

**THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
2024/2025 TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING  
FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND  
333 E. 162<sup>ND</sup> STREET, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS**

**May 31, 2023**

Thornton Township's Supervisor Henyard called the Budget Hearing to order at 1:29 p.m. with Trustees Gerald "Jerry" Jones, Christopher Gonzalez, Darlene Gray-Everett, Carmen Carlisle, Supervisor Tiffany A. Henyard, Clerk Loretta Wells, Highway Commissioner Geary DePue, Assessor Cassandra Elston, and Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Henyard opened the floor for Public Comments.

Paul Roberts, Lansing Resident – Mr. Roberts proposed several questions about the General Fund and General Assistance Fund Budget. He speaks about how it's 62 pages long and mentions on page 15 there's a process that takes several months of public engagement where the administration should to seek public feedback.

Vivian Allen, Resident – Talks about the taxes she pays on her property in Harvey, taxes being raised and misuse of Township Funds.

Resident - Questions where in the budget does it state that Residents must provide personal information and bank records to receive General Assistance. Mentions Calumet city and says they have the same tactics as the Township, she also talks about the Tiffany Cares Foundation.

Resident – Questions FEMA and how much was given away to the community. He talks about how the Township was in a deficit before Supervisor Henyard took office and no one questioned anything until they found out there was money available. Everyone wants to come out and find out how they can get parts of the money, he also mentions the Affordable care act.

Resident – Questions why Supervisor Henyard isn't budgeting off last year's budget, it should be left as is. She says that this budget should have been tabled to give everyone a chance to amend what has been done.

Sonia, Resident - Talks about the assessor's office and how it's very important to the Seniors. She asks why the Assessor's office budget is decreasing.

Gardis Watts, Resident - Speaks about the Salary cuts and loans that were taken out in the year 2023.

Resident – Thanks everyone for coming to the meeting. He states that even after everything that's happened, it's no too late.

Alderwomen McDowell, Resident – Explains how she's applauded by the Budget and how the Trustees are going about the things that are happening.

- Open Forum -Statements from Supervisor, Department Heads:

Supervisor Henyard speaks about the Surplus and the deficit in the Township. There's a surplus in the General Fund of 6 million dollars, in the General Assistance Fund there's a surplus of 4 million dollars. Supervisor Henyard turns it over to Finance Director Robert Hunt for presentation of 2024/2025 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 24-002 for Thornton Township's General Assistance Fund. Robert Hunt gives an overview of where we're at in the budget and compare analysis from 2017-2024. Supervisor Henyard concurred and explained that the Township only takes 5 cent of Residents tax dollars, and the Tax Levy comes from the city you reside in, that's where the bulk of tax dollars come from.

Supervisor Henyard turns it over to Department heads to speak about what's happening within their departments.

Tannika Hughes, General Assistant Manager – Assist Residents with Social Agency Services, General Assistance is part of the budget as a separate line item, it has its own budget from the State and Federal Government. Provides help to those who are in between incomes, single individuals with no income and no eligibility for Government assistance, such as public aid, social security, or disability. Adults 18-65 years of age are eligible for General Assistant with no income. This department helps with rent, food, bills, or clothing. They partner with any stores within the Township that'll work with them to help others. Provides and gives care to clients and services for mental health and medicines. If you're applying for the emergency program, you must have some type of income to qualify. There is a standard that must be met throughout the Township of Illinois, you must have an ID and be a resident of that Township and provide social security card.

Marcia Brown, Senior Services Manager – We offer many services 52 weeks a year for Seniors to remain engaged in the Community. Serve lunches at a minimum cost of \$1.50 each, on average over a year there's 46,000 to 48,000 lunches sold. This department plans trips and activities weekly at no cost, 3-4 times a week for all seniors.

Tamika Henyard, Senior Serv Co-manager – Thanks everyone and mentions she appreciates everyone for coming out.

Ebony Harmen, Youth and Family Services Manager- They provide an after-school program where children get help with homework, take trips, and engage in many different activities and get snacks daily. There's also a summer enrichment program which starts June 10, 2024. Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm and it lasts from June to August. D.I.P (Days in the park) is also a program in which is free to all residents with many activities, food and music for the adults and children to enjoy.

Stan Brown, HAP Manager – Lawn Care program where teens go out to cut grass and connect with the senior residents. Community Outreach program where they go door to door in all the 17 municipalities and give information about the HAP program etc., so that they have knowledge of what goes on throughout the Township.

Keith Price, Food Pantry Manager – Thanks everyone for coming out. His department has taken the food box giveaway from 150-200 boxes a day to 400 boxes, they deliver to senior residents and senior homes, and they work to make the boxes better. They're looking into growth containers, where they can grow fruit and vegetables for the Community where everyone could get them for free.

Cassandra Elson, Assessor – Her and the Assessors Department works to help with property tax exemptions and help with getting money back on your property.

Supervisor Henyard gives an overview of the deficit vs the surplus, a breakdown of the General Funds audited numbers, tax levy and how taxes get raised without consent in individual towns. With every outreach program that goes on throughout the Township the numbers have increased in all departments.

Trustee Gonzalez proposed several questions for Finance Director, Robert Hunt. One being how much of the decrease in salaries percentages, came from employees that were laid off and fired, he also questions about employees being paid from grants programs. Robert Hunt explains that the numbers are calculated from an audit report. He says that everything is the same for 10-line items.

Supervisor Henyard, stated next on the agenda is the 2024/2025 Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 24-003 for Thornton Township’s General Fund and then turned it over to Finance Director Robert Hunt to give a brief presentation. Robert Hunt talks about the savings and salaries over the last two years.

With there being no comments or questions from the board, Supervisor Henyard asked if there were any comments or questions from the public regarding the 2024/2025 Tentative Budgets and Appropriation Ordinances 24-002, General Assistance Fund and 24-003 General Fund. There being no questions or comments from the public for the Tentative Budgets, Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to adjourn the Tentative Budget Hearing for the General Fund and General Assistance Fund. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Carlisle. There being no questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

<b>YES:</b>	<u>5</u>	Trustees Jones, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Carlisle, and Supervisor Henyard
<b>NO:</b>	<u>0</u>	None
<b>ABSENT</b>	<u>0</u>	

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

The Budget Hearing adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

---

**Clerk Loretta Wells**

---

**Trustee Gerald “Jerry” Jones**

---

**Trustee Christopher Gonzalez**

---

**Trustee Darlene Gray-Everett**

---

**Trustee Carmen Carlisle**

---

**Supervisor Henyard**