

Village of Peoria Heights  
Board of Trustees  
August 17, 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: Sarah DeVore, Jeff Goett, Beth Khazzam, David Marfell, Matthew Wigginton, Brandon Wisenburg. 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 meetings held on July 20, 2021, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Wisenburg. The Board voted to approve the minutes 6-0.

Mayor Phelan had no announcements. He opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no public comment, he closed the meeting to public comments.

Mayor Phelan invited Ms. Julie Bielfieldt and Ms. Jane Johnson forward to provide an update on the Bridge to Bridge River Drive event. Ms. Bielfieldt stated the would be September 18-19, 2021 and feature river communities. Each community will be hosting different festivities. Market efforts have included printing 5,000 brochures and hiring a social media coordinator. Ms. Bielfieldt stated some of the local restaurants will offer a sneak peak of their dishes for the Taste of the Heights. She also stated that there would be a pig roast with a portion of the benefits being donated to local first responders. Ms. Bielfieldt encouraged people to visit the Bridge to Bridge website for full details.

Mayor Phelan thanked the ladies for their update and asked for the trustees' reports.

Trustee DeVore reminded everyone the next strategic planning session would be August 28, 2021.

Trustee Goett had nothing to report.

Trustee Khazzam reported that the Economic Development Council had its quarterly meeting that afternoon. She shared that Mr. Setti, of the Greater Peoria EDC, was promoting a grant for local businesses. She encouraged business owners to look into the program. She also reminded everyone that the Taste of the Heights would be September 23, 2021.

Trustee Wisenburg stated that the Village had placed the order for the playground equipment and estimated it would be installed in October. He also stated that the Peoria Heights Lions' Club had donated an additional \$4,000 to the project.

Trustee Marfell explained the Public Works Department's new backhoe should be delivered any day. He also stated sealcoating would be Monday, August 23 and Tuesday, August 24.

Trustee Wigginton reminded residents to use the nonemergency number if they see solicitors in their neighborhoods. Chief Sutton explained there had been an increase in calls of people knocking on doors asking for money. He encouraged residents to contact the police if contacted.

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

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the request to use Tower Park for the White Cane Day event on October 15, 2021. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Clerk Turner explained the event had been approved for 2020, but it had been cancelled due to COVID. Trustee Wisenburg noted he'd received an email from the organizer, who couldn't attend, and he shared details which include plans for music, food vendors, and solicitation of donations. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the event.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-1662: an Ordinance Pertaining to the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained that the ordinance contained conditions the Board must approve to receive federal COVID recovery funds. The Board approved Ordinance 2021-1662 by a vote of 6-0.

Trustee Marfell made a motion to approve the easement agreement with Illinois American Water, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Attorney Walton explained the agreement was to provide a fairly large easement to Illinois American Water so they could install a water main. In exchange, the Village would receive 10 acres of land. Attorney Walton noted the language in the easement is very similar to the language of the easement with Ameren. He explained that Illinois American Water has stated it would need 40 working days to complete construction and would require the trail to be shut down. He noted once it was completed it was unlikely to need maintenance that would shut down the trail for some time. Attorney Walton shared Illinois American Water offered to complete the construction later in the year when the use of the trail is reduced. Trustee Khazzam asked where exactly the trail would be closed. Attorney Walton stated he hadn't received an answer. Trustee Marfell explained that the line is to connect this side of town with other lines to the north. He described the area where the main would be installed which was primarily from around Marietta Ave up along the trail to Frances Ave. Trustees Khazzam, Wisenburg, and DeVore all expressed concerns that the construction could take longer. Trustee Marfell speculated that the estimate was a worst case scenario. Mayor Phelan suggested the Board make a motion to defer. Attorney Walton agreed suggesting the Board take additional time to consider the easement until Illinois American Water could send a representative to discuss construction. Fire Chief Thompson asked if hydrants could be installed along the line. Trustee Marfell asked Attorney Walton to detail specific water equipment, including automatic shut off valves at either end of the transmission line, which he had previously discussed with Illinois American Water when he had been employed at the Village. Trustee Wigginton asked if there was any protection that the Village would receive the land since it wasn't in the agreement. Attorney Walton stated there was a signed agreement. Trustee DeVore asked if the Village had authority to shut down the trail or if it required Peoria Park District's authority. Attorney Walton expressed concern that they might need the Park District's approval. Attorney Walton and Trustee Wigginton discussed the legal status of the trail. Trustee DeVore made a motion to defer the matter. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to defer the matter.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the proposal from Ruyle to replace the furnace at Fire Station #2 in the amount of \$6,600. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee Goett stated the furnace would be removed and replaced. Fire Chief Thompson explained that both furnaces had failed, and they needed to replace one. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the proposal with Ruyle.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Hearing none, he moved on to payment of the bills.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Trustee Marfell seconded the motion. There were no questions about the bills. The Board voted 6-0 to approve payment of the bills.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of July, there was \$4,681,756.09 in the Village controlled accounts and \$1,604,683.87 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 DeVore made a motion to enter executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss personnel. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. The motion to enter into executive session passed 6-0, and the Board left open session at 6:35 pm.

The Board of Trustee reconvened regular session at 7:52 pm. Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Marfell seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:53 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk