event grew last year to help support artists as well. The event was approved 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve full-time administrative employee raises. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted it was an annual 3% increase for administrative staff. She reminded the Board that union employees receive the same increase per their collective bargaining agreements. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the raises.

Trustee DeVore thanked Chief Sutton and Clerk Turner for the hard work on the budget this year.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Well #7 motor rebuild by Foremost Industrial in the amount of \$5,885.33. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Chris Chandler, explained the Village had previously flushed the well last year and discovered the need to work on the motor. Public Works had priced out a new motor versus a rebuild and found the rebuilt was more economical. He noted that completing the project would add another well into service. Trustee Wisenburg asked about the water quality of the well, and Mr. Chandler noted the well hadn't been in service recently. Trustee Khazzam asked if there was any guarantee of the work. Mr. Chandler replied there was a 1 year warranty. Trustee Wigginton asked about the experience of Foremost, and Mr. Chandler explained the Village had used them before. The Board approved the expense 5-0.

Mayor Phelan asked for any update on the consultants. Director of Community Development, Mr. Wayne Aldrich, stated the water engineers are coming next week to review the facilities. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the Board can attend. Mayor Phelan and Attorney Walton stated it could be attended by two members. Trustee Wisenburg and Mayor Phelan planned to attend.

Mayor Phelan asked for other Public Works updates. Mr. Chandler explained the fountain in Tower Park is shut off while Public Works works to repair it. He noted that Public Works will soon begin its biannual hydrant flushing. The schedule will be on the Village's website. He also shared residents will soon be receiving a letter regarding a recent manganese event.

Trustee Wigginton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-1672: an Ordinance Amending Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 2 of the Village Code Regarding Tow and Storage Fee for Towed Vehicles within the Village. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Wigginton explained the ordinance is to bring the Village's code up to date. The Village hasn't addressed the fee structure in approximately 20 year which has resulted in tow companies being required to charge lower rates which makes them less likely to respond to an officer's request for a tow. Trustee Wigginton stressed that only specific criminal charges, including ones like driving under the influence, reckless driving, invalid licenses, would trigger the tow ordinance, and it is not applicable to towing because of snow or parking. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the tow fees were charges to the owner of the vehicle or the Village. Chief Sutton clarified it was to the owner of the vehicle. Chief Sutton stated the criminal process must be triggered first for the ordinance to go into effect and waiting for tow companies to respond was tying up officers' time. He stated the ordinance also protects people as it restricted the rates companies could charge. Ordinance 2022-1672 was approved 5-0.

Chief Sutton provided an update that the Village, in coordination with G&O Disposal, Code Enforcement, the PHPD, and PHPW, would offer residents a 2 day clean up day at the PW garage. The event will be April 29 – 30. Residents may drop off items that meet criteria for clean up. Chief Sutton praised G & O Disposal for working with the Village to organize the event.

Mayor Phelan praised all of the forthcoming appointees for their hard work and commitment to serving the Village.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to reappoint Mr. Rick Picl to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. The term is for 2022 to 2025. The Board approved the appointment 5-0.

Trustee Wigginton made a motion to reappoint Mr. Mike Woo to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The term is for 2022 to 2025. The Board approved 5-0.

Trustee Wigginton made a motion to reappoint Mr. Greg Fletcher to the Police Pension Fund Board. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The term is for 2022-2024. The Board approved 5-0.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business.

Attorney Walton shared that he had met with representatives from the Peoria Park District, the City of Peoria, and Illinois American Water. The Peoria Park District had just discovered the trail would be closed due to construction, and they were asking for a detour. IAW had previously been against a detour but agreed to comply if the Board approved the route. Attorney Walton shared IAW would purchase signs for the detour, set it up, and shared a picture of the proposed detour. He stated the Village will not incur any expense, and the detour must be approved by the PHPD as safe. Mayor Phelan asked if the item needed to come back before the Board for approval. Attorney Walton stated it could be done administratively if the Board came to a consensus. Mayor Phelan expressed concern approving a detour without public comment, and Attorney Walton concurred. Trustee Khazzam asked Attorney Walton to comment on how long the work would take. Attorney Walton noted the work could be done in 2 weeks but could take up to 6 weeks if the weather doesn't work. Trustee Khazzam asked when work would begin if it was approved immediately. Attorney Walton shared he believed it would begin very shortly. Trustee Khazzam stated she believed it would be better to start sooner rather than delay 2 weeks. Trustee Goett asked about notifications, and Attorney Walton shared the information would be on the Park District website. Trustee Wisenburg asked about signage for pedestrians and expressed concern about detour into traffic.

Trustee DeVore left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Trustee Wigginton reminded the Board that the Board knew the trail would be closed, but the timeline wasn't as had been discussed. The trail was supposed to be closed during the winter. Attorney Walton noted IAW was speaking about barricades and cones as well as paint to mark the detour. He noted that the PHPD would be best to advise on the best way to make the detour safe. Mayor Phelan noted his concern that this had not been part of discussions during the approval process. He stated he didn't want to see the construction stretched out. Trustee Wigginton noted the Village had received property in exchange for the easement, and it would be difficult to back out of the arrangement. Chief Sutton asked Attorney Walton for alternatives. The alternative to the proposed detour was a route along Prospect Road which all representatives agreed was more dangerous. Chief Sutton expressed concern about safety issues as well as parking concerns for the proposed detour. Mayor Phelan noted the situation had changed since the work was approved, and Trustee Wigginton noted the Park District's insistence on a detour had changed the situation. Mayor Phelan asked if the trustees were comfortable approving the detour. The Board was not comfortable with the suggestions. Mayor Phelan asked Attorney Walton to work with Chief Sutton on a solution. He noted the Village wanted to work with IAW and the Park District.

Trustee Wisenburg shared he had been thinking after the passing of Mr. Roger Bergia, and he wanted to propose that the Village look into designating Glen Avenue as a honorary roadway in Mr. Bergia's memory. Mayor Phelan instructed Chief Sutton to work with Trustee Wisenburg on the issue.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 6:48 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk