

Village of Peoria Heights
Departmental Meeting
January 4, 2022

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, and Brandon Wisenburg. Trustee DeVore, Trustee Khazzam, and Trustee Marfell were present by telephone. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, and Village Clerk Stephanie Turner.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the minutes from December 7, 2021. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Mayor Phelan invited Ms. Andrea Huprich forward to present to her and Mr. Frank Covello a proclamation in their honor. Mayor Phelan thanked Ms. Huprich and Mr. Covello for donating their time and resources to organize Peoria Heights holiday events. Ms. Huprich thanked the Board and noted the idea came from Mr. Covello who was unable to attend. She praised Mr. Covello's spirit, and his idea to Light the Heights was perfect for the restrictions of the pandemic. She shared the Chamber had received a lot of positive feedback from the community, and they hoped to grow the event.

Mayor Phelan announced two of the Village's newest Public Works laborers, Mr. Curtis Spence and Mr. Jim Bartley, had both passed their water license operator test. Trustee Marfell thanked Mr. Spence and Mr. Bartley for their efforts noting from personal experience it wasn't easy. Trustee Marfell shared the Peoria Heights Waterworks has 3 Class C licensed operators. He stated the licensing requires testing to certify the individuals are able to deliver safe water. Superintendent of Water, Mr. Chris Chandler, congratulated them both as well. Mayor Phelan thanked all of Public Works for their hard work clearing snow over the past weekend.

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

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve BDD No. 2 façade beautification grant application by Prospect Animal Clinic. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam shared Prospect Animal Clinic was asking for \$10,000 for outside beautification projects. She noted the total project is estimated more than \$25,000. Trustee Wigginton commented that he would be voting nay, though it's a very good project, as he believes that the funds should be used for businesses that pay into the fund. Chief Sutton stated the project would enhance Prospect Road though he understood Trustee Wigginton's position. Trustee Wisenburg questioned use of the taxes. Mayor Phelan reminded the Board they could discuss policy for funds and make changes though the BDD had provided the Village with many improvements. The Board voted 4-2 to approve the application by Prospect Animal Clinic. Trustee Wigginton and Trustee Wisenburg voted nay.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01: a Resolution in support of funding for the application for the Rebuild Downtowns and Main Streets Capital Grant through the Department of

Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam stated the resolution was in support of the Village's grant application. The grant request is for \$2,000,000 with an additional commitment of \$500,000 from the Village. Trustee Khazzam noted the Village's application would be strengthened by a commitment. Director of Community Development, Mr. Wayne Aldrich, explained details of grant application which requesting funding for Phase I engineering for improvements to Prospect Road. He noted completing the engineering would allow the Village to request federal funding to complete the project. Trustee Wisenburg asked what the Village would have to show after the engineering was complete. Mr. Aldrich explained it was a necessary first step. Trustee Wisenburg asked about the likelihood of receiving federal funding. Mr. Aldrich stated he was unable to answer that, but he believed there would be a lot of funding opportunities in the future. Mayor Phelan noted the Village had had past success receiving funds because it had plans ready. Trustee Wigginton asked what funding source the Village would use. Chief Sutton stated the project was in premature stages so the funding source hadn't been determined yet though it could be paid for by the General Fund or bonding. Trustee Wigginton asked about the bond rates, and Chief Sutton noted the current rates were very good. Trustee DeVore asked if the Village would be committing \$500,000 prior to receiving grant funds. Mr. Aldrich replied there was no obligation if the Village didn't receive any grant funds. The Board voted 6-0 to approve Resolution 2022-01 supporting the Village's grant application.

Trustee Wigginton made a motion to approve the street closure of Prospect Road for the Peoria Heights Fine Arts Fair on Saturday, May 14, 2022. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Wigginton noted the Peoria Heights Art Collaborative would be putting on the Peoria Heights Fine Arts Fair, and it would be helpful to close the road to keep attendees safe. Ms. Barb Milaccio and Ms. Teresa Dade came forward. Ms. Milaccio stated that the event was asking an additional block be closed to facilitate social distancing and incorporate more restaurants that have expressed interest. The closure would be from Glen Avenue to Kelly Avenue. Previously, the street had been closed to Seiberling Avenue. Trustee Wigginton explained traffic would be rerouted as it was with previous events. Chief Sutton stated the PHPD had the street closures procedure refined. Ms. Milaccio said that artists and the community are already showing excitement about for the event. The street closure was approved 6-0.

Trustee Wigginton made a motion to approve a full-time officer position for the Peoria Heights Police Department. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Wigginton noted the Village residents don't often hear Village officials discussing violent crime whereas the City of Peoria has had a very violent year. He shared statistics of shootings from the City of Peoria while noting the Village is surrounded by the City. He stated the importance of the PHPD. He stated he had to asked Chief Sutton as both the Chief of Police and the Village Administrator to review if another officer was needed. He stated Chief Sutton had classified it as a need rather than a want. Trustee Wigginton noted he had he had then focused on funding, and he had been told the Village could afford the expense. Chief Sutton stated he wouldn't have brought the item to the Board if he didn't believe the Village could afford the hiring. He said he believed it would be in the Village's best interest to get ahead of any problems. As the Village Administrator, he had looked at financing options, and he believed the expense could be offset by reduced overtime costs. Having another officer position would give the PHPD more flexibility in the schedule allowing the PHPD to operate with a four shift system to staff officers during peak times. Trustee DeVore stated she had been working with Chief Sutton from a finance position, and she believes public safety is a priority. Trustee DeVore stated she supported the addition of the position. Trustee Wisenburg agreed expressing concern over crime from the City moving into the Village. Trustee Goett also offered support of the position noting it was necessary expense. Trustee Marfell asked Chief Sutton details of the timeline for getting the officer on the street. Chief Sutton stated he'd review a list of

potential lateral transfers immediately, and he hoped to have someone hired and in uniform within a month. The Board voted 6-0 to approve a full-time officer position for the PHPD.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Trustee Marfell noted with the cold weather it was important for residents to be aware of frozen pipes. He urged residents to safely heat any pipes known to freeze and to identify their interior shut off valves. He stated if an interior shut off didn't work residents should get that repaired as soon as possible. Trustee Marfell also thanked Public Works for their efforts clearing the snow the past week and thanked residents who removed their vehicles from the streets.

Trustee Wigginton thanked Mayor Phelan and Chief Sutton for renegotiating the Village's bonds. He noted the Village would save approximately \$300,000 which was a good offset to the Village's other expenses.

Chief Sutton stated the first presentation of the budget would be February 22, 2022. He'll be meeting with department heads and Board members prior to the presentation to discuss the budget.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:46 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk