

Village of Peoria Heights  
Departmental Committee Meeting

February 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Everyone stood for the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon roll call, the following Trustees were present: Harn, Goett, Reichert, Diane Mariscal, and Carter. Trustee Dan Mariscal was absent. Others present include: Mayor Phelan, Administrator Sutton, Deputy Village Clerk Witbracht, and Water Technician David Marfell.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the minutes from February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Trustee Harn seconded the motion which passed 5 -0.

Comments from the Audience: There were no comments.

Old Business: Trustee Carter inquired about a sign designating Village Hall, and Administrator Sutton explained that Public Works will be constructing that in their down time.

New Business:

Trustee Carter gave a landlord registration update explaining that we have received about \$60,000 and that there are about 200 outstanding invoices not being paid thus far. Administrator Sutton thanked everyone for their cooperation and explained that he is receiving positive feedback from renters. Trustee Harn inquired about the fee schedule and stated that he would like them revisited. Administrator Sutton explained that he has not received many complaints and that he has met with everyone to explain in person.

Trustee Reichert went over the 2018 statistics for the Fire Department calls.

Trustee Harn congratulated the Peoria Heights Waterworks Department on their reward received for the 2018 water system of the year through the Illinois Rural Water Association. Dave Marfell explained that the award was received due to the updates and improvements made throughout the last 6 years. Dave also thanked Emily Smesrud for her involvement with the water office and being a very large part of that. Administrator Sutton explained that he received drainage complaints this past weekend on Marietta, and Public Works dug out the effected section and built a drainage fence very efficiently. He also explained that a public works union contract will be presented to the board next week.

Trustee Diane Mariscal made a motion to approve the Letter of Understanding Regarding Movie Presentations at the next full board meeting. Trustee Goett seconded the motion which approved 5-0 and will be sent to the full board. Chris Chandler from HatHook Media came forward to show his support and excitement for the events. Sarah gave an update on the upcoming events.

Trustee Diane Mariscal gave an update on the 2019-2020 budget. Administrator Sutton thanked everyone for their hard work on this and stated that he was very pleased with the surplus.

Stephanie Turner came forward to give a presentation on the budget. Some of the highlights include a \$156,000 surplus in the village and \$131,000 surplus in the waterworks department. She explained that most of the budget comes from sales tax, and that the landlord registration fee will play a very large part in creating the surplus as well as licenses, permit, and electrical fees. She explained that water and street is saving from absorbing the Director of Public works position into two existing employees. She also explained that the cash balance overall is increasing overtime. Mayor Phelan explained that the village's share of property taxes is close to 5 cents per dollar, which makes sales tax so crucial. Stephanie explained that when someone dines out, it pays for 49 percent of our budget. There were some questions on how property taxes are levied and how percentages are set. There were also some questions on the funding of the Police Pension Fund. Trustee Diane Mariscal would like to meet with someone in the future to get a better understanding of how property taxes are allocated. Mayor Phelan stressed the importance of being involved with other taxing bodies and to be vocal about opinions. Mayor Phelan thanked Stephanie for her presentation and stressed the importance of presenting a balanced budget. He strongly feels we can begin improving quality of life by repairing sidewalks, roads, infrastructure, etc. Stephanie feels that conservatively, we will have a \$330,000 surplus before the adoption. Administrator Sutton explained that next month, the board will go line-by-line on the budget for review.

Trustee Goett made a motion and Trustee Harn seconded the approval of the Lupus Walk on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The motion passed 5-0. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-1584; An Ordinance Approving an Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement Between the Village of Peoria Heights and PH Samuel, LLC to be approved at the full board meeting. Trustee Harn seconded the motion which approved 5-0 to be voted on at the next board meeting. Administrator Sutton explained that he has dealt with many complaints on the Samuel Ave. demolition debris, and that a construction fence was constructed right away. Trustee Harn wants a stipulation placed into the contract that clean-up is a requirement. Trustee Carter agrees. Mayor Phelan added that we cannot dictate how a private property upkeep their property, unless it becomes a hazard and then the village can step in. He would also like to see transparency in this project so that the neighbors understand what is going on. The trustees would like to see her clean up her property before we approve the extension. Mayor Phelan reminded everyone that the village does not get involved with the private sale of property, unless TIF funds are involved and then a Redevelopment Agreement needs to be entered.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm with a motion by Trustee Goett and a second by Trustee Harn. The motion was passed 5-0.

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Michael E Phelan, Mayor

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Sarah Witbracht, Deputy Village Clerk

