

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees
February 21, 2023

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, Elizabeth Khazzam, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Trustee DeVore was present by telephone. The Mayor has previously found that it is not prudent to require in person attendance given the ongoing spread of the COVID virus, and his determination remains in effect due to the ongoing disaster proclamation by the Governor. Trustee Mark Gauf was absent. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Mark Walton.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on February 7, 2023. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes 5-0.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no public comment, Mayor Phelan closed the meeting to public comments and moved on to old business. Hearing no old business, the Board moved on to new business.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the street closure for the St. Patrick's Day event on March 17, 2023. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the owners of WE Sullivan's had requested street closure for their annual event. Nothing about their request has changed from previous years including the set up and tear down schedule. The Board approved the closure 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-01: a Resolution Regarding the Release of Closed Session Minutes and Destruction of Closed Session Verbatim Recordings. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the Board had reviewed executive minutes at the last meeting, and the resolution released the minutes as determined by the Board. Resolution 2023-01 was approved 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-02: a Resolution Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Village of Peoria Heights and the Policemen's Benevolent Labor Committee. Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the new contract didn't have a lot of changes. Financially the changes include increasing the retirement health insurance reimbursement, a physical fitness incentive, and a wage increase to match surrounding communities. Mayor Phelan asked Trustee DeVore if she believed the Village could afford the increase. Trustee DeVore noted that the Village could. The Village had received a lot of grants in recent years, and staff had worked hard to show the Village finances could afford the increases. Trustee Wigginton stated the contract was important for public safety. Crime rates haven't increased in the Village, though it may have in surrounding areas, and the Village must remain a competitive employer to retain staff. Trustee Wigginton noted that there were additional considerations for the employees in the contract besides wages, and he believes the contract is fair. Mayor Phelan offered his thanks to the entire Peoria Heights Police Department. Resolution 2023-02 was approved 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03: a Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Public Works Department Collective Bargaining Agreement. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the Public Works bargaining agreement was staying the same except for a cost of living increase in the coming year. She noted that the amendment would put both collective bargaining units on the same schedule. Mayor Phelan noted it was important to be an employer of choice and expressed his thanks to the Public Works Department. Resolution 2023-03 was approved 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1696: an Ordinance Correcting Amortization Schedule for the \$1,665,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2022, of the Village of Peoria Heights, Peoria County, Illinois, Issued on February 1, 2022 for the Purpose of Refunding the Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2016, of Said Village. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained this ordinance went along with the next two items. She noted all were related to the Trefzger's development agreement. She noted that there was an error with the bond refinance, it has been paid correctly, but the error needed to be corrected. Trustee DeVore explained that alongside the bond correction the Village needed to abatement taxes which were related to payment of the bond. Attorney Walton added that the abatements had been done previously but were updated to match the correction. Attorney Walton noted he'd provided a corrected schedule, and the total payment amount had gone down. Ordinance 2023-1696 was approved 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1697: an Ordinance Revising the Abatement Amount of the General Obligation Taxes Levied for the Year 2022 to Pay Debt Service on the Corrected Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022 of the Village of Peoria Heights, Peoria County, Illinois. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. There was no discussion as it had previously been explained. Ordinance 2023-1697 was approved 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1698: an Ordinance Revising the Abatement Amount of the Special Service Area No. 1 Taxes for the Year 2022 to Pay Debt Service on the Corrected Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022 of the Village of Peoria Heights, Peoria County, Illinois. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. There was no discussion as it had previously been explained. Ordinance 2023-1698 was approved 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve a donation to Peoria Heights Community Band in the amount of \$1,000. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the Village made a regular donation to the community band. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the donation was budgeted, and Mayor Phelan agreed. The Board approved the donation 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve a donation to the Peoria Heights Arts Collaborative in the amount of \$5,000. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted the group had approached the Board previously and requested the donation. The Board approved the donation 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve non-union full-time employee evaluation merit increases. Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the non-union full-time employees weren't under the same collective bargaining agreements like other employees. She noted that the merit increases were based on the evaluation. Chief Sutton explained the increases included six positions, and the total was under \$7,000. He stated all the evaluations were outstanding. The positions under discussion are Administrative Assistant, Financial Assistant, Water Technician, Fire Chief,

Deputy Chief of Police, and Superintendent of Public Works. The merit evaluation bonuses were approved 5-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-1699: an Ordinance Imposing Responsible Bidder Requirements for Public Works Projects. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore deferred to Community Development Director Wayne Aldrich. Director Aldrich explained that the ordinance set a limit for the amount of a project which required a registered training and apprenticeship program. He noted the jobs still require prevailing wage, but it removes some of the burden on smaller contractors completing projects for small BDD grants. Trustee Wigginton noted that non-home rule communities must follow state guidelines which set the limit at \$25,000 while the Village's ordinance sets the limit at \$10,000. He stated the Village was setting the burden even higher and asked the Board to reflect on increasing the limit to match the state guidelines. Director Aldrich noted that the ordinance had been discussed with trade unions, and that most smaller projects would be underneath that limit set by the ordinance. Trustee Goett expressed support for \$10,000. Trustee Wisenburg asked where the \$10,000 figure came from. Director Aldrich noted it came from the BDD grant match. Trustee Khazzam explained the discussion came from comments from grant applicants who had difficulty meeting the current requirements. Trustee Wigginton expressed concerns and made a motion to table the ordinance. There was no second to the motion. The motion to table the ordinance failed. Ordinance 2023-1699 was approved 4-1 with Trustee Wigginton voting nay.

The Board moved on to miscellaneous business.

Attorney Walton explained to the trustees that the governor's rules regarding COVID and remote attendance for meetings will be coming to an end May 11, 2023. He noted that there would be changes to the remote attendance policies after the governor's order had expired.

Trustee Wisenburg explained had he received complaints about rocks at the dog park. Chief Sutton noted there were a couple options for replacing the rocks, and he believes the best solution would be to replace the rock on the side for small dogs. Trustee Wisenburg noted with summer approaching he had received a call from a resident regarding advertising for live music from 8:30-11:30. He noted previously discussions on the topic and expressed concern about the advertising. Mayor Phelan thanked Trustee Wisenburg for bringing up the issue proactively. He noted that he had asked Trustee Wisenburg to work with Trustee Wigginton on bringing some solutions to the Board. Trustee Wisenburg expressed hope to strike a balance noting the importance of the music to the businesses.

Chief Sutton updated the Board that he had received confirmation that day the property on Lake would be demolished before the end of March. The demolition was delayed due to insurance paperwork. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the houses would be rebuilt. Chief Sutton stated he'd speak to the owners.

Director Aldrich noted the Together We Play equipment was on schedule for delivery in the middle of March. With good weather, it'll be under construction soon. He noted the Village is currently working with Congressman LaHood's office to make an announcement regarding the Prospect Road appropriation. He noted that he'd be working with IDOT on the Galena Road project, and they had a good partnership. He shared that the water capital improvement plan was complete, and he wanted to schedule a work session to present the information to the public. He noted the Village had favorable consideration for a grant for lead service inventory and had favorable consideration for a lead service line replacement loan. Trustee Wisenburg asked if the Village knew the percentage of house that had lead service lines. Director Aldrich noted the Village didn't but was in the process of determining that.

Trustee Wisenburg asked how close the Village was to launching a residential improvement program within the expanded TIF district. Mayor Phelan noted it was a multi-pronged approach involving grant funding which the Village had not received. He stated his hope the Board would continue to seek grant funding to pursue the program.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Trustee Wisenburg 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. As of the end of January, there was \$7,476,430.80 in the Village controlled accounts and \$2,105,535.52 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Wigginton made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee Goett seconded. The Treasurer's report was approved 5-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:15 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk