

Village of Peoria Heights
Public Hearing
April 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 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, Mariscal, Khazzam, and DeVore attended by phone. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

Peoria Heights Public Library Director Shawn Edwards was unable to attend the public hearing. Clerk Turner read an email from him providing a summary of the library's budget. Director Edwards explained that the total budget increased 2% with a majority of the increase relating to personnel as the library hired a new staff member. He also detailed plans for exterior and interior improvements to the library.

Mayor Phelan called on trustees individually for comment on the budget. Trustee Cater questioned if the \$2,500 spending limit for department heads was superseded by the mayor's emergency powers. Attorney Walton stated it was. Trustee Carter asked about the process for reviewing the budget as there was a lot of uncertainty due to the pandemic. Chief Sutton stated the budget would be reviewed frequently by staff, and the Board would have the opportunity to review it at meetings. Trustee Goett had no questions on the budget. Trustee Mariscal also asked about the spending limit and the mayor's emergency powers. Attorney Walton explained that the mayor would have the authority to approve expenditures over the \$2,500 spending limit. Trustee DeVore stated all her questions had previously been answered. Trustee Khazzam noted that her concerns had also been addressed. She stated she was confident in the budget as it was presented. Trustee Wisenburg expressed concern that the budget had not be discussed enough. Chief Sutton noted that the budget had had as much, if not more, discussion and review than other budgets he had experienced in the past. He noted that there had been changes to the process which made it more professional and efficient citing conversations he'd held with each of the Board members. Trustee Wisenburg clarified that Chief Sutton's communication has been wonderful. He expressed concerns about public comment on the budget. He finished his remarks by speaking about concerns of the mayor's emergency powers and the unilateral power granted to the mayor. Mayor Phelan clarified that Attorney Walton had drafted the ordinance for emergency powers. Attorney Walton agreed and stated he had recommended the ordinance be adopted by each of his municipal clients.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion to adjourn. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn the public hearing at 6:01 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk