

Village of Peoria Heights  
Board of Trustees  
November 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.

Upon calling roll, the following Trustees were present: Sarah DeVore, Elizabeth Khazzam, Jennifer Reichert, and Brandon Wisenburg. Trustees Jeff Goett and Matthew Wigginton 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 Khazzam made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 4-0.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Mary Bair, 5016 N Clarendon, came forward to state she felt the Village had done well maintaining its own fire department. She expressed the City of Peoria Fire Department was underfunded and understaffed. She also stated her opinion was that Illinois American Water hadn't provided enough answers or benefits to the Village noting the easiest answer wasn't the right answer.

Ms. J Gruber, 3814 N Monroe, asked that Code Enforcement review the 700 block of Division for violations. She also supported maintaining public ownership of the Peoria Heights Waterworks rather than selling to Illinois American Water. She also supported maintaining local control of the PHFD.

Hearing no additional public comment, the Board moved on to old business. Trustee DeVore shared she was concerned about new regulations of chemicals in water. She requested Board input on an RFP for the finances of the Water Company noting she wanted to make progress on the issue. Trustee Khazzam noted she was in favor of exploring options with IAW though she noted that she felt the community could use additional information. Trustee Khazzam wanted to explore focused meetings on the topic. Trustee Wisenburg agreed with the idea of town hall meetings. The Board discussed timelines for improving the water system as well as improvements. They also discussed advantages and disadvantages. The Board agreed there was more work to be done as well as education. Having concluded old business, the Board moved on to new business.

Village Counsel, Attorney Mark Walton, updated the Board that KDB Group had filed a complaint with the State Attorney's office alleging that the Village had violated a Freedom of Information Act request. Attorney Walton noted he disagreed with filing and his office was reviewing the complaint.

Trustee Wisenburg asked Mayor Phelan if the meetings could include a second comments from the audience at the end of meeting. Attorney Walton suggested that communities who had comments twice confined one set of comments to agenda items only.

Ms. Gruber asked if counsel could expand on the complaint that had been filed. Attorney Walton explained the group had filed an extensive request, and the Village had spent a lot of time responding to the request.

The Board moved on to new business.

Mayor Phelan announced his appointment of Mr. Dan Decker as Fire Chief. Trustee Khazzam made a motion to appoint Mr. Dan Decker as Fire Chief. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Mr. Decker noted he was very excited and shared his history in firefighting services. He noted he had been involved in the area for a long time. Trustee Wisenburg asked Mr. Decker questions regarding his history and familiarity with the community. Mr. Decker spoke about his plans and philosophy for the fire department. The Board approved the appointment 4-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the Village of Peoria Heights Fire Chief employment agreement. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted the contract hadn't changed. The Board approved the agreement 4-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1713: an Ordinance Approving Agreement with G&O Disposal, Ltd. for Waste Hauling Services. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted the contract was the standard renewal. She noted there would be an increase due to landfill, fuel, and wage costs increases. G&OD Disposal will continue to provide garbage bins. The agreement passed 4-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion for approval of use of Tower Park on May 11 and 12, 2024 for Peoria Heights Fine Art. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam noted the request was not for funds, but the budget included a fee for use of Tower Park. Trustee Khazzam noted the Village didn't charge for use of the park. Trustee Khazzam made a motion to amend the approval to omit the budget line item of \$150 for use of Tower Park. Trustee DeVore seconded. The Board approved the amendment 4-0. Trustee Khazzam noted the event would be around Tower Park but generally similar to previous years. Ms. Jane Johnson came forward noting the event was for two days after advice from the Board the previous year. Trustee Wisenburg noted access to one house was blocked on the map. Ms. Julie Biefeldt explained they could work with the houses and they could get access via the alley. Trustee DeVore noted she couldn't approve closing Kingman until speaking to the homeowners. Chief Sutton explained there had been a similar situation with the carnival, and the Village had good communication with the owners. The Board discussed the process and decided to proceed with an update to be provided at the next meeting. The event was approved as amended by 4-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve use of Tower Park on December 1 and 2, 2023 for Kris Kringle Market. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam noted the event had been held in the past and was straight forward. Trustee Wisenburg asked if there was a donation request. The Board concluded there shouldn't be any other requests for donation. The event was approved 4-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1714: an Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of the First Amendment to the Business Development District No. 1 Redevelopment Agreement By and Between Village of Peoria Heights, Illinois and Heather Nena, dba The Nook and Nena Hardware, Inc. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the item was a housekeeping issue. The agreement updated the naming of the business owner and business. The Board approved Ordinance 2023-1714 by a vote of 4-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-16: a Resolution Approving Extension of Agreement with Cardinal Infrastructure for Federal Advisory Services. Trustee DeVore seconded the

motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the Village had worked with Cardinal Infrastructure for a while. Director of Community Development, Mr. Wayne Aldrich, explained the contract would extend the partnership for another 6 months stating it had been beneficial to the Village in seeking federal funding. Trustee DeVore and Director Aldrich briefly discussed the advantages of Peoria County considering partnering with Cardinal Infrastructure. The Board approved the contract extension 4-0.

Director Aldrich shared the Village held a community meeting for HUD Healthy Homes Grant. He thanked St. Thomas Church for hosting the event. He noted about twenty-five attendees were present, and more than 500 letters had been mailed. He noted applications and instructions were on the Village's website. The grant covers up to \$10,000 of safety and health improvements. All homes will be tested for radon and eligible items include minor repairs such as moisture and fall risks. Director Aldrich also shared the Village would be requesting qualifications for Phase I engineering of Prospect Road. TriCounty Regional Planning will be issuing the request on the Village's behalf.

Trustee Reichert asked Ms. Johnson and Ms. Biefeldt if they had considered extending up Grandview Drive instead of Kingman Avenue. Ms. Biefeldt explained they hadn't considered it noting there were traffic concerns. She noted the Art Fair was open to suggestions.

Mr. Raymond Lockhart expressed support for town hall meetings. He also asked if the Village could review its sound system.

Ms. Gruber complimented the Fine Art Fair on extending the event to two days.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Hearing no additional miscellaneous business, Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 4-0 to adjourn at 6:30 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk