

**MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THORNTON TOWNSHIP HALL  
333 E 162<sup>nd</sup> St SOUTH HOLLAND, IL 60473**

**January 10, 2023**

Thornton Township Supervisor Henyard called the Thornton Township Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:11pm. Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Loretta Wells to call the roll.

**PRESENT:** Trustees Christopher Gonzalez, Darlene Gray- Everett, Joyce Washington, and Supervisor Tiffany Henyard.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk Loretta Wells, Highway Commissioner Geary DePue, Assessor Cassandra Elston and Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski

**ABSENT:** Trustee Gerald “Jerry” Jones

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer, the first item on the agenda was Public Comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve minutes of Regular Board of Trustees Meeting held December 20, 2022, at 6:00pm. The motion was made by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Gray-Everett. There being no questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:** 4 Trustees Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Washington, and Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:** 1 Trustee Gerald “Jerry” Jones

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the bills of the General Fund as presented to the Board for payment. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. There being no questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:** 4 Trustees Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Washington, and Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:** 1 Trustee Gerald “Jerry” Jones

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the bills of the General Assistant Fund as presented to the Board for payment. The motion was made by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Gray-Everett. There being no questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:**     4    Trustees Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Washington, and Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:** 1    Trustees Gerald “Jerry” Jones

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the bills of the Road and Bridge Fund as presented to the Board for payment. The motion was made by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. There being no questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:**     4    Trustees Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Washington, and Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:** 1    Trustee Gerald “Jerry” Jones

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Henyard gave a brief overview about the three referendum questions concerning Frank Zuccarelli, all three received majority “yes” votes. With all three referendums passings, we can look forward to a statue of Frank Zuccarelli in front of the Township Building. In addition, renaming the Thornton Township building and renaming the street “Wausau Ave” after Frank Zuccarelli. Supervisor Henyard asked to stay tuned, as she has to make sure it’s in the next fiscal year budget, she plans to let everyone know of the date it will happen.

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to place on the ballot Binding Referendum Question for April 4, 2023, Election – She explained her understanding of how important it is to place this on the ballot for the electors to decide if this shall take effect. Supervisor Henyard also explains that in the past, several Townships have passed something similar and offer such services within their townships which has put millions of dollars in those Townships budget. Supervisor Henyard states that Keith Freeman, Robert Hunt, and Dr. Weems are present to go more in depth about how this will work. She continues with stating “We really have to do something about our mental health in the South Suburbs, currently now, you guys know that I do have a mental facility in the Village of Dolton, anybody that struggling, or don’t have anywhere to go your all welcome in the township to go there and utilized their services to get the help.” She exclaims “Do not suffer in silence, I cannot stress that enough, do not suffer in silence, half the time people are ashamed, they do not want people to know, and they are scared to just pick up the phone and call,” “Call us, the township is here to help you, we are a branch of resources please utilize it.” Attorney Nelson-Jaworski reads the referendum

question as presented to the board for consideration for the April 4, 2023, election. "Shall Thornton Township levy an annual tax not to exceed 0.15% for the purpose of providing community mental health facilities and services including facilities and services for the person with a developmental disability or a substance abuse disorder, which levy will have a single additional tax of a maximum of 0.15% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein extended for such purposes?" the attorney state it's a straight forward question, which is to "Fund community mental health facilities and services within the community. Supervisor Henyard gives the floor to Senior Advisor, Keith Freeman who also gives a bit of in-site on how other townships have moved forward with such services. He states that the 708 board is a board created by the Township and usually consists of 7-9 members (usually of the public within the township). They make the decisions on the advancements of Mental Health Services and Facilities. This will help our Township expand our Youth and Family Services that we currently offer now. He mentions increasing our Y & F services into offering help with things like substance abuse. Keith reached out to a few different townships to get a better outlook on how this all could work, while stating that the referendum is just the start. Keith then gives Dr. Weems the floor to go a bit more in depth on the way this program will work, and he also mentions other components that this will cover, such as autism etc. This will offer opportunity to work with our community partners and organizations, who could benefit from additional influx of cash, in order to provide services to members of the township. This is a process and there are several steps, and if it passes then the township will appoint the 708 board and then that board will be responsible for conducting a study, essentially a self-study to see where the need are or the gaps are. After that, then the budget is prepared by the Board, then the Township approves that budgets and then grant applications will need to be submitted. Dr. Weems states he is open and available to any questions that anyone may have about the 708 Board and what our process may look like. Supervisor Henyard thanked everyone for speaking and giving the public more knowledge about the referendum. Trustee Gonzalez asked if there are any other ways available to fund this program and asks about the cost. Dr Weems explains that grants are established to fund this. Finance Director Hunt gives an overview of the cost layout for taxpayers. The motion was made by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Gray-Everett. There being no further questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 4 Trustees Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Washington, and Supervisor Henyard

ABSENT: 1 Trustee Gerald "Jerry" Jones

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

**RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS: None**

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:**

Supervisor Tiffany Henyard states that there will be a cut down on the weekly Thursday’s events. Line Dancing and Steppers will be canceled, and Big Bingo will continue every third Thursday

- Big Bingo - January 19,2023, 4pm-6pm
- Township Talk – January 25, 2023, 5pm-7pm
- Senior Financial Literacy course for residents - January 26, 2023, 11am-1pm

Please Join us! If anyone wants to join or register for any events or have any questions call the Township at (773) 596-6040 ext. 3325. If you have any questions about any events please call Executive Assistant, Joslyn King (773) 771-1523.

**PERSONNEL:**

**RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS:**        **None**

**TRANSFER/PROMOTION/STATUS CHANGE:**                **None**

**APPOINTMENT/NEW HIRE:**                                        **None**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Trustee Joyce Washington says there’s no list of birthdays, She also stated that one of her neighbors wants to invite Supervisor Henyard to the Calumet city building, Trustee Washington asks if she could put some time aside or visit our Calumet City Location on Huntington, concerning the painting on the wall, which may be offensive. Supervisor Henyard states that she will be there.

Trustee Jones arrives @6:32pm

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett, seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. There being no questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES:        4 Trustees Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Washington, and Supervisor Henyard

PASS:      1 Trustee Gerald “Jerry” Jones

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees adjourned at 6:33pm.

X

Joyce M. Washington  
Trustee

X

Darelene Gray-Everett  
Trustee

X

Gerald "Jerry" Jones  
Trustee

X

Christopher Gonzalez  
Trustee

X

Loretta Wells  
Clerk

X

Tiffany A. Henyard  
Supervisor