

Village of Peoria Heights  
Board of Trustees  
August 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:30p.m.

Everyone stood for a moment of silence and the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon calling roll, the following Trustees were present: Sarah DeVore, Jeff Goett, Matthew Wigginton, Brandon Wisenburg. Trustee Beth Khazzam and Trustee Mark Gauf were absent. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, and Village Clerk Stephanie Turner.

Mayor Phelan invited Mr. Rusty Weber forward and read a proclamation in honor of Mr. Weber's many years of service to the Village of Peoria Heights and the Peoria Heights Fire Department. Mr. Weber expressed his appreciation.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Diane Close, 1815 E Terrace View Ln, came forward to express concerns about the status of the Peoria Heights Fire Department. She stated her respect for Fire Chief Thompson but asked why the PHFD had been downgraded to EMR for responses to calls. Chief Sutton spoke to Ms. Close's concerns regarding EMS service and response time by AMT. Mayor Phelan noted the Board has focused primarily on response to fire calls and thanked Ms. Close for her questions. Fire Chief Thompson noted the PHFD had always had an EMR status with a BLS upgrade as far as he was aware. The PHFD had been removed the BLS upgrade due to staffing and the cost of stocking medications. Chief Sutton noted that Ms. Close shared the same goals as the Village, and he emphasized the need to recruit qualified individuals. Fire Chief Thompson spoke to AMT's prompt response to calls as well.

Ms. Julie Bielfeldt came forward to thank the Village and the community for their support of the Farmers' Market this year. She noted the event is halfway through its schedule of every Thursday from 3:00 – 7:00 pm downtown.

Hearing no other public comment, Mayor Phelan closed the meeting to public comments.

Mayor Phelan called for the Board to discuss old business. Hearing no additional old business, the Board moved on to new business.

Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to approve the Lake Street Water Main replacement bid to Hoerr Construction Inc in the amount of \$177,322. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Chris Chandler, explained the water main was to the golf course, and he was recommending the low bid by Hoerr Construction who has done other work for the Village. Chief Sutton noted the Village had been anticipating a much higher cost. The Board voted 4-0 to approve the expense.

Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to approve the Centennial Building aggregate concrete sidewalk replacement in the amount of \$10,000. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Mr. Chandler explained the sidewalk had heaved up due to tree roots and needed to be replaced. The extra cost is due to the

special concrete which will match the other sidewalks in the area. Trustee Wigginton asked if the tree was still present and would cause the issue again. Mr. Chandler explained it was a very old sidewalk and not likely to have issues soon. The Board voted 4-0.

Mr. Chandler shared the Water Company had a water main break at Lake and Boulevard. He noted it took a few days to resolve but was now fixed. Public Works took the opportunity to install two new valves in the area. Mr. Chandler also shared Public Works will be sprucing up the landscaping at Centennial along with the sidewalk repairs. Trustee Wisenburg asked about the age of the Lake Street main, and Mr. Chandler shared the history of the main. Trustee Wigginton shared he had seen Public Works almost every day working on water mains and complimented Public Works on their hard work.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Fire Station masonry repair by Mid-Illinois Companies in the amount of \$12,700. Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. Mr. Chandler explained there's a steel plate holding up the rock work over the fire bay door on the building, and there's a structural issue which needs to be repaired. Trustee Wigginton expressed appreciation for Trustee Goett's work to address the need for repairs. The Board approved the expense 4-0.

Trustee Goett began the discussion of Tower Park improvements. He noted the importance of completing repair projects. The Village has quotes for repairs to the Tower pavilion and bathrooms, the Village Hall marquee sign, the roof over the Observation Tower, and installation of lighting in the fountain. Chief Sutton shared the Village had requested quotes to improve Tower Park ahead of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Village. He noted that some of the expenses may BDD and TIF eligible. He spoke about the timing of replacing the lights since the Village has been making repairs to the Tower Park fountain due to leaks. Trustee Goett expressed support for the projects while noting concern over the costs. Trustee Wisenburg expressed support for replacing the lights while the concrete was open. Trustee Wigginton asked when the concrete would be replaced. Mr. Chandler shared it would be replaced soon depending on weather. Chief Sutton asked if the Board was in agreement with proceeding with the presented projects pending funding. Trustee Wigginton expressed support particularly for the work on the fountain. Mayor Phelan stated he'd put all of the items on the agenda for action at the next meeting.

Director of Community Development, Mr. Wayne Aldrich, updated the Board that the Together We Play project is in the design phase. Equipment has been ordered, and there's an anticipated two month lead time. A development project on War Memorial Drive will be going to the Zoning Board of Approvals soon, and Mr. Aldrich is working on negotiating a development agreement. He'll be meeting with staff and Woodard Curran regarding the water capital improvement plan this week. Additionally, Mr. Aldrich will be continuing to apply to grants for community projects including reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce about partnering to apply for a grant for a community festival. Mayor Phelan asked Mr. Aldrich to elaborate on the complications facing the developments on War Memorial Drive. Mr. Aldrich explained that decades ago IDOT gained authority over commercial access to War Memorial Drive. As such, IDOT is able to approve or deny commercial access to War Memorial Drive. The Village has been working with IDOT and development projects which has caused some delays. Trustee Wisenburg asked for an update on Galena Road. Mr. Aldrich shared the Village had recently had a meeting with IDOT including the Secretary of Transportation and many other high level representatives from IDOT. The project is complicated by the addition of a bike trail on the west side, and IDOT is working to understand the impact on nearby properties. The Village is currently working with IDOT to provide information on potential developments and details of the region. Trustee Wigginton thanked Mr. Aldrich for providing

the Village with a tour of the development he facilitated in Normal recently. Mayor Phelan thanked Mayor Koos, of Normal, for hosting the Village and showing the development of the town.

Chief Sutton stated the position for the paid firefighter has been advertised, and the Village has already received a half dozen applications. It's open through the end of the week. Chief Sutton also updated the Board that he had worked the resident who commented on speeding at the last meeting, and they were able to identify the problem and address it.

The Board moved on to miscellaneous business.

Trustee Wisenburg stated there was a barricade over a catch basin on Montclair. Mr. Chandler noted he had spoken to the resident today, and the Village is working its way through a list of repairs. He stated it would be repaired soon.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 4-0 to adjourn at 6:27 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk