

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees
October 20, 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: 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, 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 September 15, 2020 and the motion was seconded by Trustee Khazzam. The Board approved the minutes 6-0.

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

Trustee Carter had nothing to report for Public Works.

Trustee Mariscal had nothing to report for building maintenance.

Trustee Khazzam explained the Village will be meeting with IDOT to discuss the roadwork along Galena and the Village's vision for the area. She thanked Senator Koehler for arranging the meeting. Trustee Khazzam reported the Village continues to work with other government and local groups to seek grant funding for a trailhead building. She read the proclamation of support for the project signed by Mayor Phelan. Mayor Phelan thanked Trustees Khazzam and Wisenburg for their work on the project.

Trustee Goett had nothing to report. Chief Sutton announced that the Village has been awarded more than \$240,000 for police payroll through the Local CURE Program. He thanked Village staff for their efforts to secure the funds.

Trustee Wisenburg had nothing to report for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Walters shared the PHFD had responded to a MABAS request for mutual aid in Chillicothe earlier this week.

Trustee DeVore announced the Village is experiencing an increase in solicitation. She urged residents and businesses to contact the Police Department as solicitors are required to have permits.

Mayor Phelan asked for old business. Hearing none, Mayor Phelan moved on to new business.

Trustee Carter made a motion to approve the estimate for inspection of water well #12 not to exceed \$10,772. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Superintendent of Water, Mr. David Marfell, reminded the Board that the work was simply diagnostic and would not include repairs. Trustee Mariscal asked if Mr. Marfell had any idea of cost for repairs, and Mr. Marfell stated he didn't. Trustee Khazzam asked if it could be paid for by grant funding, and Mr. Marfell stated it would not qualify. The motion to approve the expense passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1636: for Leisy-Pabst TIF District Approving and Authorizing the Execution of An Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Village of Peoria Heights and Peoria Heights Community Unit School District No. 325. Trustee Wisenburg seconded. Trustee Khazzam explained the Village had expanded TIF #2 in 2019. At the time, the Village had spoken to the School District and agreed to change the formulas for TIF #1, TIF #2, and the Leisy-Pabst TIF to match the formula of TIF #3. Trustee Wisenburg asked about the previous percentage and was told it was around 15%. Ordinance 2020-1636 passed 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1637: for TIF District #1 Approving and Authorizing the Execution of An Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Village of Peoria Heights and Peoria Heights Community Unit School District No. 325. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Ordinance 2020-1637 was approved 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1638: for TIF District #2 Approving and Authorizing the Execution of An Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Village of Peoria Heights and Peoria Heights Community Unit School District No. 325. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Ordinance 2020-1638 passed 6-0.

Trustee Wisenburg gave an update on advertising for the position of a part-time fire chief. He asked the Board if they were interested in seeking a part-time or full-time fire chief. Trustee Khazzam asked Trustee Wisenburg the cost difference. Trustee Wisenburg stated he was uncertain, and the salary hadn't been finalized. Chief Sutton said the salary was negotiable based on qualifications. Trustee Goett said he was interested in a full-time chief with the long term goal of hiring a paid duty crew. Chief Sutton noted that the Board had discussed both options, but the costs of benefits for a full-time fire chief greatly increased total costs. Trustee Goett asked about coverage during the daytime. Chief Sutton stated that would be a priority regardless which option was chosen. Trustee Wisenburg noted the cost for a full-time chief, assuming a salary of \$80,000, would be \$110,820 with benefits. Trustee Khazzam asked Fire Chief Walters about his efforts to enlist new volunteers. Fire Chief Walters stated he had 6 interested volunteers, but he had not reviewed their background checks and paperwork. Trustee Mariscal asked if Fire Chief Walters had reviewed the job description. He stated he had, and it was standard. Trustee Mariscal commented there were a lot of job duties, and she questioned if Fire Chief Walters believed they could be accomplished by a part-time position. Fire Chief Walters stated he didn't believe it was possible. Mayor Phelan remarked that he and Fire Chief Walters had previously discussed the plan to part-time fire chief. Fire Chief Walters stated he had spoken to Mayor Phelan about a part-time fire chief as part of a paid duty crew. Fire Chief Walters noted that option had been discarded because of the cost hiring a duty crew. Trustee Wisenburg stated the next step was to hire a fire chief but expressed concern for daytime coverage without a full-time fire chief. Chief Sutton noted that the Village wouldn't know a work schedule until after the interview process had begun. He stated the PHFD had already begun to make strides in reducing missed calls. Chief Sutton suggested the Village seek a part-time fire chief first and leave open the option of expanding it to a full-time position. Fire Chief Walters expressed concern that volunteers would be able to handle call volume. Mayor Phelan noted that the Village had the option of adding a part-time assistant fire chief in the future, but the Village needed to move forward. He said part of the hiring process would be discussing with candidates their vision for the department. Mayor Phelan noted that Administration had identified funding for part-time position through expense reductions, but the Board had not identified a source of funding for a full-time fire chief. Trustee Carter expressed she wanted to seek a full-time fire chief though she believed salary was negotiable. Chief Sutton recommended posting the job position with a negotiable salary, and hours could be part of the hiring negotiations based on the candidates who applied. Mayor

Phelan stated both the candidate and salary package would be brought back to the Board for approval. Mayor Phelan noted the item was not listed for a vote, but asked Attorney Walton if the consensus and previous conversations were sufficient for Administration to act. Attorney Walton agreed.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1639: an Amendment to an Ordinance Regulating the Burning of Leaves, Brush, Trash, and Garbage. Trustee Mariscal seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore said Trustee Mariscal had reworked the Village's ordinance to compromise on landscape burning. She stated she had some concerns, but she wanted to discuss the ordinance. Trustee Goett stated he was not in favor of banning burning on Sundays. He noted he wasn't in favor of the ordinance at all, but especially not the section banning burning on Sundays. Trustee Wisenburg said both the current and reworked ordinance relied on residents to report violations, and the current ordinance had language to address smoke issues. Trustee Wisenburg noted he preferred to take the least restrictive route. He stated he didn't completely support the ordinance. Mayor Phelan expressed his surprise as he had believed the Board had reached a consensus regarding the ordinance. Trustee Wisenburg said he was in favor the section which banned the burning of wet leaves. Trustee DeVore made a motion to remove Section 3c, which bans burning on Sundays, and Section 3d, which bans burning on state-declared holidays, from the ordinance. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Mariscal stated most of the holidays wouldn't fall during the applicable period. She objected to the amendment. Trustee Mariscal asked if any of the Board members wanted to change the timelines in section 3a. Trustee Goett objected that section, and Trustee Wisenburg noted he had an additional amendment regarding that section. Mayor Phelan said he would recommend the ordinance be sent back to committee if it required multiple amendments. The amendment to remove sections 3c and 3d was approved 6-0. Trustee Wisenburg made an amendment to remove section 3a which restricted burning to between April 1 – May 31 and October 15 – December 15. Trustee Goett seconded the amendment. Trustee Wisenburg stated he was concerned the dates were unnecessary as there aren't leaves during the restricted times. Trustee DeVore noted that she had landscape waste outside of normal seasons. She reminded Trustee Wisenburg that twigs might also be burned. Trustee Wisenburg pointed out that twigs could be burned as a recreational fire. Trustee Khazzam asked Trustee Wisenburg what he wanted to see in the ordinance. Trustee Wisenburg stated he wanted to see the banning of burning wet leaves which remained in section 3e. Trustee Khazzam stated she believes that limiting the dates is a good effort to compromise, and Trustee Mariscal agreed. The Board voted 3-3 on removing section 3a restricting dates of landscape burning. Trustees Mariscal, Khazzam, and DeVore voted nay. Mayor Phelan voted aye on the amendment to remove section 3a, and the amendment passed 4-3. Ordinance 2020-1639 was passed 6-0 with sections 3a, 3c, and 3d removed.

The Board had no miscellaneous business to discuss.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of September, there was \$3,569,484.47 in the Village controlled accounts and \$1,346,180.25 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee Khazzam seconded. The report passed 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Carter seconded. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk