

Village of Peoria Heights
Departmental Meeting
March 3, 2020

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. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

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

Trustee Carter introduced the discussion of the payment to Hermann and Associates in the amount of \$12,602.40 for engineering of public infrastructure on Samuel Avenue. She explained that the payment is for services overseeing the Samuel Avenue development and future public improvement. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, came forward to explain that Hermann and Associates were helping the Village ensure the project was completed correctly. Chief Sutton stated Hermann and Associates were overseeing the streets, building, and alleys to ensure compliance. Trustee Wisenburg questioned if the expense should be billed to the Kim Group as the developer. Attorney Walton explained the engineering costs were part of the development agreement and would be paid by TIF funds. The item will be sent to the Board meeting for further action.

Trustee Khazzam introduced the request for use of Tower Park for the American Cancer Society's Night of Hope on June 12, 2020 and invited Mr. David Shindley forward to speak about the event. He explained the annual event was to benefit cancer survivors. Hearing no objection, the request will be sent to the next meeting for further action.

Trustee Khazzam introduced the request for use of Tower Park for National Cancer Survivors Day on June 7, 2020. Ms. Kathi Copelen came forward and explained she was a representative from OSF. The event had been first held last year, and she hopes to expand it this year and involve the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses. The expanded event would be called Hope Soars in the Heights. Mayor Phelan thanked Ms. Copelen for her request and asked Trustee Khazzam to facilitate communication. Hearing no objection to the event, the request will be sent to the next meeting for further action.

Trustee Khazzam invited Ms. Rebekah Strasma forward to speak about the request to use Tower Park for public worship concerts on May 31, 2020 and September 19, 2020. Ms. Strasma explained the events would feature local worship bands and be free, family-friendly events. She mentioned the possibility of inviting food vendors to the events. Hearing no objection to the event, the request will be sent to the next meeting for further action.

Trustee Khazzam reported the Village will host a community planning event on March 5, 2020 as a start to the drafting of the Village's comprehensive plan. She explained that the meeting is for the public to come and share their thoughts and goals for the community for the future. She reminded residents that the comprehensive plan will be a blueprint for the Village of the next 20 years. She explained that those

who couldn't attend could participate online by going to the Village's website which contains a link to the survey.

Trustee Goett introduced the Lion's Club request to hold a stop sign fundraising event on October 10, 2020 by inviting Mr. Mark Bean forward to speak. Mr. Bean explained that the organization had submitted applications and supplied insurance for the event. The fundraiser will benefit the organization. Hearing no objection, the request will be sent to the next meeting for further action.

Trustee Goett introduced the Peoria Leatherneck Marine Corps League on October 17, 2020 by inviting the Junior Commandant Mr. Tom Miller forward to speak about the event. Mr. Miller explained the annual fundraising was the organization's only fundraiser for the year. Hearing no objection, the request will be sent to the next meeting for further action.

Trustee Goett explained he had requested Attorney Walton create an ordinance to amend the Village code regarding meeting quorums. Attorney Walton explained the ordinance is written to mirror state statute. It will remove the language which requires four trustees to make a quorum and mirror the state language which requires four members of the Board. This change will include the mayor in the count when determining quorums. Trustee Wisenburg objected noting the current ordinance was passed in 1914 and questioned changing such a longstanding ordinance. He stated his understanding that trustees had sole power and questioned changing the balance. Attorney Walton explained that the mayor had limited circumstances in which he could vote or act. The ordinance under consideration would not make any changes to the mayor's or Board's powers. Attorney Walton emphasized that the ordinance would make it easier to establish a quorum for meetings. Trustee Goett stated the change would ensure that the Village could continue to conduct public business. Trustees DeVore and Mariscal questioned specifics of the ordinance, and Attorney Walton stated again the ordinance did not change voting requirements but rather quorum requirements. Mayor Phelan noted he did not have strong opinions on the ordinance, but Administration had requested the ordinance be discussed. Trustee Khazzam stated that she didn't see a negative consequence to updating the ordinance. Trustee Wisenburg expressed he didn't believe in changing such a long standing policy and emphasized the importance of attendance. Trustee Goett noted the age of the ordinance wasn't inherently a positive attribute. Trustee Mariscal questioned text stricken out by the attorney, and Attorney Walton clarified he eliminated that text because it tends to confuse the issue by adding language about voting into a section about quorum. He stated there is language elsewhere that speaks about voting rules. Trustee Wisenburg asked about the policies of other communities, and Attorney Walton stated he's not seen a similar situation elsewhere. He said other communities typically adopt the same language as the state. Attorney Walton reminded the Board the issue was being discussed because there was a meeting held in January which had time sensitive ordinances, but the Village had only three trustees available. Mayor Phelan noted that this ordinance didn't require immediate action and asked for a motion related to the ordinance. Trustee Goett made a motion to send the ordinance to the next meeting for action, and Trustee Khazzam seconded. The motion to move the ordinance to the next meeting passed 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to cancel the March 17, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The motion to cancel the meeting passed without discussion 6-0.

Trustee Wisenburg introduced the request for payment to Alexis Fire Equipment in the amount of \$5,827.75 and explained Engine 65 suffered a steering box failure going down Forest Park Drive when the power steering went out. He stated the total cost to replace the unit was over \$25,000, but the Fire Department was able to secure repairs to the unit for just under \$6,000. Trustee Mariscal asked if this

was the new truck, and Chief Sutton stated he believed it was. She said she thought the Village had spent a lot of money on the new truck and questioned if it had a warranty. Chief Sutton stated there was a warranty, and he'd get the maintenance history on the vehicle. Trustee DeVore asked when the truck was purchased, and Chief Sutton stated that it was about 4 or 5 years ago. The payment will be moved to the next Board meeting for action.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to make a one time transfer of \$62,668 to the Peoria Heights Police Pension Fund, and Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the transfer had been previously discussed. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the transfer to the Peoria Heights Police Pension Fund.

Mayor Phelan asked if there was miscellaneous business to come before the Board of Trustees. Trustee Mariscal stated she had some questions about the budget. She asked if changes should be brought to Chief Sutton first, and Chief Sutton agreed. Mayor Phelan asked Attorney Walton when final action on the items should be. Attorney Walton stated that the items could be put on the next meeting, and the decision was up to the Board. Trustee Goett stated that he'd prefer to see action taken as soon as possible.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:36 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk