

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 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: Sherryl Carter, Diane Mariscal, Beth Khazzam, Jeff Goett, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. Trustees Carter, Mariscal, and Khazzam were present by telephone. 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 November 17, 2020. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Mayor Phelan thanked the attendees of the Village's tree lighting the previous weekend and asked Clerk Turner to read the correspondence.

Clerk Turner read a letter from Ms. Tessie Buckler stating her resignation from the Peoria Heights Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the resignation with regret. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to accept the resignation.

Clerk Turner read a letter from Ms. Joan Krupa who offered her resignation from the Greater Peoria Mass Transit Board. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the resignation with regret. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to accept the resignation.

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

Trustee Carter asked the superintendents to speak. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, asked residents to move their cars off the street in snowy and icy weather. Superintendent of Water, Mr. David Marfell, reminded residents to be careful of frozen pipes in cold weather. Chief Sutton praised the Public Works crew for accommodating business owners by leaving the street seats out longer than normal.

Trustee Mariscal had nothing to report.

Trustee Khazzam reported that the Village was accepting applications from local businesses for reimbursement grants. She also reported that the Village was continuing conversations with IDOT about the Galena Road improvements.

Trustee Goett asked Chief Sutton to provide an update on the business grant program. Chief Sutton reported the Village had received a total of 46 applications. There were 17 applications approved for reimbursement, and others were waiting on additional information from the applicants or additional review. Chief Sutton stated applicants that had been approved would be able to pick up checks on Friday. He thanked staff for their work on reviewing applications and helping applicants. He also announced the Village was extending the deadline for applications to December 28, 2020.

Trustee Wisenburg stated the Peoria Heights Fire Department would be attending the January School Board Meeting to discuss a recruitment program. He announced the PHFD had 3 new personnel and were awaiting background checks for another individual. Trustee DeVore asked if the new personnel were in addition to the 3 previously mentioned, and Trustee Wisenburg explained they were the 3 that had previously been mentioned as awaiting background checks. Chief Sutton stated the Village had received 10 applications for the position of Fire Chief, and the review process will begin shortly.

Trustee DeVore reminded residents that solicitation is not allowed in the Village without a permit. She encouraged residents to report any concerns to the PHPD.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1640: an Ordinance Abating Special Service Area No. 1 Taxes for the Year 2020 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016 of the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Attorney Walton explained the ordinance was approved every year because the Village has to abate an automatic property tax levy on the Trefzger parcels that was added as part of the economic development agreement. The ordinance was approved 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1641: an Ordinance Abating the General Obligation Taxes Levied for the Year 2020 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016 of the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The ordinance was approved 6-0.

Before asking for a motion to approve the 2020-2021 property tax levy, Mayor Phelan invited the Director of the Peoria Heights Public Library, Mr. Shawn Edwards, to come forward and speak about the Library's property tax levy. Mr. Edwards thanked the Board and Public Works for their help and support during an odd year. He explained the Library had been physically closed for almost 3 months at the height of the pandemic but staff had continued to work to provide online resources for the community. Mr. Edwards explained the Library had reviewed expenses and was requesting a levy increase of 2.5% mainly due to necessary payroll cost increases from state mandated minimum wage increases. He noted that the Library was reducing its materials budget in order to reduce the burden of the cost increases. Mr. Edwards detailed the Library's budget and capital improvements then provided context for the value the Library provides residents. Mr. Edwards encouraged residents to visit the Library and noted they would be giving away gingerbread houses in the coming weeks. Mayor Phelan thanked Mr. Edwards for providing the community with a very valuable asset and service. Mayor Phelan asked for a motion to approve the property tax levy. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1642: Annual Tax Levy for 2020-2021 (Village and Library), and Trustee DeVore seconded. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the annual tax levy.

Mayor Phelan stated due to the the resignation of Ms. Buckler the ZBA had an open position. He recommended the appointment of Mr. Robert Tenney for the Board's consideration. Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Tenney to the Peoria Heights Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted that Mr. Tenney was a very involved and knowledgeable member of the community. Mayor Phelan explained Mr. Tenney had approached him months ago to volunteer his services, but the ZBA had been full at the time. The Board voted 6-0 to approve Mr. Tenney's appointment.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Hearing none, he moved on to payment of the bills.

Trustee Goett made a motion to pay the bills. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the bills.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's report. As of the end of November, there was \$4,026,543.42 in the Village controlled accounts and \$1,342,555.23 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded. The Treasurer's report was approved 6-0.

Mayor Phelan wished the community happy holidays. He urged residents to look out for one another and stay safe. Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded. The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:40 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk