

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees
January 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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, Elizabeth Khazzam, Mark Gauf, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Trustee Khazzam was present by telephone. The Mayor has previously found that it is not prudent to require in person attendance given the ongoing spread of the COVID virus, and his determination remains in effect due to the ongoing disaster proclamation by the Governor. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, and Village Clerk Stephanie Turner.

Trustee Gauf made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on December 6, 2022. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes 6-0.

Clerk Turner read a letter from Ms. Jill Wakefield, President of the Chamber of Commerce, thanking the Village for sponsoring a Kringle hut at the Kris Kringle Market. Ms. Wakefield noted the Village's generosity helped to build a magical event for celebrating the holidays for years to come. Clerk Turner also read a letter from Mr. Tom Horstmann praising the Peoria Heights Public Works crew for their quick work fixing a major water leak recently. He noted the Public Works crew does a great job and offered a pat on the back for a job well done. Mayor Phelan took the opportunity to thank the Public Works crew for their long day on Christmas repairing a water main break.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no public comment, Mayor Phelan closed the meeting to public comments and moved on to old business. Hearing no old business, the Board moved on to new business.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the use of Tower Park for Farmers' Market on Thursdays from May 25 – September 28, 2023. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted the organizer, Ms. Julie Bielfeldt, was present. Ms. Bielfeldt detailed how the event moved locations last year and shared her observations that the event when held at Tower Park had encouraged families to come and linger. She stated the location was ideal. Trustee Wisenburg asked Mr. Aldrich if the construction of the playground in Tower Park would conflict with the event. Mr. Aldrich noted he'd coordinate construction and the start of the event. Ms. Bielfeldt stated she'd work with the Village however necessary during the construction. The Board approved the event 6-0.

Trustee Gauf made a motion to approve an engineering agreement with Hermann and Associates in the amount of \$31,512.00 for construction engineering for the Forest Park Drive mill/overlay project. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Gauf explained the Board needs to approve the contract so the engineers can finish out the design for repairs on Forest Park Drive. Trustee Wisenburg asked about the scope of the project, and Trustee Gauf explained the work would mill off and overlay Forest Park Drive. Work will be advertised and coordinated with the County. The contract was approved 6-0.

Trustee Gauf made a motion to approve an MFT resolution in the amount of \$523,999.64 for construction and construction engineering of the Forest Park Drive mill/overlay project (consisting of \$373,999.64 REBUILD funds and \$150,000 state MFT funds). Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Gauf explained the money came from various MFT state funding sources. Trustee Wisenburg asked if Forest Park Drive was Village or the Park District property. Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Chris Chandler, explained the Village maintained the road while the Park District maintained the trees. The Board briefly discussed the cash balance of the MFT Fund, and Chief Sutton and Clerk Turner assured the Board there would be sufficient funds for the project. Trustee DeVore when Forest Park was last worked on, and Trustee Gauf noted it had been resurfaced more than 20 years ago. No other work, besides sealcoating, had been completed since then. Trustee Wigginton noted the project cost a lot but would provide long term value. The Board approved the MFT resolution by 6-0.

Trustee Gauf made a motion to approve a resolution in the amount of \$82,800.41 committing local funds for construction and construction engineering of the Forest Park Drive mill/overlay project. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Trustee Gauf explained the funds would be from local MFT funds which are collected on every gallon of gas sold in Peoria Heights. Mr. Chandler explained the project had been in discussion for multiple years, and the Village needed to use REBUILD funds. Trustee Gauf noted that budget plans had been adjusted, but the expense had been planned for. Trustee Wigginton asked for assurance there would be sufficient funds, and Chief Sutton and Clerk Turner explained the cash flow and that there would be sufficient funds. The Board approved the resolution 6-0.

Trustee Gauf explained he had stopped on Lake Avenue and viewed the construction of the main which is being replaced. He stated pipe would be installed very soon. The pipe that is being installed has very long life span so it shouldn't be a problem for a long time. Mr. Aldrich, Director of Community Development, noted the water capital plan had been completed, and the Village will begin discussions of how to finance the projects. Sources of funding include rates, grants, and bonding options. Mr. Aldrich also updated the Board that IDOT had been meeting with property owners along Galena Road regarding the road improvements. IDOT is still in planning stages for the road improvements, and there will be many public meetings and discussions before construction begins.

Mr. Aldrich explained the Village was still waiting to hear on ear-marked funding for Prospect Road. Additionally, new federal funds have recently become available which would be useful in completing the Prospect Road projects. He noted he was optimistic about the Village's opportunities.

Chief Sutton provided an update on the Rouse and Lake properties. He explained there was a process which needed to be followed prior to demolition. The Rouse house was recently demoed. The Lake house is progressing and will be demoed soon. Investigations must be completed, and paperwork must be submitted prior to demolition of the houses. He encouraged anyone with questions to contact him directly so he can provide more detail.

Trustee Wisenburg noted the Village had sold empty lots to Williams Brothers in 2019 with the expectation that houses would be built. He asked if there were any updates. Chief Sutton noted there had been an extension because of COVID but that he would get additional information on the status.

Mayor Phelan explained he had met with the Arts Collaborative who had requested sponsoring an Art Fair. Separately, Chief Sutton had met with another group regarding an Art Fair for the same day. Mayor Phelan has asked the two groups to coordinate their efforts.

The Board moved on to miscellaneous business.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of November, there was \$7,232,393.37 in the Village controlled accounts and \$1,982,178.76 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee Wigginton seconded. The Treasurer's report was approved 6-0.

Trustee Gauf made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. There were no questions on the bills. The Board voted 6-0 to approve payment of the bills.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:10 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk