

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 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, Elizabeth Khazzam, Jeffrey Goett, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting held on July 16, 2019. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wisenburg, and the motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0.

Mayor Phelan thanked Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth and Senator David Koehler for their helpfulness in securing meetings with IDNR and DCEO and securing funds for improving Galena Road. He then asked them to come forward and speak about the project. Representative Gordon-Booth stated it was an honor to be in the most happening place in her district and to serve the community in Springfield. She continued on to discuss bringing back necessary resources to the residents of Peoria Heights and thanked Senator Koehler as a wonderful partner in the endeavor. Senator Koehler stated his pride in representing Peoria Heights in Springfield and spoke about the spirit of Peoria Heights and its effect uplifting areas around it.

Mayor Phelan thanked both state legislators for their leadership and asked the audience for questions. A resident asked when the project would start. The project will most likely coincide with the bridge replacement which is scheduled to begin next year. The project is part of a 6 – 10 year timeline with construction expected to begin within 2 years. IDOT will be presenting plans to the community as part of the process. Representative Gordon-Booth noted the current Secretary of IDOT was from the area and was aware of its unique challenges and concerns. Representative Gordon-Booth, Senator Koehler, Mayor Phelan, and Chief Sutton all invited residents to contact them with additional questions.

Trustee Carter expressed support for the project as one that's been under discussion for a very long time. She stated it would be huge quality of life improvement for residents living below the hill. Trustee Goett noted development would slow down traffic and reduce traffic accidents. Representative Gordon-Booth stated the project was more than a decade in the making, and she was grateful to be around to see it accomplished. Trustee Khazzam thanked Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth and Senator David Koehler for their work, and Senator Koehler stated they had enjoyed the partnership.

Mayor Phelan invited Trustee Wisenburg to accept the donation from Advanced Medical Transport on behalf of the Village. Mr. Josh Bradshaw and Ms. Lauren Emanuelson came forward and explained the donation was the result of a program called Race to the Top. The device being donated, which the PHFD had trained on as part of AMT's resuscitation academy, facilitates by-stander CPR and helps to save lives by suctioning blood back into the heart after compressions. Since using the device, AMT has seen a significant increase in the survival rates of its patients. Mayor Phelan expressed gratitude for the donation.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Jim Becker, 2015 Grandview Terrace, approached to address the Board of Trustees regarding recreational marijuana use. Mr. Becker expressed opposition to recreational marijuana dispensaries and public use of recreational marijuana. Mr. Becker asked the Board of Trustees to consider banning both.

Hearing no other public comment, Mayor Phelan closed public comments.

Trustee Carter asked the Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, to come forward and provide an update on the repairs to Well No. 11. Mr. Casey reported the work on the well was ongoing and also stated the drainage project by D's Autobody would begin soon. Mr. Casey noted Public Works would begin painting Glen Avenue that week. Chief Sutton asked Mr. Casey to update the Board of Trustees on the recent EPA audit. Mr. Casey stated the audit had gone well but there are erosion issues which must be addressed. Chief Sutton noted audits were done randomly and this year Peoria Heights and Morton had been selected. Trustee Mariscal stated she had had several residents approach her to compliment the wonderful job done on Prospect Road. Mr. Casey agreed and said the businesses were happy. Trustees Carter, Mariscal, and Khazzam complimented the look of the recent sealcoating.

Trustee Mariscal stated the new air conditioning unit at the police station has been installed and was working well. She noted the issue of the rock in Tower Park would come back at a future date.

Trustee Khazzam updated the Board of Trustees on a recent meeting with IDNR. She thanked Mayor Phelan as the meeting would not have been possible without his connections at the agency. Trustee Khazzam reported the Village had attended the meeting to pursue development options for the river front. She stated new infrastructure on land owned by the Village could create an ecotourism draw. Trustee Khazzam explained IDNR was eager to cooperate and shared valuable information on the idea.

Trustee Goett stated the Village had met with DCEO, and there was an opportunity for the Village to apply for a low to moderate income residential rehabilitation grant. Trustee Goett added that the Village would be working with TriCounty Regional Planning as potential grant administrators, and the Village would meet with DCEO and TriCounty later in the month to find out more information. Mayor Phelan added that commercial development gets a lot of attention, but the Village is also focusing on residential housing options.

Trustee Wisenburg shared that in July there were 12 fire calls and 69 EMS calls. Year to date, PHFD has logged 567 fire and EMS responses.

Trustee DeVore announced the Peoria Heights Police Benevolent Association would host its annual fundraiser on September 28 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at Heritage Square. There will be live music and proceeds from Pour Bros and Slow Hand would be donated to the PHPBA. Chief Sutton noted the PHPBA funds a scholarship every year at the school. Trustee Goett complimented the PHPD on their cooperation with the City of Peoria in apprehending criminals the previous week. Chief Sutton explained the PHPD had made multiple arrests over the last 6 months, and the officers were continuously working to make the community safe. He noted the Village's geography made law enforcement different than other areas and expressed pride in the hard work of the officers. Chief Sutton thanked the Board and Mayor for their comments and said he would pass it along to the officers.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-1596 restricting parking on that portion of Euclid Avenue between Kingman Avenue to Park Place. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted the issue had already been discussed and the proposed ordinance represented a compromise to help with visibility along the curve. Ordinance 2019-1596 to restrict parking passed 6-0.

Chief Sutton reported a developer had approached the Village with a request to purchase vacant properties owned by the Village. Chief Sutton made the recommendation to request bids on each individual property. Mayor Phelan stated the Village had acquired the properties through demolition. Trustee Carter asked about advertising and stipulations that the properties be owner occupied. Attorney Walton answered the Board of Trustees could accept proposals based on their own criteria. He noted the Village would not be obligated to sell the properties to the highest bidder. Mayor Phelan expressed support for selling the properties as they are not currently generating property tax income. Trustee Carter asked if the Village could set a minimum value. Attorney Walton stated the Village could request bids, and developers would hopefully know what the properties were worth. Trustee Khazzam asked if the Village had established the value of the properties, and Attorney Walton replied all the properties had been appraised. Trustee Wisenburg questioned if the Board was abandoning the idea of selling the properties for 80% of their value, and Mayor Phelan noted the final decision would come to the Board after bids had been received.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-1600 establishing a date for a public hearing for the first amendment to the Peoria Heights Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District No. 2. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the ordinance set the public hearing for October 15, 2019. The motion to pass Ordinance 2019-1600 passed 6-0.

Trustee Goett motioned to approve Resolution 2019-07 directing the filing of copies of regulations to be adopted by reference. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Trustee Goett explained the resolution's purpose was to update the building codes, and it was a housekeeping matter. Attorney Walton explained the process of updating the building codes required the code to be made publicly available for 30 days prior to adoption. After that time, the Board of Trustees could incorporate the codes into its existing codes. Chief Sutton noted some portions, such as a mandatory sprinkler system in every new building, would be removed, and every municipality that had adopted the codes had removed that section. Attorney Walton clarified that the prepared ordinance already had the appropriate section removed. The Board of Trustees approved Resolution 2019-07 with a vote of 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-1601 amending Title 1, Chapter 88, Section 1 of Village Code of the Village of Peoria Heights for the purpose of amending the duties of the Village Treasurer, and Trustee Khazzam seconded. Trustee Goett explained the ordinance would clarify the duties of the Treasurer. Attorney Walton stated that the previous ordinance listing duties was from 1914 prior to full-time staff managing the Village's finances. The resolution is consistent with the state statute and is the core of what the Treasurer does. Trustee Mariscal asked for confirmation that Treasurer was an appointed position and received agreement. The Board approved Ordinance 2019-1601 with a vote of 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-08 approving the job description for the Village Bookkeeper. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Attorney Walton noted the job description for the Bookkeeper had been completed by Mr. Erik Christian of HR Fit LLC several months ago but had never formally been adopted. Trustee Mariscal questioned a job duty listing that the Bookkeeper should maintain personnel files. Clerk Turner clarified that as Bookkeeper she maintains personnel files relating

solely to payroll records and discipline files are kept elsewhere. Motion to approve Resolution 2019-08 passed 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the purchase of a server for the police station, and Trustee Mariscal seconded. Trustee DeVore stated the server agreement was in the packet and included the labor and hardware. Chief Sutton noted the server had been included in the budget. The Police Dept had held off on the purchase for a year due to budgetary concerns, but it needed to be replaced due to increased demands relating to the officers' body cameras. Trustee Mariscal questioned if the server was to provide more storage or to increase speed. Chief Sutton stated the server had more storage and would make it simpler for the PHPD to maintain records. Trustee Mariscal questioned if the fee was one time or on going. Chief Sutton stated that it was a one time fee for the server and separate from the ongoing service contract with Pearl Technology. Trustee Wisenburg noted the server would increase data capacity and asked how long data was retained. Chief Sutton stated data retention depended on the type of call. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the purchase.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the purchase of 2 police vehicles. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted the police vehicles are on a rotation, and 1 will be traded in and a new car will be purchased. Chief Sutton reminded the Board of Trustees that the police station had bypassed the scheduled purchase of 2 vehicles last year. Chief Sutton noted that the vehicles and the server are the large purchases for the police department for the year. The motion to purchase 2 vehicles passed 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to pass Resolution 2019-09 approving an agreement between PHCUSD No. 325 and the Village for a School Resource Officer, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded. Trustee DeVore explained the Village provided an SRO to the school last year under a 1 year contract, and the current agreement was a renewal. Chief Sutton noted the position had originally been paid for by a grant, but the Village had funded the position for years. He stated the officer stays in the school unless there's an emergency. Chief Sutton reported Superintendent Heath had asked for a multiyear agreement in the future which would most likely require an increase built into the contract. Trustee Mariscal asked if the officer was at the grade school, the high school, or both. Chief Sutton reported the SRO worked at both schools. Attorney Walton asked when the contract was to be paid as that portion of the contract was blank. Clerk Turner explained it was previously paid as a lump sum payment made shortly after the beginning of the school year. The motion to approve the contract in Resolution 2019-09 passed 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee DeVore seconded. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk