

Village of Peoria Heights
Departmental Meeting
October 6, 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 Goett made a motion to approve the minutes from September 22, 2020. Trustee Mariscal 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.

Trustee Mariscal asked to discuss amending the burning ordinance. She asked if any of the Board members were interested in making changes. Trustee Goett stated he was not. Trustee Mariscal expressed concern for the amount of smoke created by burning wet leaves. Trustee Goett noted there are residents who don't want to restrict burning. Trustee Mariscal asked about restricting burning to certain months of the year. She specified allowing it only in the spring and fall. Trustee Wisenburg noted that the City of Chillicothe has such an ordinance. Trustee Mariscal stated it would be a start. Trustee DeVore stated she wasn't opposed. Trustee Carter asked how the Village would notify residents. Trustee Khazzam suggested putting the information on the website. Chief Sutton agreed and stated the Village could also draft a news release. Chief Sutton emphasized that regardless residents should contact the Police Department for assistance if smoke is blowing in from a neighbor's burning. Trustee Carter stated she might support restrictions, but she wouldn't support a full ban. Trustee Goett expressed that a compromise to only allow burning in certain months could be beneficial. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the ordinance could be framed to differentiate between residences above the hill versus below the hill. Chief Sutton stated it could, but it would create a lot of problems. The trustees agreed to discuss a compromise, and Mayor Phelan requested it be put on the agenda for discussion.

Trustee Mariscal asked for an update on the candy store to be opened on Kingman. Chief Sutton stated he hadn't heard any news, but he would share any he did receive.

Hearing no additional old business, the Board moved on to new business.

Trustee Carter made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02: a Resolution in Support of the Application for Roadway Project Funding Through the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Trustee Carter explained the resolution was a required step to receive funding for the 2" mill and overlay of the Forest Park Drive. Trustee Wisenburg asked about the project, and Attorney Walton explained the resolution was a commitment to pay 20% of the cost of the project. Resolution 2020-02 supporting the application for funding through Tri-County was approved 6-0.

Trustee Carter introduced the discussion of a request from Illinois American Water to install a water main in the Village easement. Trustee Carter reminded the Board that the request had been previously discussed. Mr. David Marfell, Superintendent of Water, came forward to explain the water main, which would run down Toledo Avenue, would be connected to the Peoria Heights Water system by an interconnect valve which would allow the PHWW to access IAW's system in case of an emergency. Mr. Marfell noted that IAW had agreed to replace the interconnect valve located on Lake as well. IAW would also install automated control valves at both ends of the project. The valve will automatically close if there is a drop in water pressure in order to prevent flooding in the case of a water main break. Mr. Marfell explained that in return for allowing the installation of the water main IAW has offered 10.66 acres of land located on Gardner Ln for the Village to use as a dump site. Mr. Marfell stated the site should be sufficient for use for 15-20 years. Chief Sutton noted that the Village had not yet received a letter of intent from IAW, but he wanted to bring this discussion to the Board's attention. Chief Sutton added there were multiple benefits to the Village from the project. Trustee Wisenburg asked when it was last discussed. Mr. Marfell explained it was discussed once prior to Trustee Wisenburg's term, and then again more recently. Trustee Mariscal asked if IAW would be directional boring, and Mr. Marfell answered they would. Chief Sutton stated he would bring the issue back to the Board for approval once the Village received a letter of intent from IAW.

Trustee Carter made a motion to approve the Samuel Avenue parking design, and Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Attorney Walton explained there were two options for the Board's consideration. One option features pull in parking, and the other option features back in parking. Attorney Walton explained both designs had solutions for parking for emergency vehicles. Chief Sutton stated his recommendation was for the design featuring pull in parking. Trustee Khazzam noted the sidewalks in the designs were 5' while the requirement was for 4' sidewalks. She questioned if the sidewalk could be reduced to create more drive space. Attorney Walton replied the Village was trying to move toward 5' sidewalks, and it would be inconsistent. He didn't recommend setting the precedent. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the street design with the pull in back out parking with parallel parking on the north side, and Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The motion to approve the design passed 6-0.

Trustee Carter invited Mr. Marfell forward to make additional announcements. Mr. Marfell noted the memorial fire hydrant in Tower Park for Ms. Irene Hasenstein had been completed. Mr. Marfell also shared that Heights Flowers had donated fall flowers for the pots on Prospect and in Tower Park.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1635: an Ordinance Amending the Village Code of the Village of Peoria Heights for the Purpose of Adding a New Chapter 8B Providing for Licensing and Regulation of Pedicabs Operating Within the Village, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam noted that Mr. McCormick had presented his idea for the pedicab previously. There was no additional discussion. Ordinance 2020-1635 approving pedicabs passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the site plan application at 1324 E Samuel Avenue by PH Samuel, LLC. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam noted the site plan had been reviewed at the last Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, and there had been nominal changes recommended. Trustee Carter asked about the location of the property and if it would be similar to another home built by PH Samuel. The developer, Ms. Katie Kim, explained that the house would be an oversized 2 story home as opposed to a 3 story home. Trustee Khazzam asked if the house would be a similar design, and Ms. Kim explained it would have more glass. The site plan was approved 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve a donation of \$1,000 to Peoria Heights Congregational Church Food Pantry. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee Goett stated there was a lot of need in the community. Mayor Phelan agreed and commended both organizations. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the funds were budgeted, and Chief Suttons stated they were. The donation was approved 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve a donation of \$1,000 to St. Thomas Community Center/St. Rose Village Kitchen. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The donation was approved 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to cancel the meeting on November 3, 2020. Trustee Mariscal seconded the motion. Trustee Goett noted the date was Election Day. Trustee Carter stated she didn't recall cancelling in previous years and asked what would happen to agenda items. Chief Sutton explained items would be acted on before the meeting or held. Attorney Walton noted the Board could always hold an emergency meeting with 48 hour notice if necessary. The motion to cancel the meeting on November 3, 2020 passed 5-1. Trustee Wisenburg voted nay.

Trustee Wisenburg introduced the discussion of the Peoria Heights Fire Department survey questions and methods. He stated Attorney Walton had sent out sample questions to the Board and asked for feedback. The survey questions should be determined prior to the ballot question as that didn't need to be decided until February. Trustee Goett asked if the survey should be conducted before holding informational meetings. Trustee Khazzam said the Board needed to know if the residents were even aware of the issue. Attorney Walton noted his sample questions assumed that the Village didn't need to ask if residents wanted to keep the PHFD if it cost less. Trustee DeVore said she believed the Village should ask which service the residents preferred all things equal without cost considerations. Attorney Walton asked the Board if they were unwilling to contract with the City of Peoria regardless of savings. Trustee Khazzam stated the Board of Trustees definitely needed to consider any options which could save the Village money. Chief Sutton acknowledged the Board's reluctance to contract with the City of Peoria while stating Fire Chief Walters had not provided a long term solution. Trustee Khazzam agreed stating that Fire Chief Walters had sacrificed to give the Village time to discuss the situation. Trustee Carter stated she was most interested in finding out if residents were willing to pay increased taxes in order to fund the PHFD. Chief Sutton noted that Trustee Carter was recommending something similar to the ballot regarding the ambulance. Trustee Carter requested the funding be a property tax be specific to a fire protection or safety tax in order to limit funding uses. Trustee Wisenburg stated the Village shouldn't discuss increasing taxes when it previously had a surplus. He asked Clerk Turner at what point the Village received more funding than was legal. Clerk Turner stated since the Village had only recently achieved 3 months of expenditures in reserves, which was best accounting practice, the Village hadn't come close to exceeding any relevant caps. Trustee Wisenburg stated the PHFD's requests should be paid with surplus funds, and infrastructure improvements should be funded through increased taxes. Chief Sutton asked if the Board of Trustees was comfortable with the volunteer department if it was sustainable through volunteer service. The Board overwhelmingly stated they were comfortable. Trustee Khazzam noted that the Board would need to address the issue of a fire chief at some point. Attorney Walton suggested the Board of Trustees should email questions to himself and Trustee Wisenburg rather than attempt a working session. The Board of Trustees agreed to continue working on survey questions with Attorney Walton.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Village of Peoria Heights and the Policemen's Benevolent Labor Committee. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the contract ended during the early months of the COVID pandemic, and the union graciously agreed to delay approval of the contract. Chief Sutton applauded the Board,

Mayor Phelan, and the union for delaying the contract until after the first fiscal quarter to assess the Village's financial position. Chief Sutton expressed he believes the contract is beneficial for all parties. The police union contract was approved 6-0.

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

Trustee DeVore made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the bills.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Mariscal seconded. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:09 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk