

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

September 27, 2022

Thornton Township Supervisor Henyard called the Thornton Township Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:20p.m. Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Loretta Wells to call the roll.

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

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

ABSENT: Trustee Gerald “Jerry” Jones

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Supervisor Henyard and Clerk Wells informed the public, they are allowed 3 minutes per comment so everyone can have a chance to speak, and this will not be a Q & A session. Loretta called the first person to the podium.

-John Naller the Director of Field Operations at Rucker Holding, mentions, we come from inner cities where you don't have opportunities and where everybody feels like you must sell drugs or such to “make it”. We did it a different way, we own 23 companies, and we give back, we hire and go into different suburbs & neighborhoods and open things for the kids. We are having an issue with Downtown Dolton, I don't know the politics behind it, I just know we did everything the way we been doing it everywhere else we do it at. No matter what township, what mayor, what Alderman, who every or wherever it is. We go to that city, we find out what's a need, we figure out where we can fill out that void and we keep it moving and so on and so forth. We just ask if we come to Thornton Township will we go through the same thing we are going through with Dolton here? We are going through a situation now and I can't understand, and I never seen before in my life.

-DeAndre Rucker, Owner of Rucker Holdings, mentions, we own 23 companies in multiple suburbs, we also have a youth program called Rucker academy in Chicago, IL. We do plan to bring more business into the South Suburbs. My problem is with that, we refuse to bring more business in, if we are going to deal with the issues we are dealing with in Dolton. So that's why we are here today. There will be 30 more Q&A's that going to come up saying the same thing in every meeting, every board meeting for the Southland to Dolton, until we get our point across. I'm not understanding, if everything we did was the right way, why now are we getting refused. So, every meeting that this southland has, my people will stand from 30 to 50 every time.

-John Kraft, of the Edgar County Watch Dogs, say's it should be the supervisor calling the names and letting people when their three minutes are up. one of the first thing you mentioned was

respect, respect starts with, stating your meeting on time you said 6 O'clock, it didn't start at 6 or 6:05, he said what were you doing back there, we weren't up here starting the meeting. I know you were noticed at least twice that more people were going to be here, than you can fit in this little, tiny room, and your duty according to the appellate court is to move to a larger room. So, you're going to be noticed again, for the next meeting and hopefully they will take you to the circuit court and the judge will force you to move downstairs, it'll happen, no judge is going to allow 11 chairs in a room when you got 100 spaces downstairs, no judge will allow that, and it violates the open meetings act. We are using road district money to purchase police cars and putting municipal plates on them. I was the one that notified Secretary of State police directory, and it wasn't 48 hours and he had someone up here taking the plates off your vehicles and he told you not to use the lights again and you do it anyway with municipal plates on them. You used it when you're going to and from the courthouse. It violates the law, you're going to get arrested for that eventually and whoever was driving those vehicles will be arrested for that eventually, you know it coming, you can smirk all you want, and then using road district funds to purchase them, that something I will have to take up with the Road Commissioner. Now, Trustees compensation I know it was put in before you were the supervisor but the compensation ordinance, you set a trustee period. You don't set the compensation for a trustee that's been in office for 18 years and a different compensation for one that's been in 12 years, and lower compensation for a first term trustee. Every trustee gets paid the same amount, and I would ask of the trustees that are getting screwed out of their money to talk to me and I will point you to an attorney that will get all your back pay if you haven't been here longer than other trustees. They will be forced to pay everybody the same, the law doesn't pay a trustee just because they've been in office 16 years, they pay them for the position, each position is equal, everybody gets paid the same.

-Jerome White mentions I'm the Director of Research and Development for Rucker holdings and I just a quick question for the board and everyone here. Are we still going to be treated, the way we are being treated in Dolton, at the other townships and other locations where we are trying to give back communities and raise the level of our communities. We just want to know, is that the same treatment we will get in our other endeavors.

-Trustee Jim Giglio, after issuing out a copy of the minutes from a past meeting, he mentions March 3 I have many friends sitting on this board, and this has nothing to do with you, the Clerk cannot chair a meeting, the clerk can only vote to break a tie in the appointment of an open seat. Pro-Temp Supervisor Washington that night, said she could not conduct the meeting because she was on medication. Clerk Wells, Loretta I love you, this has nothing to do with you and maybe you were given bad advice by the counsel, Vasselli has his issues in his history but you cannot accept motions, you cannot call motions, you cannot call for executive sessions, to go in or to come back and reconvene the meeting, as you did from the 1st on the 3rd, you can give the Oath to Ms. Henyard after one of the three remaining trustees of sound mind that night, who wasn't feeling ill is elected supervisor pro-temp for the night. Trustees can only vote. I see nothing but grift, corruption, spending money for an inauguration, there people out there in a recession, hungry, and your spending \$15,000 to sit on a queen chair. That's not your role, your role is public assistance, it's your job to direct that, not have parties, not have parades, provide to those that need it. Taking Zap to Dolton only, oh you did Dixmoor one day but having Thornton township funds expended in Dolton only. That why Mayors aren't supposed to be Supervisors. You stole money from the township, there are 16 other towns that deserves that exact same treatment. Are you going to give it to them. I know this isn't a Q&A, Supervisor Henyard cautioned him, stating she will get him for deformation of character. Giglio stated you're an

elected official, I can say what I want to. He exclaimed, Sue Me. Your wrong. I sat on this board, I went through contentious elections, I went through very difficult times where we fought each other on the board but we came to an accord, you promising to follow in the footsteps of Frank Zuccarelli, you're spitting on his grave, Joke! Why did you show up at his house that afternoon, you hardly knew, and then you had a meeting the next day in Calumet city. Who'd you meet with, to talk about how you were going to become the supervisor.

-Stephanie Weideman mentioned she don't have much this week; but she will come to the meeting every two weeks until she gets a response concerning the renaming of the building and the statue?" she was told last meeting that someone would reach out and no one did.

-Ernesha Miller with Rucker Holdings asked will we get the same respect or the same treatment that we are getting in Dolton if we come here. If we come to South Holland, will you all take care of us?

-Latonya Temple, Director of Operations for Rucker Holdings, would like to know that if we bring businesses to this area will we be treated the same way we have been treated in Dolton.

-Carol Banks, representing Rucker Holdings, she would like to know, if we do business here will we be receiving the same treatment as we've been receiving in Dolton.

-Manuel Williams, spoke about Rucker Holdings also.

-Shameka Atkins represented Rucker Holdings and asked about treatment.

-Ebony Hopkins represents Rucker holding wants to know if we do business here in south holland, will we be receiving the same mistreatment that we are receiving in Dolton, we filled out permits we are unable to move forward, we are fined for no valid reason, court dates after court dates, all we ask is for fair treatment. Allow us to bring business to Dolton, allow our community to help our community.

-Tanethea Williams represent Rucker holding company. Will we get the same treatment here as we have in Dolton.

-Julie Pierce greets the supervisor and the board, she mentions not being allowed to come into the last board meeting because of the overflow, we have 68,800 in Thornton Township. If two people from each community came, what would happen, they can't fit in here (Boardroom) so what is the protocol of having a meeting downstairs.

-Keith Price explains that he is shocked by the behavior here, seems like there's a witch hunt, we are at a township meeting and should be discussing Township business. There are 17 municipalities, which means there is 17 mayors, that they should be talking to about coming into their cities or villages, not at a township meeting. if the problem is with Dolton, then that should be handled at a Dolton meeting. I hope everybody learns how to work together, because she is in the seat whether you like it or not.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held September 13, 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 Trustee Washington, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard
ABSENT: 1 Trustee Jones

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approval of the bills of the General 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 Trustee Washington, Gray-Everett, Gonzalez, and Supervisor Henyard
ABSENT: 1 Trustee Jones

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

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

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 4 Trustee Gray-Everett, Gonzalez, Washington, and Supervisor Henyard
ABSENT: 1 Trustee Jones

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the Road and Bridge Fund as presented to the Board for payment. The motion was made by Trustee Washington and seconded by 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 Trustee Washington, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard
ABSENT: 1 Trustee Jones

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

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ ORDINANCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to Ratify Phone Poll conducted on Sep 20, 2022, for approval of State of Illinois \$1,000,000 awarded grant. The motion was made by Trustee Washington, seconded by Trustee Gray-Everett. Supervisor Henyard gives an overview. 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 Trustee Washington, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard
ABSENT: 1 Trustee Jones

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to Resolution 22-R-015 an engagement letter to hire Piper Sandler as a placement agent. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Supervisor Henyard. Supervisor Henyard and Finance Director, Robert Hunt gives an overview. There being no further questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 3 Trustee Washington, Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard
NO: 1 Trustee Gonzalez
ABSENT: 1 Trustee Jones

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

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Supervisor Henyard has been out doing the will of the people taking care of business within many of the municipalities. I just want to say please reach out the Village of Dixmoor who is really in need of water, Mayor Fitzgerald will gladly take any. I do help them on a regular from my personal fund and also the Township. Don't forget about the people because you never know

when that could be you. Township Talk will take place tomorrow at Thornridge Highschool at 5-7pm the address is 15000 Cottage Grove in Dolton, She mentions meal of the Month, having fresh produce in the pantry boxes, if you come tomorrow, you can receive a box or also at the pantry any other day. Supervisor Henyard mentions that she real big on cancer foundations and she created Henyard Cares Foundation which intel helping everybody within the 17 municipalities with services and resources, such as chemo, radiation, wigs, breast, even helping with housing. We are also doing a cancer walk October 4 stating at Food 4 Less, if you can make it, please show up. Kids Halloween dance party is Sun, October 30 4-6pm in the lower level of 333 E. 162nd St.

CLOSED SESSION: None

PERSONNEL: None

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS/TERMINATIONS: None

TRANSFER/PROMOTION/STATUS CHANGE: None

APPOINTMENT/NEW HIRE: None

MISCELLANEOUS:

Trustee Joyce Washington mentioned that the board plans to only have one board meeting for October, November, and December.

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Trustee Washington, 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:	<u>4</u>	Trustee Washington, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard
ABSENT:	<u>1</u>	Trustee Jones

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

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees adjourned at 6:59pm.

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