

Village of Peoria Heights
Departmental Meeting – Public Safety
June 25, 2019

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, and Clerk Stephanie Turner.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing and the Board of Trustees Meeting held on May 21, 2019, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Khazzam. The motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Mariscal made a motion to approve the minutes from the Departmental Meeting held on June 4, 2019, and the motion was seconded by Trustee DeVore. The motion passed 6-0.

Public comments were opened to the audience, and there were no comments from the audience.

Under old business, Trustee DeVore recapped the previous discussions regarding a parking ban on Euclid Avenue from Park Place to Kingman Avenue. Trustee Mariscal noted when she had driven past the block in question there were multiple vehicles present, and it was difficult to get through the street. Trustee Goett noted that scenario would be worse for the fire trucks or an ambulance to navigate. Chief Sutton told the Board that several residents had contacted him to support the parking ban and explained the process for implementing changes to parking ordinances focuses on compliance rather than tickets.

Trustee DeVore explained the reports for May for landlord registration and code enforcement. Trustee Mariscal mentioned a social media post that she had seen with complaints about rundown rental properties and asked if the exteriors of homes were also inspected. Chief Sutton stated exteriors were covered by both landlord registration and code enforcement but noted that the properties registered as rentals were inspected at random unless the Village received a complaint. The average length between rental inspections is two to three years barring complaints. Chief Sutton noted that the landlord registration program had made great strides in developing positive relationships between the Village, landlords, and tenants. Chief Sutton stated there had been an increase in vehicle burglaries. One suspect was arrested over the weekend that the police believe had ties to three burglaries at businesses and forty Peoria area burglaries. Chief Sutton urged residents to lock up their possessions as the crimes are primarily crimes of opportunity. Chief Sutton continued on to announce that the implementation of the Crime View addition to the Village's website is progressing. Crime View is a tool for the residents that allows them to view criminal activity by geographical area and sign up for notifications of any activity in their area. Chief Sutton also provided an update on the news of an alleged fight club at the school which had been brought to the Board of Trustee's attention at the previous meeting. After speaking to all but one of the School Board members and the Superintendent, Chief Sutton stated that none of them had heard anything about a fight club at the school. Chief Sutton expressed confidence that there was no organized fight club group but the rumor might be the result of some isolated incidents. Chief Sutton reminded the Board of Trustees that the police department has staffed a full-time School Resource Officer at the school district. Mayor Phelan told the Board that he had received

several phone calls from residents in the Paris area after the previous Board of Trustees Meeting and public comment regarding an annual 4th of July party in the neighborhood. The residents who had reached out to Mayor Phelan expressed support for Chief Sutton's decision to deny blocking public roads as a part of the annual Independence Day party.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-1592: An Ordinance Amending Title 10, Chapter 7B and Chapter 7C of the Village Code of the Village of Peoria Heights, for the Purpose of Modifying Certain Requirements for Residential Uses. Trustee Carter seconded the motion. It was explained that the ordinance had not previously passed but, rather, resulted in a tie. Attorney Walton requested the Board of Trustees review the ordinance again. Upon roll call, Ordinance 2019-1592 passed 5-1. Trustee Wisenburg voted nay.

Trustee Khazzam updated the Board of Trustees on the 2020 St. Jude Dream home on Samuel. Construction will begin in the summer, and St. Jude is hoping to raise \$900,000 off the sale of raffle tickets for the home as all the costs and labor for the home will be donated. Mayor Phelan expressed support and hoped that the project will raise a lot of funds for the charity.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the request for use of Tower Park for the annual Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides Walk on October 5th, 2019. Trustee DeVore seconded. The event is an annual event, and there were no conflicts on the calendar. Motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve use of Tower Park by the Pride of Peoria Chorus on August 17th, 2019, and Trustee Goett seconded the motion. The event is an annual event, and there were no conflicts on the calendar. Motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to cancel the regular Admin and Economic Development Departmental Meeting on July 2nd, 2019. Trustee Goett seconded. Trustee Khazzam explained that, due to the holiday, there might not be a quorum. Chief Sutton stated there was no urgent business. Motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam provided an update on the Village's efforts to secure funds to redevelop Prospect Road. She stated that the Village would soon be attending a meeting with state representatives along with Farnsworth Group and Mr. Kim Blickenstaff to secure support for a \$16 million grant for the project. She continued on to state that in discussions with the State Treasurer's office the Village had been made aware that if there were not funds allocated for the project in the State's capital bill, "Rebuild Illinois," there might be funds available through the Treasurer's office. Mayor Phelan noted the Village had submitted more than \$50 million worth of potential projects to State legislative representatives for inclusion in the capital bill in the hopes of creating construction jobs, permanent jobs, and securing funds for public infrastructure improvements.

Mayor Phelan asked if any of the Board of Trustees had any miscellaneous business to discuss.

Trustee Carter stated that she had met with Mr. David Marfell, Superintendent of Water, and Mr. Michael Casey, Superintendent of Streets, about residential drainage issues. She explained that drainage from sump pumps was causing property damage, and the Village had the choice to grandfather in current sump pumps as they were or to write an ordinance which would require residents to fix their sump pump drainage. Trustee Carter noted the complications created with both possibilities included enforcement issues and costs to residents who might not be able to afford them. She requested the

Trustees consider the issue for further action. Trustee Mariscal asked where the discharge was currently draining. It was noted that drainage affects multiple areas including the Village easements, sidewalks, streets, and neighbors. Trustee Carter noted that due to the large amount of rainfall this year residents were approaching the Village about problems. Trustee Khazzam remarked that the water table was high in the area which added to the complications. Mr. Marfell commented the problem had no easy solution as grandfathering current sump pumps did not provide any solutions, and there was no staff to enforce an ordinance if residents were required to correct their drainage. The Board of Trustees agreed to consider the issue for before taking further action.

Mayor Phelan explained there had been a contentious Zoning Board of Appeals meeting which had resulted in an appeal by the homeowner who had been denied his request for a variance for a fence. Mayor Phelan asked Chief Sutton to explain the process for the Board of Trustees to hear the appeal of that decision by the ZBA. Chief Sutton updated the Board on the issue and stated the appeal would be heard by the Board of Trustees on July 23, 2019. Trustee DeVore requested the ordinances relating to fencing and variances be sent to the Board of Trustees as soon as possible. Mayor Phelan noted that he had met with residents in that neighborhood, and the contractors didn't comply with permitting process. Trustee Mariscal questioned the rules for determining the front and side yard of a corner lot like the property in question. Chief Sutton explained that the front of the particular house had been reoriented. Trustee Khazzam stated the situation was unique and tough. Trustee Khazzam questioned if the Board of Trustees would have to determine what was the front yard. Mayor Phelan noted that the Board of Trustees would need to make the ultimate decision on the variance, but the criteria for making that determination would not need to be supported by the same documentation as the ZBA. Trustee Khazzam remarked the decision should be made based on the zoning rules in the Village ordinance.

Trustee Goett moved to adjourn the meeting, and Trustee Mariscal seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk