

Village of Peoria Heights  
Departmental Meeting  
October 5, 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. Trustee DeVore was present by telephone. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Fire Chief Donovan Thompson.

Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to approve the minutes from September 7, 2021. Trustee Marfell seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Clerk Turner read a note from Mr. Chris Setti, of the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, thanking the Village for their continued and increased support. Mr. Setti noted he appreciated working with partners such as the Village.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Michael Ketterer, 5187 N Prospect Rd, came forward to comment on speeding on Prospect Road between Grandview and Forest Park Drive. He expressed concerns about speeding, passing illegally, and large commercial vehicles. Mr. Ketterer asked when the last traffic survey had been completed. Mayor Phelan stated it had been a part of the corridor study, and Chief Sutton agreed. Mr. Ketterer noted the difficulties municipalities faced with funding. Chief Sutton stated the Village had received grants to fund officers' salaries and had retained officers even after the grant funds had expired. Chief Sutton also explained the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission consulted with the Village on road and traffic studies. Mr. Ketterer offered to assist the Village in finding solutions to the problems. Chief Sutton thanked Mr. Ketterer for his support and stated the Village continued to participate in IDOT and traffic enforcement grants though they were being reduced. He noted the Peoria Heights Police Department wrote more tickets than most departments in the area. He explained that the PHPD has a heavier call load than most departments its size because it's surrounded by the City of the Peoria. Chief Sutton shared how the PHPD balances law enforcement with traffic enforcement. Chief Sutton noted there were areas for improvement but shared the details of enforcement and grant writing that PHPD engaged in. Mr. Ketterer asked about transferring code enforcement to civilian employees, and Chief Sutton noted that code enforcement compliance rate had increased from 30% to 90% when it was changed from civilian enforcement to the officers. He noted that it would be a rollback to transfer it back to a civilian enforcement officer. Mr. Ketterer asked again about the size of vehicles on the road, and Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, stated he'd look into the issue.

Mr. Terry Simkins, 1212 E Sciota Ave, noted he had concerns about the noise ordinance. He noted that the music from the businesses was very loud, and he requested that ordinance be kept at 10:00 pm. Mr. Simkins stated he also experienced that most of the time the music didn't end at 11:00 pm but continued on until 11:30 pm or midnight. He also noted problems getting a officer dispatched. Chief Sutton apologized to Mr. Simkins for the difficulty. He noted the Village was working with the City of Peoria dispatching unit to meet the Village's expectations. He stated he'd discuss the issues with Mr.

Simkins so that wouldn't happen again. Mr. Simkins suggested a fine system since the music continues late so often. Chief Sutton noted there were fines, and, in fact, several had been issued in the last couple of months. Chief Sutton stated he would reach out to the owners about the issue. Mr. Simkins thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Chauncey Oetgen, 1220 E Sciota Ave, noted he had issues with his windows rattling from the volume of the music. Mr. Oetgen noted he had concerns if the noise was changed to be 11:00 pm then the bands would continue even later. Mr. Oetgen noted he wished there were increased fines for repeat violations, and Chief Sutton responded that was already in place. Mr. Oetgen expressed frustration about the situation continuing.

Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Phelan closed the meeting to public comment and asked for old business to come before the Board.

Trustee Wigginton shared that the Board had previously discussed parking RVs and equipment in the front yards. He noted the Village's current ordinances already prohibited parking recreational vehicles and equipment in the front yard so there would be no need to bring the ordinance back to the Board.

Hearing no additional old business, the Board moved on to new business.

Trustee Wigginton introduced discussion of speeding in neighborhoods. He thanked Mr. Ketterer for coming to share his opinions and noted there were issues in other neighborhoods too. Trustee Wisenburg shared he wanted to change the speed limit to 20 mph in all residential areas. He cited the increased danger of fatalities with increased speed. Trustee Wisenburg also stated he wanted to change the style of traffic signs in order to designate residential neighborhoods. Trustee Khazzam stated she thought 20 mph might be slow, but that 25 mph seemed more reasonable. Trustee Khazzam expressed concern about visibility around corners. Trustee Wigginton stated he shared the other trustees' concerns and expressed it would be important to carefully define residential neighborhoods. Trustee DeVore stated installing stop signs on some of the longer roads may be beneficial. She noted people are more likely to ignore yield signs. Trustee Wisenburg pointed out there were side streets which allowed vehicles to travel faster than the main thorough way. Trustee Wisenburg stated he wished to see the speed limits decreased to 20 mph though he was willing to negotiate to 25 mph, but he was adamant that it shouldn't be 30 mph. Trustee Marfell stated he was willing to reduce it to 20 mph if the residential neighborhoods were well defined. Chief Sutton stated he believed Trustee DeVore had an excellent point, and there were roads in the Village that would benefit from additional stop signs. He stated the PHPD could do some traffic studies in order to identify what roads would most benefit from additional traffic signs. Trustee Wisenburg questioned if stop signs on Prospect Road would be beneficial to slowing traffic. Trustee Khazzam noted that the Village currently had a grant under consideration that featured traffic calming measures on Prospect Road. Chief Sutton noted that public safety was an important part of the grant application for Prospect Road. Mayor Phelan asked Chief Sutton to consider the Board's discussion and prepare a multi-faceted approach in order to address the issue. Chief Sutton will bring back a proposal of actionable items to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Wigginton introduced discussion of an amendment to the noise ordinance. He noted that the Village had been reviewing public safety issues, and the Board had been made aware of the issues with the Village's noise ordinance. Chief Sutton shared the Village's ordinance had been drafted with a cut off of 10:00 pm. Business owners approached administration with a request that it be extended to 11:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. The amendment was approved, but the amendment was not

changed when the Village's ordinances were codified. Chief Sutton noted that the PHPD needed clarification from the Board in order to enforce the ordinances properly. Chief Sutton shared that at the time the amendment was approved there were fewer businesses with live music. Trustee Wigginton noted he could hear the music as well at night, and the sound echoed. Trustee Goett noted that at the time of approval the Village was still holding the Music Fest which lasted until 11:00 pm. Trustee Khazzam asked if the extension was only on Fridays and Saturdays only, and Chief Sutton agreed. Trustee Khazzam thanked the residents who attended but spoke on behalf of businesses saying that she thought having music until 11:00 pm was reasonable for the weekends. She noted that the music was a draw for people into the Village. Trustee Wisenburg stated he was in favor of a limit of 10:00 pm. He shared he had visited a variety of municipal websites, including many local communities, and he was unable to find a community that allowed loud music past 10:00 pm. He stressed that the Village would have to allow loud music in the residential areas as well which he didn't think was reasonable. Trustee DeVore noted she lived one block from the businesses in question, and she could hear it clearly, but she enjoyed it. She stated she thought it was reasonable to allow the businesses to allow live music until 11:00 pm during the summer months. She stressed that she hadn't experienced the problems, but she believe the residents were having issues. Trustee DeVore questioned if there was a different way of positioning the speakers to correct some of the noise issues. Trustee Khazzam shared her own experience of how a business had changed its speakers to reduce noise. Chief Sutton stated it might be a compromise to have the businesses lower the volume if they are allowed to continue until 11:00 pm. Mayor Phelan disagreed. Trustee Wigginton suggested if the businesses were required to notify the Village then officers could regulate the issue better. Chief Sutton noted that the PHPD might be on other calls at the time the music was to end. Trustee DeVore asked if the Village had reached out to any of the businesses as many of the business owners are residents and strong supporters of the community. Chief Sutton assured Trustee DeVore the PHPD had conversations with the business owners, but the results were short lived. He offered to reach out to the business owners again. Trustee Goett expressed favor for compromising the time to 10:30 pm. Trustee Marfell stated he was in favor of a strictly enforced 11:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Trustee Wigginton agreed and stressed that the ordinance needs to be brought forward for action immediately. Trustee Wigginton spoke about the effect of the ordinance on the entire community. Trustee Khazzam suggested the noise ordinance be limited to areas zoned B-1. The Board will reconsider the ordinance at a future date.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business.

Mayor Phelan shared he had received a complaint from an individual with was with another person in a wheelchair who had difficulty navigating the sidewalks in the downtown area. Mayor Phelan thanked Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, for addressing the issue with the business owner.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:13 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk