

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees
January 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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, Jennifer Reichert, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Trustee Elizabeth Khazzam was 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 DeVore made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2023 meeting. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 5-0.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment on agenda items. Hearing no public comment, the Board moved on to old business.

Trustee Wigginton asked about the addition of another police officer. Chief Sutton stated that position had not been filled, and he hoped to have an applicant in the coming weeks.

Chief Sutton updated the Board that the notification system will go live on February 1, 2024, and it will be opt-in only. Residents can sign up on the Village's website.

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

Mayor Phelan asked Attorney Walton if the items could be voted on collectively, and Attorney Walton agreed. Attorney Walton provided an overview of the duties of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. Village Clerk Turner read bios on each of the appointees. Trustee Goett made a motion to appoint Mr. Nicholas McCumber to the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners for the term 2022 – 2025, Mr. Jeff Shields to the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners for the term 2023 – 2026, and Mr. Gregory Walters to the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners for the term 2021 – 2024. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Mayor Phelan thanked the appointees for their service. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the appointments.

Trustee Reichert made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01: a Resolution of the Village of Peoria Heights Accepting a Proposal from Woodard and Curran for Professional Services for Evaluation of Water System Ownership and Potential Sales Considerations. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Director of Community Development, Mr. Wayne Aldrich, explained Woodard and Curran will gather facts for presentation to the Board in a public session. Topics will include rates and regulatory requirements. The contract is not to exceed \$20,000. If the Board decides to continue along the line of selling the water system, there will be additional consulting services. Trustee Wisenburg asked about services which had previously been provided, and Director Aldrich expanded on the expectations. He noted there were operational concerns relating to impact on the budget. Trustee Wigginton agreed with Trustee Wisenburg's concerns noting many of the topics have previously been presented. Trustee DeVore noted that the Board had previously discussed the impact of a sale on the Village's budget and finance. She expressed support for Woodard and Curran and their understanding of the Village's need

for information. Director Aldrich agreed and noted that presenting the information, particularly about rates, could be useful for the public. Mayor Phelan noted the Board had requested information to present to the public. The Board voted 2-3 to approve the contract. The motion failed. Trustees Goett, Reichert, and Wigginton voted nay.

Trustee Wigginton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-1722: an Ordinance Amending Title 1, Chapter 8, Article F of the Village Code of the Village of Peoria Heights Providing for Fire Department Personnel. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Wigginton noted the ordinance provides for what the Board had already voted to fund at the previous meeting. The ordinance defines different positions as well as adding them to the existing command structure. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the section was new, and Attorney Walton stated it was explaining it's to accommodate new positions which the Village didn't currently have. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the ordinance was written by the fire chief, and Attorney Walton explained he wrote it in conjunction with Fire Chief Decker. The Board approved Ordinance 2024-1722 by a vote of 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. The consent agenda included the following items: approval of use of Tower Park on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 for Speak Out Illinois, approval of use of Tower Park on Saturday, September 21, 2024 for Strides for Justice, approval of use of Tower Park on Saturday, October 12, 2024 for Allergy Awareness, approval of use of Tower Park on Fridays, June 21, July 19, and August 16, 2024 for River Valley Big Band, and approval of use of Tower Park on Saturday, September 28, 2024 for Bark in the Park. There was no comment on the annual events. The Board approved the consent agenda 5-0.

Mayor Phelan requested the trustees who voted against the Woodard and Curran proposal to provide additional direction to Administration. Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business.

Trustee Wisenburg asked about the structure of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. Mayor Phelan explained how the Board had come to have no sitting members and the need for the Board to be active once again. Chief Sutton provided additional context relating to the hiring of lateral transfers for the Police Department.

Trustee Wigginton expressed concern about how trustees get items listed on the agenda. Trustee Wigginton explained he'd spoken to the Illinois Municipal League to provide information about how trustees can add items to the agenda. He asked the mayor consider adding an action item to the next agenda to allow trustees to add items to the agenda if two or more request an item. Mayor Phelan responded he had denied Trustee Wigginton's request because it was too late to add to the agenda for this meeting. He noted no other trustees had expressed interest stressing the item could be added in the future. Trustee Wigginton clarified he's concerned about policies relating to how trustees add items to the agenda. He provided example language from another municipality. Mayor Phelan explained he had never denied a trustee outright, but rather delayed topics for practical reasons. Trustee Wisenburg noted he'd like time to consider the issue regarding agenda policy though in his experience Mayor Phelan had been fair. Attorney Walton explained his preference is to codify any procedures for clarity. Mayor Phelan asked Attorney Walton to prepare it. Trustee Goett supported Mayor Phelan's willingness to accommodate requests.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment on general items.

Ms. J Gruber, 3814 N Monroe, expressed support for the new agenda rule.

Hearing no other public comment, the meeting was closed to public comment. The Board moved on to the finance reports.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. There were no questions on the bills. The Board voted 5-0 to approve payment of the bills.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. At the end of December, there was \$8,472,266.22 in the Village controlled accounts and \$2,284,245.56 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee DeVore seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:06 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk