

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees
September 15, 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: Beth Khazzam, Jeff Goett, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. Trustees Sherryl Carter and Diane Mariscal were absent. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village 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 August 18, 2020 and the motion was seconded by Trustee Wisenburg. The Board approved the minutes 4-0.

Mayor Phelan announced the Village had recently hosted a meeting with Houseal-Lavinge regarding the Village's comprehensive plan. The video from the meeting is available on the Village's website.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no public comment, Mayor Phelan closed public comments. Mayor Phelan moved on to the trustees' reports.

As Trustee Carter was absent, Mayor Phelan asked the superintendents of Public Works for reports. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, came forward to report that the spray patching and sealcoating program were both complete and well done. He also announced that Forest Park Drive will be closed on Thursday, September 17, 2020 for maintenance. Trustee Wisenburg stated he appreciated the flashing lights Public Works had installed on signage below the hill.

Trustee Mariscal had nothing to report for building maintenance.

Trustee Khazzam asked Attorney Walton to speak about the proposed rickshaw business. Attorney Walton stated it would require a similar ordinance to the pedal bus if not quite as comprehensive. He will prepare an ordinance for review. Trustee Khazzam asked Attorney Walton if he believed there would be competition between the pedal bus and rickshaw. Attorney Walton answered he thought they would have different clients with different needs. Trustee Khazzam reported she is continuing to attend meetings to try to procure grants for a trailhead in Peoria Heights. Trustee Khazzam also thanked Ms. Cayson for organizing a voters' registration event. Trustee Khazzam said that REDCO has produced a promotional video for the riverway communities. Trustee Khazzam finished her reports by urging residents to complete their census report.

Trustee Goett reported a tentative contract agreement with the police union. Chief Sutton explained it will be presented to the Board for discussion at the next meeting during an executive session.

Trustee Wisenburg had nothing to report for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Walters stated he has started recruiting firefighters/EMTs rather than focusing on solely firefighters in an effort to recruit more volunteers. He stated he has four new individuals who are interested.

Trustee DeVore announced the next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on October 26, 2020. She stated there will be new signs arriving soon reminding residents to lock their vehicles. These will be hung under existing Neighborhood Watch signs.

Mayor Phelan asked for old business. Attorney Walton stated he had sent an email summarizing multiple meetings the Village held with the developer regarding how the Samuel Avenue will be designed. Attorney Walton said the Board will need to provide direction if the road should be widened in order to allow parking and traffic or if the road should stay its current width. The road would need to be widened considerably in order to accommodate parking and two way traffic. Attorney Walton noted the developer prefers narrower streets, but the Village engineer has raised concerns in leaving the street its current width citing other similar areas in the Village with traffic issues. Attorney Walton stated the development agreement requires the Board and the developer to come to a consensus, but the Board will need to consider the engineer's concerns when making a decision. Trustee DeVore asked who was paying for the widening of the street. Attorney Walton stated the Village would issue bonds to pay for the project with the payment secured by the property taxes generated by the project. Trustee DeVore asked if widening the road would impact sidewalks. Attorney Walton stated there would still be sidewalks, but they might be up against the road rather than have a grass buffer. Trustee DeVore noted that the approved zoning includes a grass strip for safety reasons. She asked if the solution was to approve parking on only one side. Attorney Walton noted there were concerns with all of the design options and invited the trustees to attend the meetings for more information. Trustee DeVore objected that this problem wasn't made clear during the approval process. Attorney Walton stated the site plan approval process covered a single property, and the engineer wasn't consulted during site plan approval. Attorney Walton clarified the Village is considering two main options which differ primarily in the width of the driving lanes. Trustee DeVore asked if any of the nearby businesses have an opinion. Attorney Walton stated they hadn't been consulted as there wasn't an agreement between the Village and the developer. Attorney Walton asked the Board to consider the issue and asked Mayor Phelan to put the issue on the agenda for discussion. Trustee Khazzam noted that the Village had to make a decision so development could move forward.

Hearing no other old business, Mayor Phelan moved on to new business.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve payment to R.A. Cullinan & Son in the Amount of \$102,124.78 for the 2020 Sealcoating Program. Trustee Goett seconded. There was no discussion. The motion to approve payment to RA Cullinan passed 4-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve payment to Midstate Asphalt Repair in the Amount of \$24,824.75 for the 2020 Spray Patching Program. Trustee Wisenburg seconded. There was no discussion. The motion to approve the payment to Midstate Asphalt Repair passed 4-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the purchase of a police vehicle in the amount of \$29,292. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted the price was for a 2020 Dodge Durango and explained the budget had funds for the purchase of two new vehicles. Chief Sutton was able to cancel one vehicle prior to it being built. The vehicle is priced via state bid. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the Village was already committed to the purchase. Chief Sutton reminded the Board that the Village has to place the order for the vehicles many months in advance. He noted this year there was a delay in the product which allowed him to cancel one vehicle. Chief Sutton stated he cancelled the order, even though the Village funds, to free up funds for other purchases. Chief Sutton stated the Village is committed to purchase the vehicle under discussion. The motion to approve the purchase of the 2020 Dodge Durango passed 4-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1633: an Ordinance Pertaining to the Local CURE Program. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Chief Sutton explained the ordinance will allow the Village to seek reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenditures. Trustee Khazzam asked if the Village needed the ordinance to be able to identify eligible expenses, and Chief Sutton agreed. Ordinance 2020-1633 passed 4-0.

Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1634: an Ordinance Establishing the Office of the Chief of the Fire Department of the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee DeVore seconded. Trustee Wisenburg stated the ordinance had previously been discussed and will apply if a new fire chief was hired. Trustee DeVore asked if it only applied to a new fire chief. Attorney Walton clarified it technically applies to the current fire chief although there is no concern the current fire chief was properly appointed. The ordinance doesn't change the current fire chief, and the ordinance will apply once the next fire chief is appointed. Attorney Walton clarified the ordinance formalizes what's already in place and stated he recommended passing the ordinance as the Village should have a process for the appointment of the fire chief. Chief Sutton clarified the ordinance is a housekeeping issue. Ordinance 2020-1634 was approved 4-0.

Trustee Wisenburg began the discussion of the wording of the nonbinding advisory referendum. Trustee Wisenburg stated the Board had a disagreement on the wording and asked Attorney Walton for comment. Attorney Walton stated the goal of the referendum would be to get as much input as possible from the residents within the restrictions of a one sentence question. He noted that the question should contain conditions, if appropriate, in order to properly gather information. He suggested a question along the lines of "Should the Village of Peoria Heights hire a fire chief, even if it can save X amount of money, rather than obtain services from alternate sources?" Trustee Wisenburg shared his concerns City of Peoria had underestimated their contract costs and expressed that response time should be addressed. Chief Sutton reminded the Board any uncertainty regarding annual costs of contracting with the City of Peoria was related to annualizing a per call charge. The total proposal costs would fluctuate based on call volume. Trustee DeVore stated she felt Attorney Walton's suggested question was still leading because no one wanted to pay more taxes. Trustee Khazzam asked Attorney Walton if he had advised on a nonbinding referendum previously, and Attorney Walton stated he hadn't. Chief Sutton noted the referendum on the ambulance was slightly different simply because there was no cost to switching service to AMT. Trustee Khazzam questioned what information the Board was trying to learn from the referendum question. Trustee DeVore stated she wanted to know if residents were willing to pay more money in order to retain local control. Trustee Wisenburg objected stating the Village didn't know costs. Attorney Walton noted that even estimated costs were relevant. Attorney Walton stated there were other methods to solicit input which could be done sooner. He also noted that a referendum question must include as much information as possible in order to generate meaningful answers, and, even so, it was unlikely to provide the Board with a definite answer. Trustee Khazzam stated she believes the Village should solicit more responses from the residents than the referendum. Chief Sutton reminded the Board that timing is an issue. He noted Fire Chief Walters had delayed his retirement, but the Village needed to continue moving forward in order to be able to effectively act. Chief Sutton and Mayor Phelan pointed out the Village could work multiple angles to engage the residents in conversations regarding the issue. Mayor Phelan asked about the deadline for submitting a ballot referendum. Attorney Walton stated it would be in the coming year and recommended the Board take time to consider the issue. Trustee DeVore asked if the Village could put a survey on its website. Attorney Walton agreed but noted there were a lot of different methods and each would have its own different demographic that would respond. Attorney Walton stated the Board should start to discuss options and questions for the survey. Trustee Khazzam asked if the other Board members agreed to create a survey and educational material to send to the residents. The Board agreed to work on material which would be discussed at a future meeting.

Mayor Phelan asked the Board if they had any miscellaneous business to discuss. Trustee DeVore stated she was aware Public Works and the Police Department had worked hard to clean up alleyways, but she was

concerned some properties without garage doors attracted rodents. Chief Sutton questioned if there were additional issues to be addressed. Trustee DeVore suggested adding a requirement that the garbage totes from G & O Disposal must be used. Chief Sutton noted he appreciated Trustee DeVore's suggestion to regulate the issues. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the Village could require landlords to provide tenants with the garbage totes from G & O Disposal. Chief Sutton agreed to look into the issues.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of August, there was \$3,203,837.31 in the Village controlled accounts and \$1,285,243.85 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee Khazzam seconded. The report passed 4-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded. The Board voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk