

Village of Peoria Heights  
Departmental Meeting  
September 7, 2021

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: Sarah DeVore, Jeff Goett, Beth Khazzam, David Marfell, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, Fire Chief Donovan Thompson, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

Trustee Marfell made a motion to approve the minutes from August 3, 2021. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no comments, he closed the meeting to public comment and asked for old business to come before the Board. Hearing none, he moved on to new business.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the BDD Façade Beautification Grant Application by WJA Properties, LLC. Trustee Marfell seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the grant program encourages businesses to make improvements to their exteriors. The grant application was approved 5-1. Trustee Wigginton voted nay.

Trustee Wigginton made a motion to approve the street closure for the Peoria Heights High School Homecoming Parade on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Wigginton explained the street would be closed to celebrate the local school's Homecoming. He noted that the Peoria Heights Police Department had plans to address traffic issues, and it would be a temporary street closure. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the street closure.

Trustee Wigginton stated Fire Chief Thompson had additional news to share. Fire Chief Thompson introduced three new volunteer recruits to the Peoria Heights Fire Department. The new recruits will serve probation for a year before becoming full members. Trustee Wigginton asked Fire Chief Thompson to speak about his recent efforts. Fire Chief Thompson shared that the PHFD had applied for two grants recently, and the PHFD will be holding a fundraising event the coming weekend.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the site plan application filed by Gwynn Gilson / GG Properties V, LLC Series 7 for development of a multi-family residential unit at 1311 E Duryea Avenue. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the house was currently a single unit, but it would be split into two units. She noted the Zoning Board of Appeals had approved the site plan unanimously without any conditions. Trustee Marfell asked for clarification on the location. Trustee Wisenburg asked if there was parking, and Trustee Khazzam noted there were multiple spaces since it used to be a hair salon. Trustee Wigginton asked if the property was zoned residential. Attorney Walton noted that even if it was commercial property it could be used as a residential property. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the site plan.

Trustee DeVore opened discussion of the easement agreement with Illinois American Water by explaining Chief Sutton and Attorney Walton had had additional discussions with IAW regarding the easement. Chief Sutton stated he shared the Board's concerns regarding the closure of the trail with IAW, and the resulting conversation had been positive. Chief Sutton recommended the Board move forward with the agreement. Mr. Josh Harken from Illinois American Water shared a preliminary schedule for the project. He noted that the schedule was subject to the availability of equipment which was projecting a 12 week delivery period which meant construction could begin January 2022. He cautioned that construction would be subject to weather conditions. Mr. Harken explained the route had been changed from Toledo Avenue to Marietta Avenue before connecting to follow the trail. He noted the plan was to try to avoid running the pipe directly under the trail. Mr. Harken stated the majority of the pipe would be under the green space next to the trail. He also stated that open cutting would be used, rather than directional boring, as it's less likely to cause damage to the trail. He stated the one exception would be where the line crosses Glen Avenue. Directional boring would be used there in order to avoid other utilities in the area. He also stated the construction of the project would be sectioned into two parts so the trail would only be closed in portions and to allow residents to move around the construction. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the construction would cause closures on Glen Avenue. Mr. Harken stated he didn't anticipate closures, and any that arose would be limited in duration to a few hours. He noted that he anticipated IAW would contact the Village if such a closure was necessary. Trustee Wisenburg clarified that construction on the trail would cause it to be closed from January 2022 through March 2022. Mr. Harken clarified that portions of the trail would be closed during that time. Trustee Wigginton asked if there would be issues with any of the other utilities at the crossing of Glen. Mr. Harken explained IAW would be boring in order to avoid contact with other utilities. Trustee Wisenburg asked if there would be street closures on Marietta. Mr. Harken explained IAW was planning to work on the north side of the street so the road would still be open to two way traffic. Trustee Khazzam asked if IAW could reroute trail traffic during the spring. Mr. Harken explained the project would be cut in two so one half might be cut off at a time. Trustee Wigginton noted that the trail would be functionally closed during the months because the sun sets early during the winter. Trustee DeVore questioned if the Peoria Park District needed to provide an easement as well. Attorney Walton clarified that the Peoria Park District had been notified during the entire process and hadn't provided input. Mayor Phelan asked for clarification of street closures from the project. Mr. Harken provided details of what streets would be affected. He noted that since work was primarily done on one side there wouldn't be much impact on traffic. He said the most impact would be on residents who parked on the north side of the street in the areas of the work. Mayor Phelan requested Attorney Walton work language into the contract that would require the work be completed in a timely fashion. Mayor Phelan asked the item be brought to the Board meeting for action. Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business.

Trustee Wisenburg expressed concern with G & O Disposal's policy of leaving furniture on the street. Chief Sutton explained that G & O Disposal had changed their policy during COVID, but some residents were putting furniture out the day after trash pick up. He noted Code Enforcement was working to educate residents on the issue. He stated he'd follow up with G & O Disposal about their policy and get an answer.

Superintendent of Water, Mr. Chris Chandler, noted that the annual sealcoating program would start tomorrow. He encouraged residents to check the Village's website for the map and to avoid parking on the effected streets from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:33 pm.

---

Michael Phelan, Mayor

---

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk