

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees
March 7, 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. Mayor Phelan noted two former trustees Bob Spencer and Bob Favorite had recently passed away. He asked that people keep their families in their thoughts.

Upon calling roll, the following Trustees were present: Jeff Goett, Elizabeth Khazzam, Mark Gauf, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Trustee DeVore was absent. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, and Village Clerk Stephanie Turner.

Trustee Gauf made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on February 21, 2023. Trustee Khazzam 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.

Mayor Phelan announced his decision to reappoint Mr. Christopher Ahart to the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District Board for the term 2023 - 2027. Trustee Gauf made a motion to reappoint Mr. Ahart, and Trustee Goett seconded the motion. The Board approved the appointment 5-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1700: an Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of the Centennial Building Owned by the Village of Peoria Heights with Senator David Koehler. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained that Village was very excited to entertain the lease agreement. The lease agreement is for one year for \$7,200 annually with an option for additional years. Trustee Goett explained there will be security cameras installed, minor construction improvements, and expressed his excitement. Mayor Phelan acknowledged Ms. Jennifer Allison, Chief of Staff for Senator Koehler, and noted the subject had occurred suddenly when Senator Koehler was notified his current lease was expiring. Ms. Allison stated the office would be a state office, and their offices were excited to have space in Peoria Heights. Chief Sutton noted the term was through the end of December 2024. Ordinance 2023-1700 was approved 5-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1701: an Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a First Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement Between and By the Village of Peoria Heights and War Drive, LLC. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the ordinance was a housekeeping issue. The parent company had acquired the property before they had finished the project. They want to be able to include TIF eligible expenses acquired under that name as part of the agreement. Trustee Wigginton noted pleased to find out the amendment to the agreement wouldn't alter the time line for the completion of the project and the allocation of funds remain the same regardless of the name. Ordinance 2023-1701 passed 5-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the use of Tower Park on September 8 – 9, 2023 for the Village's 125th anniversary celebration. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained

this year was the 125th anniversary for the Village. The Chamber of Commerce is planning an event to celebrate. The Board approved use of the Tower Park 5-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the closure of Prospect Road on September 7, 2023, from Marietta Avenue to Glen Avenue, for the Taste of the Heights event. Trustee Gauf seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam noted it was the third Taste of Heights, and the Board was used to the process for road closures. The Board approved the road closure 5-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$50,000 to the Peoria Heights Chamber of Commerce for the 125th anniversary celebration. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the donation was requested to fund the plans for the anniversary celebration. Trustee Khazzam invited Ms. Theresa McDade and Ms. Barb Milaccio forward to speak about the event. Ms. Milaccio explained the event will involve a variety of events including a history exhibit which could fold into future events. Trustee Wisenburg noted previous events included a booklet. Ms. Milaccio noted she was excited to pursue the possibility of a booklet if funding allowed. She noted that the dates for the celebration were chosen to commemorate the actual signing of the municipal declaration. Trustee Khazzam thanked the Chamber of Commerce for taking on the effort of planning the events and noted the Chamber was looking for help. She invited residents to reach out to provide support. Trustee Wigginton noted he would be abstaining from the vote, though he thinks it's an excellent idea, because he sits on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce. The Board voted 4-0 to approve the donation. Trustee Wigginton abstained. Ms. Milaccio thanked the Board and expressed excitement.

Mayor Phelan invited Clerk Turner to begin the first presentation of the proposed fiscal year 2023 - 2024 budget. Clerk Turner provided an overview of the budget for the Village. All funds will end the current year with balanced or with a surplus. For the coming year, most funds are balanced or have a planned surplus. There are two which have a deficit. One, the INF Fund, has a budgeted deficit each year to provide the Waterworks Company with flexibility for its projects, but it isn't typically spent to a deficit. The other, the MFT Fund, has been building its cash reserves for years in preparation for repairs to Forest Park Drive. There's sufficient cash reserves for the project in the coming year. Clerk Turner covered each of the General Fund's departments, highlighting major expenses for the current and coming year, before covering the Waterworks Company as well as each of the Village's restricted funds. Staff fielded questions as Clerk Turner discussed the highlights of each department. Mayor Phelan thanked Clerk Turner for her thorough presentation. He noted the Board should consider the policy directives for the coming year.

Director Aldrich noted the Village will have a public meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2023 to present the Waterworks capital improvement plan findings. The Village will have a groundbreaking for the Together We Play playground on April 1, 2023. Director Aldrich noted that work will begin even sooner as equipment will be delivered soon.

The Board moved on to miscellaneous business.

Trustee Wisenburg asked when Forest Park Drive would be closed for the coming work. Superintendent of Public Works, Chris Chandler, noted that would be determined after the bid opening which was coming shortly. Trustee Wisenburg asked about a police study to put a four way stop at Illinois and Cox. Chief Sutton agreed to do a public safety study. Mayor Phelan and Chief Sutton noted there could be accomplished quickly if the neighborhood requested it. Trustee Wisenburg noted he'd previously asked

to replace half the dog park with pea gravel, but after visiting he asked if the Village could replace all the rocks at the dog park with pea gravel since the rocks in the park are very jagged. Chief Sutton agreed.

Trustee Wigginton stated he and Trustee Wisenburg had discussions on the noise ordinance issue. He stated from a public safety perspective the Village needs an ordinance that reflects the will of the Board that is in tune with the needs of the community. He noted the ordinance needed to reflect current enforcement. Chief Sutton stated it was a housekeeping issue to clean everything up. He asked if there were complaints over the previous weekend when the bands were inside. Trustees stated they had not received complaints. Trustee Khazzam noted it was a volume issue more than a timing issue. Trustee Wisenburg noted it was a delicate balance preserving the peace between residents and the businesses. Chief Sutton suggested the Board proceed with getting the ordinance updated with a time. Trustee Wigginton agreed. Mayor Phelan asked the trustees to work with counsel to bring an ordinance to the Board and encouraged them to meet with the business owners before drafting the ordinance. Mayor Phelan noted as liquor commissioner the fines for violations were low in his opinion.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:30 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk