

Village of Peoria Heights  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 19, 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, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. 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 the April 21, 2020 meeting, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Mayor Phelan asked for public comment. Hearing none, he moved on to the trustees' reports.

Trustee Carter asked the superintendents of Public Works to speak. Superintendent of Water, Mr. David Marfell, explained hydrant flushing was occurring throughout the week. He also noted that it was National Public Works Appreciation Week and thanked the staff for their efficiency. Mr. Marfell finished his updates by sharing that Public Works had just hired a seasonal groundskeeper. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, reported Public Works had delivered sand down to the entrance of Longshore subdivision in anticipation of flooding. He asked residents to call the Water Office with any questions or concerns. Trustee Carter praised Public Works staff for all their hard work.

Trustee Mariscal had nothing to report. Chief Sutton stated work on the damage to the office ceiling would begin soon. Trustee Carter asked about additional leaks. Chief Sutton stated the basement had some leaks a few weeks ago, and Public Works had located the cause. They fixed it, and there haven't been any problems since. The damage has been turned into insurance for reimbursement.

Trustee Khazzam stated the Village's local stimulus program had been a success so far. She reported over 66 businesses had received more than \$85,000 to date. Trustee Khazzam congratulated Mayor Phelan, Chief Sutton, Clerk Turner, and Village consultant, Mr. Steve Kline, on their diligent work. Chief Sutton echoed that he was very proud of the program. He shared he had received a lot of feedback from the businesses this week thanking the Village. Chief Sutton stated the Village would be handing out grant checks at Village Hall on Friday between 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Trustee Goett noted he had nothing to report. Chief Sutton stated it had already been covered under economic development.

Trustee Wisenburg stated that Fire Chief Greg Walters would be appearing at the next meeting to give an update on COVID.

Trustee DeVore reminded residents that social distancing and the stay at home order were still in effect. She praised the police department for their work during the pandemic. Chief Sutton asked residents to report soliciting to the police department as there had been an increase lately. Mayor Phelan noted that some area municipalities were having financial difficulty which might result in cuts to police enforcement. He stated that could have an impact on Peoria Heights. Chief Sutton said he had already

seen an increase in police activity, and there would be an impact. He expressed his confidence in the police department's ability to handle the increase.

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

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve non-union and non-contractual employee raises. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Trustee Goett expressed his support, and Chief Sutton noted the annual cost of living increases would be for 6 full-time employees in a total amount of \$9,615.65. Trustee Mariscal stated it wasn't currently fiscally responsible to give raises. Mayor Phelan noted that the Village had the money available citing the previous year's surplus. He stated that he, Chief Sutton, and Clerk Turner are monitoring the finances on a weekly basis. Chief Sutton stated that he appreciates the Board being fiscally responsible, and he believes the Village is in a strong financial position. He noted that, as Administrator, he wouldn't recommend the increases if it were harmful to the Village. Trustee Wisenburg expressed concern that the Village was not aware of the financial impact yet. He stated the Village should avoid additional expenses until financial data is available. He noted that other local government agencies were freezing raises. Mayor Phelan stated that Trustee Wisenburg could defer the item or vote nay. Trustee Carter suggested holding the nonunion raises until the end of the first quarter. Trustee DeVore stated she would consider supporting a delay to the increases. Trustee Khazzam noted that she heard the other trustees' concerns, but she didn't believe this was where the Board would make cuts in the future should such an option become necessary. Trustee Khazzam asked Clerk Turner if personnel expenses would be first cut, and Clerk Turner noted that was a Board decision. Clerk Turner spoke about the Village's history of working to stay within budget. Trustee Goett stated he had reconsidered. He noted the employees worked hard, and he considered the surplus from the previous year sufficient to handle the increases for employees. Trustee Khazzam noted that the staff in question was critical, and it was money well spent to retain staff to help continue fiscal responsibility. Trustee Wisenburg reiterated that he believed wages should be frozen. Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to defer the approval of non-union and non-contractual employees raises. There was discussion of when the raises should be discussed again. Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to defer the approval of non-union and non-contractual employee raises until July 21, 2020. Trustee Carter seconded the motion to defer. The motion to defer the discussion of raises until July 21, 2020 passed 4-2. Trustees Khazzam and Goett voted nay.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. There was \$2,587,838.84 in the Village controlled accounts, and \$1,150,866.07 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the Treasurer's report.

Mayor Phelan stated he had discussed cancelling the meeting next week with Chief Sutton as there was no pressing business. Trustee Wisenburg stated he would speak to Fire Chief Walters regarding his presentation and inform Administration of the response. Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:41 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk