

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees
January 19, 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: Sherryl Carter, Diane Mariscal, Beth Khazzam, Jeff Goett, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. Trustees Carter and Mariscal were present by telephone. 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 meeting held on December 15, 2020 and the motion was seconded by Trustee Wisenburg. The Board voted to approve the minutes 6-0.

Mayor Phelan announced that he had spoken to Chief Sutton, and Village had would be reopening to the public on January 20, 2021.

Clerk Turner read a letter from Mr. Roland Savoie of the Illinois Valley Striders thanking the Village for allowing the use of Grandview Drive for the Striders' annual Resolution Run on New Year's Day.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no public comment, he moved on to the trustees' reports.

Trustee Carter had nothing to report for Public Works but invited the Superintendents of Public Works forward to comment. Superintendent of Water, Mr. Chris Chandler, came forward to update the Board that there was a water leak that would be fixed in the morning. He stated there was a boil order on Ellen Court due to the break, and there might also be brown water in the area. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, stated that the electrical work to move all of Village Hall to the generator had been finished. Chief Sutton explained the Village was seeking applications for an open position for Laborer in Public Works. The Village will accept applications through Friday, January 22, 2021.

Trustee Mariscal had nothing to report for building maintenance. Chief Sutton stated that there will be testing of the electrical later in the week to make it was successfully moved to the generator.

Trustee Khazzam updated the Board that the river coalition had recently held its quarterly meeting. She noted the Village had not yet received word on the trailhead grant application but was hopeful.

Trustee Goett had nothing to report. Chief Sutton stated that the Village had distributed approximately \$155,000 of the allotted \$250,000 from DCEO, and the program was a huge success. He noted there were several pending Human Resources issues including open positions for Laborer and Fire Chief.

Trustee Wisenburg thanked the members of the hiring committee who reviewed applications for Fire Chief. He stated there had been 5 interviews, and the pool had been narrowed down to 3 candidates for second interviews. The second interviews will be conducted with a smaller committee later this coming week. Mayor Phelan echoed Trustee Wisenburg's thanks to the hiring committee.

Trustee DeVore had nothing to report.

Mayor Phelan asked for old business. Trustee Wisenburg stated he wanted to discuss whether the Fire Chief position should be a full-time or part-time position. Trustee Goett stated he believed the position should be full-time. Trustee Wisenburg agreed as did Trustee Carter. Trustee Khazzam noted that she believed that the Village first needed to determine salary and benefits. Trustee DeVore noted the difficulty of continuing the hiring process without determining if it was a full-time position. Trustee Khazzam agreed it would be difficult while noting that it was important for the Village to do what was best for residents and consider all options. Trustee Wisenburg expressed that the Board had determined recruitment was a primary concern, and he believed that recruitment efforts alone would necessitate a full-time position. Chief Sutton stated that the interview process would help answer a lot of questions including salary. He noted that the second interviews would allow discussion with the candidates. Mayor Phelan noted that the conversation had been ongoing, and the costs had increased over the course of the conversation. He noted adding a full-time position would require a policy meeting for the Board to determine how to fund the salary and benefit costs. Trustee Wisenburg expressed there was a need to make a decision on the position and make progress. Trustee Khazzam disagreed stating that Fire Chief Walters had previously stated he would begin a recruiting program. She asked the progress of that program. Fire Chief Walters stated that the Peoria Heights Fire Department had recruited 6 personnel who were currently being trained. Fire Chief Walters stated the PHFD was moving forward starting the cadet program through the high school. Chief Sutton reiterated that the Village was making progress, and that the Village would know more after the second interviews were completed tomorrow and then the Board would have more information in order to make decisions.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-1643B: IGA and Designating Ordinance Amendment #7 for Peoria Urban Enterprise Zone. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained that the ordinance needed to be amended as it contained a clerical issue. One parcel had been omitted from the legal description. Ordinance 2021-1643B was passed 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the purchase of computers for squad cars in the amount of \$12,820, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained that the item had been budgeted and was previously discussed. Chief Sutton noted that PHPD had budgeted to purchase 6 computers, but the proposal was to purchase 3. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the purchase.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Hearing none, he asked to hear the Treasurer's Report.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of December, there was \$3,695,789.90 in the Village controlled accounts and \$1,376,772.85 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee DeVore seconded. The Treasurer's report was approved 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk