

Village of Peoria Heights
Departmental Meeting
September 22, 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, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on August 1, 2020 and the departmental meeting on September 1, 2020. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no public comment, Mayor Phelan asked for old business. Hearing none, he moved on to new business.

Trustee Carter made a motion to move approve of the estimate for the inspection of Water Well #12, not to exceed a cost of \$10,772, to the Board meeting for action. Trustee Wisenburg seconded. Mr. Marfell, Superintendent of Water, explained the well was built in 2010 but hadn't been in use since because it produces dirty water. Mr. Marfell noted the Water Company had budgeted \$100,000 for well rehab, and this well should be the first to be reviewed. He noted the expenditure is for work to identify possible problems, and it won't include costs to repair the well. Trustee Khazzam asked how long an estimate for repairs would be valid. Mr. Marfell said proposals were for 30 days. Trustee Khazzam asked if the company had done work for the Water Company before, and Mr. Marfell said they had. Trustee Khazzam asked about the clause that stated additional hours would be billed above the estimate costs, and Mr. Marfell replied the proposal was deliberately included more labor hours as a cushion. Trustee Mariscal asked if the Water Company needed the well, and Mr. Marfell stated they did. Trustee Mariscal asked how it had been inoperable for so long if it was needed. Mr. Marfell explained due to aging wells it was becoming more important. Trustee Mariscal asked about a warranty, and Mr. Marfell explained the company that installed the well refused to provide service to the well. Trustee Carter asked Attorney Walton if the Village could pursue legal action against the builders of the well if inspection proved the work was incomplete. Attorney Walton stated it was possible, and he'd have to review the contract. The Board voted 6-0 to move the item to the Board meeting for action.

Trustee Carter introduced a discussion of the Samuel Avenue roadway and parking design. Attorney Walton stated the main concern was parking, traffic flow, and the width of the roadway. He noted there were problems and benefits with every option. Ms. Alicia Hermann, the Village engineer, came forward to explain the options. One option features 60° angled parking in front of the condo with no parking across the street from it. The second option features 45° angled parking in front of the condo with additional parking across the street from it. Due to the require road spacing, the other parking options are limited. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the barbershop, which currently has parking in front of it, would be able to use the parking in front of the condo. Ms. Hermann explained the parking in front of the condo will be public. Ms. Hermann stated there was a third option for reverse angled parking. She explained that the parking spots are designed to be backed into, and they're considered safer since the

vehicles pull forward when leaving. Ms. Hermann explained it allows for parking on both sides of the street and for more parking spots. Ms. Hermann added there needed to be additional conversations about spacing for emergency vehicles, but she wanted feedback from the Board of Trustees about the designs to narrow future options. Trustee Wisenburg expressed concern for drivers backing up into spots. Trustee Goett stated support for the reverse angled parking, and Trustee Mariscal agreed. Trustee Khazzam stated she didn't like reverse angled parking, but she did like the extra parking spots. She expressed it would be a disservice to the business owner to remove parking spots from the front of his business. Trustee Khazzam stated support for the third option. Fire Chief Walters and the Board of Trustees briefly discussed options for emergency vehicle parking. Fire Chief Walters agreed to do more research on the requirements. Trustee DeVore asked if the utilities on Samuel were going to be buried. Trustee Khazzam explained that was the responsibility of the developer. The developer, Ms. Katie Kim, explained it was the intention to bury the utilities, but there were ongoing discussions on the issue. Mayor Phelan asked Chief Sutton to organize a meeting with all relevant parties in order to reach a consensus and provide a recommendation. Ms. Hermann asked the Board if they were in favor of reversed angled parking, and Trustee DeVore clarified she wanted to maximize parking. Ms. Hermann also asked if the Board preferred parking on both sides further east on Samuel or if they preferred a wider street. Trustee Mariscal asked if land would be needed in expand the road. Ms. Hermann explained it would be within the Village's easement. Trustee Carter said she was in favor of parking on both sides. Trustee DeVore stated she'd like to see the design which had been presented in the site plan for the project. Trustee Goett stated he preferred wider roads. Mayor Phelan asked the Board to email Chief Sutton their comments. Ms. Kim expressed that she believed there'd be fewer cars parking on the street because the houses are going to have garages. She stated that a wider road would encourage speeding, take away green space, trees, and sidewalk space. Trustee DeVore asked if the engineers could provide the Board of Trustees with drawings for the narrowest and the widest road options.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to move the ordinance amending the Village code for the purpose of licensing and regulating rickshaws operating in the Village to the next meeting for action, and Trustee Goett seconded. Trustee Khazzam invited Mr. Mike McCormick to come forward to speak. Mr. McCormick explained his plan was to provide taxi services in a rickshaw as an entertainment ride. Trustee Khazzam asked how often he planned to run the vehicle. Mr. McCormick stated he planned to operate seasonally. Trustee Khazzam asked about fees, and Mr. McCormick stated he'd charge by the minute, and he was planning to provide tours as well. Trustee Khazzam said she thought it was an exciting prospect. Attorney Walton came forward to explain the ordinance was similar to the pedal bus ordinance and provided the Village with an opportunity to inspect the vehicle for safety purposes. He noted the ordinance wasn't designed to be onerous to the operator. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the vehicle was motorized. Mr. McCormick stated it was pedaled. Trustee Carter asked if the tours would compete with the tours of the pedal bus. Attorney Walton stated it was different. Mr. McCormick elaborated the tours would be more a brief highlight of interesting places. Trustee Khazzam likened the idea to a carriage ride.

Trustee Goett made a motion to move the donations to local food pantries to the Board meeting for action, and Trustee Khazzam seconded. Chief Sutton explained that the Village was investigating grant options but didn't want to delay providing the food pantries with funds. The donations will be \$1,000 each to St. Thomas and Peoria Heights Congregational Church. The Board voted 6-0 to move the donations to the Board meeting for action.

Mayor Phelan stated the Board had not voted on the motion to move the ordinance regulating rickshaw to the next meeting. The Board then voted 6-0 to move the ordinance to the next meeting for action.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Chuck's Auto Sales quarterly review. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Trustee Goett explained it was a standard quarterly review. There was no additional discussion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the quarterly review.

Trustee Wisenburg introduced discussion of the fire department survey questions and methods. He stated the Board had previously discussed more efficient methods of gauging residents' opinions. Trustee Khazzam clarified the Board was still posing a nonbinding ballot referendum. Trustee Wisenburg agreed. Attorney Walton explained he had some ideas for survey questions, and he needed feedback from the Board. Attorney Walton agreed to send possible questions and engage the Board members on their thoughts.

Trustee DeVore introduced discussion of open burning regulations. Trustee DeVore stated a resident had complained about burning which prompted a review of the current ordinance. Trustee DeVore stated some of the options suggested, like additional yard waste pick ups or pushing leaves to the street, would increase costs to the Village. Trustee DeVore said she believed the current ordinance was very clear, but she wanted discussion. Trustee Mariscal stated she didn't believe burning leaves was necessary since the Village provided landscape waste pick up. Trustee DeVore noted not everyone was able to bag all of their leaves. Trustee Goett stated he didn't want to change the current ordinance. Trustee DeVore suggested limiting burn days as a compromise. Trustee Mariscal pointed out that by limiting to certain days it would concentrate the smoke and increase the problem. Chief Sutton stated he knew that this was a controversial issue. He suggested limiting burning to a few days, rather than just one, while cautioning that residents would likely complain about restrictions. Trustee Mariscal asked the point of paying for landscape waste while allowing burning, and Chief Sutton replied that a lot of residents utilized the service and it prevented burning. Trustee Mariscal noted Trustee Wisenburg had previously suggested restricting burning to certain months of the year. Trustee Wisenburg explained bagging leaves was physically taxing, and he had since had concerns about requiring bagging for those who were unable to do so. He continued on to state the current ordinance restricted burning to times when the smoke was readily dissipated into the atmosphere so the ordinance already addressed the complaint. Chief Sutton noted the police department responded to similar issues, and they were typically resolved without ongoing calls. Trustee Mariscal stated she disagreed with the hours of open burning and suggested changing the hours. Trustees Goett and DeVore disagreed with Trustee Mariscal. Trustee Mariscal suggested residents could sweep leaves into the street. Mr. Marfell said Public Works doesn't have the location or ability to dispose of leaves for the whole Village. Trustee Wisenburg stated a resident can't legally blow smoke into another resident's house which was the original complaint. Mayor Phelan noted he had received some calls so he put the item on the agenda for discussion. He asked anyone wishing to amend the ordinance work with Trustee DeVore.

Trustee DeVore announced that the Village had recently received a letter from the Illinois State Police congratulating the Peoria Heights Police Department on their recent LEADS audit. The audit reviews records and documentation for accuracy as well administrative and operational procedures. The audit found the PHPD to be in full compliance with LEADS/NCIC rules, regulations, and policies as well as thanked the PHPD staff for their cooperation. Trustee DeVore congratulated the PHPD on their hard work and success.

Mayor Phelan moved on to a presentation from Mr. Scott Sorrel, Peoria County Administrator, on property taxes and levying. Mr. Sorrel explained the 8 step process for levying, collecting, and distributing property taxes. Mr. Sorrel explained the breakdown of the property types within the Village

and spoke about the specifics of the Village's 2019 levy. Mr. Sorrel ended the presentation with a sample property tax bill and noted the Village's portion of the total property taxes is very small. Trustee Wisenburg asked Mr. Sorrel if increasing the levy \$25,000 was a property tax increase, and Mr. Sorrel agreed. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the government was required to send notice to residents if the levying body increased its levy 4.9%. Mr. Sorrel explained notifications are required when the levy increases 5% or more, and the notification requirements vary by levying body. Trustee Wisenburg asked Mr. Sorrel if most taxing bodies raised it below the notification limit. Mr. Sorrel stated he didn't track all levying bodies. He explained Peoria County focuses its efforts on their tax rate rather than their total levy and as a result the levy then fluctuated based on the assessed valuations within the County. Trustee Wisenburg noted the tax rate of the City of Peoria was approximately three times of tax rate of the Village. Mayor Phelan asked Mr. Sorrel if the Peoria County Board had focused on the economy to increase revenue as opposed to the property taxes. Mr. Sorrel agreed. He noted increasing the diversity of the tax base had helped to grow the economy and shifted the property tax burden to the commercial rather than residential. Mayor Phelan thanked Mr. Sorrel for his presentation.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to enter executive session.

Trustee Goett made a motion to enter executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) for purposes of discussing collective bargaining. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to enter executive session at 7:46 pm.

Regular session reconvened at 8:06 pm. Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:07 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk