

Village of Peoria Heights  
Departmental Meeting  
February 2, 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: Beth Khazzam, Jeff Goett, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. Trustees Sherryl Carter and Diane Mariscal were absent. 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 January 26, 2021. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing none, he closed the meeting to public comment and moved on to old business. Hearing none, the Board moved on to new business.

Mayor Phelan invited Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, forward to discuss the MFT Rebuild Project and FY 21-22 expenditures. Mr. Casey explained that the State of Illinois would be distributing approximately \$405,000 through the REBUILD Illinois Capital Plan to the Village for infrastructure projects. Mr. Casey explained that he had consulted with the Village's engineering firm and determined the Forest Park Drive hill would be the best use of the funds. The Board agreed with Mr. Casey's recommendation, and there was a consensus to move approval of the project to the Board meeting for action. Mr. Casey explained that the Village would also need to approve its next year MFT projects. He noted the Village had been saving funds and would be using reserves to complete an expanded sealcoating program in the coming year. Superintendent of Water, Mr. Chris Chandler, thanked the Public Works crew for their hard work. The crew has fixed several water main breaks recently in addition to duties plowing snow.

Trustee Khazzam introduced discussion of the Peoria Heights Art Collaborative's request for the Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair street closure and donation. She noted that the organizers, Ms. Barb Milaccio and Ms. Theresa McDade, were present to provide more information. Ms. Milaccio stated the event had been cancelled in 2020, but they were excited to go forward with the event. Ms. McDade explained that closing the street would allow space for the artists and as well as space for outdoor dining for the restaurants to kick off a positive summer season. Trustee Wisenburg noted that the request included a donation of \$5,000. He asked if the Village had previously supplied funds to such an event. Trustee Khazzam explained that the Village had previously supplied \$2,800, and Chief Sutton explained that the payments had been made directly to vendors for the event. Ms. Milaccio stated the request was higher because they were reluctant to ask the past sponsors of the event, which were the restaurants, for funds. Trustee Wisenburg asked why the requests weren't run through the Chamber. Chief Sutton noted that would be the normal path, and the Village was working with the Chamber to work through issues so they could facilitate such events. Ms. Milaccio stated she felt that the event was separate from the Peoria Heights Chamber and was concerned to take funds from the Chamber. Trustee Khazzam asked how many people had attended the first art fair. Ms. Milaccio estimated it was around 2,000 people. Trustee Khazzam noted that the event fell within the ongoing discussions of developing the Village as an art community. Trustee DeVore explained the Village has had to make reductions to

spending as a result of the pandemic and stated that she felt anything outside of security, such as the request for port-a-potties, would need to be paid for out of the Village's donated funds. Trustee DeVore asked how much the previous event had cost. Ms. Milaccio stated it was just under \$15,000. Trustee DeVore asked if there had been any fundraising for the art fair. Ms. Milaccio stated they had previously raised around \$5,000. Mayor Phelan thanked them for taking ownership for creating such an event rather than letting the responsibility fall on the Village. Trustee Wisenburg expressed support for community development but was concerned donating to the event would set a precedent for subsidizing private events in the Village. He noted that it raised the question of what events would be funded. Trustee Khazzam noted she shared those concerns, but that the Village currently had funds. She recommended funding events on a case-by-case basis. Trustee Wisenburg asked why the event wasn't sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce if it was so important for economic development. Ms. Julie Biefeldt, who is a member of the Peoria Heights Arts Collaborative, came forward to explain the Arts Collab's history. Trustee DeVore noted that the Arts Collab was parallel to the Chamber of Commerce as its own entity. Chief Sutton noted request was for the road closure as well. He said the first year part of Prospect was closed, and it had caused problems. Chief Sutton had recommended last year that both sides of Prospect be closed. Trustee Wisenburg stated as he recalled the Board had been in favor if the side streets in the detour had their speed limit temporarily reduced to 25 mph. The Board agreed, and both items will be moved the next meeting for further action.

Trustee Khazzam introduced discussion of the Peoria County Night of Hope's request for the use of Tower Park on October 2, 2021. There were no questions. The item will be moved to the Board meeting for further action.

Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-1644: An Ordinance Amending Title 1, Chapter 8F of the Village Code of the Village of Peoria Heights, Regarding the Office of the Chief of the Fire Department of the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Trustee Wisenburg noted that the ordinance specified that the Fire Chief would report to the Village Administrator. The Board approved Ordinance 2021-1644 by a vote of 4-0.

Mayor Phelan announced he was honored to offer the appointment of Mr. Christopher Ahart to the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District Board for the consideration of the Board. Mayor Phelan noted that Mr. Ahart, who is both Deputy Chief for the Peoria Heights Police Department as well as a member of the Peoria Heights School Board, was uniquely positioned to represent the Village on the transit board. Trustee Goett made a motion to appoint Mr. Ahart, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The appointment of Mr. Ahart was approved 4-0.

Mayor Phelan asked if the Board had any miscellaneous business for discussion. There was none.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0 to approve the payment of the bills.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:37 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk