

Village of Peoria Heights  
Board of Trustees  
December 5, 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, Jennifer Reichert, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. 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 Khazzam made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 6-0.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment on agenda items. Hearing no public comment, the Board moved on to old business. Chief Sutton provided an update on changing the water billing cycle. He noted the first step was to change the ordinance to allow e-billing. He explained with a measured process and promoting e-billing then a reduction of workload might allow for staff to handle bimonthly billing. The Board discussed education and the implementation. Chief Sutton noted with media and education then the number of people paying in person could be reduced. Chief Sutton also announced Cookies, the Village's new dispensary, would be opening soon. A number of officers will be providing security on their off hours.

The Board moved on to new business.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1716: an Ordinance Abating Special Service Area No. 1 Taxes for the Year 2023 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022 of the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained this and the next ordinance are to secure the Village's bond payments for the Trezferger's properties. Since sufficient tax revenues were collected, the alternate property tax levies will be abated. The Board approved the ordinance 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1717: an Ordinance Abating the General Obligation Taxes Levied for the Year 2023 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022 of the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee Goett seconded. The Board approved Ordinance 2023-1717 by a vote of 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to Ordinance 2023-1718: Adoption of 2023-2024 Tax Levy (Village and Library). Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the Village had decreased the tax levy the last two years, but had increased its request around \$25,000. Director of the Peoria Heights Public Library Shawn Edwards came forward to speak about the library's tax levy request. He noted their Board had to increase their tax levy slightly, but their levy had been fairly steady for a while. He noted it might need to increase in the coming years because the library was in need of major remodeling and a new roof though the library had been fortunate to receive a large donation recently. Director Edwards explained the majority of the library's revenue comes from the property tax levy. Mayor Phelan requested Community Development Director Wayne Aldrich work with the library to seek

grant funding. Trustee Wisenburg asked about the increase in light of the Village's surplus. Mayor Phelan noted Chief Sutton and staff had increased the tax levy request in anticipation of increased expenses. Trustee Wisenburg made an amendment to reduce the Village's property tax levy general corporate by \$25,877. Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. Trustee Wigginton asked if there were sufficient funds for the police pension contribution. Chief Sutton explained the minimum payment would be made, even if the property taxes weren't sufficient, but the past practice of paying additional funds to the pension were over. He noted the Village was facing significant costs in the fire department. Trustee Wigginton and Chief Sutton discussed sources of cuts. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the amendment to reduce the general corporate tax levy by \$25,877. The tax levy as amended passed 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1719: an Ordinance Regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act for the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore explained the Village, as home rule, had authority to set paid leave for employees. The Board approved Ordinance 2023-1719 by approved 6-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-19: a Resolution of the Village of Peoria Heights Accepting an Agreement for Professional Services with Hutchison Engineering for Construction Observation Services for Roadway Improvements on War Memorial Drive at Central Avenue. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the contract was for the second part of the construction in the area of Central and War Memorial Drive. Director Aldrich provided an update on the road construction. The Board approved the contract 6-0.

Director Aldrich explained the grant for the Monroe design had been turned in. The Village will soon put out an RFQ for zoning code. He noted the next grant applications would be for parks along the bluff or riverfront.

Mayor Phelan asked for public comment on general issues. Ms. Anne Lockheart, 722 E Marietta, thanked Chief Sutton for his work on the water bills. She noted there was a fee to pay online and questioned that. Clerk Turner explained the processing fees charged by credit card vendors.

Mayor Phelan closed public comment and asked for miscellaneous business.

Trustee Wigginton shared the Kris Kringle Mart had been the previous weekend and was a magical event.

Superintendent of Public Works Chris Chandler provided an update on the ice pigging process. He stated the area north of Glen Avenue had been completed last week, and services are currently in the Toledo area. There are a few more days with the last main being Prospect Road which will be done early in the morning to avoid affecting the businesses. Trustee Wisenburg asked about residents seeing effects after their block had been completed, and Superintendent Chandler explained it was due there being few valves in the Village. He thanked the residents for their patience. Trustee Wigginton asked about main breaks, and Superintendent Chandler explained there had been one main break due to a valve being shut too quickly. There was only one main break in the area of the ice pigging.

Trustee DeVore provided an update on the meeting of Administration with Woodard and Curran about gathering additional information about the water system. Woodard and Curran will be putting together a proposal for the services. Mayor Phelan noted he'd like to streamline the process and requested a summary of the meeting be sent to trustees.

Trustee Wisenburg asked about results of the ice pigging process. Superintendent Chandler reported it was definitely having an effect. He noted that there was sediment being removed, water was flowing more quickly, and there was a reduction in pressure in the mains which could reduce water main breaks. He noted it's unlikely that the Village will receive calls saying the water was clear, but he was optimistic about the effects. Superintendent Chandler estimated about a quarter of the system had been serviced. The Board discussed options going forward.

Trustee Goett made a motion to enter executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1) to discuss employee compensation. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Mayor Phelan noted the Board would not take further action upon return. The Board voted 6-0 to enter executive session at 6:21 pm.

The Board of Trustees reconvened regular session at 6.37 pm.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:38 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk