

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

**August 15, 2024**

Thornton Township Clerk Wells called the Thornton Township Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. Clerk Wells called the roll.

**PRESENT:** Trustees Gerald “Jerry” Jones, Christopher Gonzalez, Carmen Carlisle, and Supervisor Tiffany Henyard

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk Loretta Wells, Highway Commissioner Geary DePue, Assessor Cassandra Elston (via phone) and Attorney Eric Stach.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Darlene Gray-Everett

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Supervisor Henyard asked for a motion to approve the General Assistant bills as presented to the Board for payment. Trustee Carlisle made and amended the motion to pay the General Assistant bills, excluding K signs and designs, for \$3200. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Supervisor Henyard asks the Trustees the reason for not paying. Trustee Gonzalez questions what the payment was for. Supervisor Henyard stated that it was for shirts for Employees, a lengthy discussion occurred. 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, Jones, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

**ABSENT:**       1           Trustee Gray-Everett

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

Supervisor Henyard asked for a motion to approve the General Fund Bills as presented to the Board for payment. Trustee Carlisle entertained a motion to approve the General Fund bills that are listed on the agenda. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. A lengthy discussion occurred.

Trustee Jones entertained a 2nd motion to approve the bills on the special agenda list, along with paying staff. The motion was made by Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Carlisle with the contingency with Robert Hunt providing them with payroll. A lengthy discussion occurred. The supervisor stated that Keith Price is the contact person for any questions. 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, Jones, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

**ABSENT:**       1           Trustee Gray-Everett

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

***Trustee Darlene Gray-Everett Enters the meeting @6:29pm***

The supervisor asked when the remainder of the bills will be paid. A lengthy discussion occurred regarding paying the remainder of the bills, etc.

Per the attorney a motion needs to be made to approve payroll along with bills listed on the special agenda. The motion was made by Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Carlisle. 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, Jones, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

**ABSENT:**      1            Trustee Gray-Everett

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

***Trustee Darlene Gray-Everett exists the meeting @6:36pm***

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to direct the Finance Director and Finance Department to provide backup invoices for items on the warrant list, for both General Fund and General Assistance, that have not been approved, items on the upcoming August 20,2024, warrants lists (General Fund and General Assistance) and to provide said information no later than August 19, 2024, at 2:00p.m. The motion was made by Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Carlisle. Trustee Gonzalez asks what Keith Price's title and questions if he was Board approved for his title. A discussion occurred. 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            Trustees Gonzalez, Jones and Carlisle

**NO:**             1            Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:**      1            Trustee Gray-Everett

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

**ORDINANCES:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve an Ordinance establishing travel guidelines. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. A lengthy discussion occurred. Trustee Jones asked the attorney to read the ordinance into record. The supervisor asked that the ordinance be explained. The supervisor asked if any of the departments were talked to about procedures, etc. Trustee Carlisle explained the ordinance. The Supervisor asked that the trustees sit down with them and amend the ordinance before the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. 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            Trustees Gonzalez, Jones and Carlisle

**NO:**             0

**PRESENT:**    1            Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:**      1            Trustee Gray-Everett

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve an Ordinance to repealing the salary ordinance. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Trustee Jones read the Ordinance. Trustee Jones read the ordinance. The supervisor explained that a bill was created at the state level, HB 4488, that trumps this ordinance. 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            Trustees Gonzalez, Jones and Carlisle

**NO:**             0

**PRESENT:**    1            Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:**      1            Trustee Gray-Everett

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve an Ordinance to establish a policy for equitable rotation of event locations for Thornton Township. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Trustee Carlisle explains the reason why this Ordinance was created. A lengthy discussion occurred. 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            Trustees Gonzalez, Jones and Carlisle

**NO:**             0

**PRESENT:**    1            Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:**      1            Trustee Gray-Everett

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve an Ordinance to regulate event expenditures and budget approvals. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Trustee Gonzalez reads off the purpose of this Ordinance. Supervisor Henyard questions the limits, and how they came up with the numbers. Finance Director, Robert Hunt asks if the Trustees could be more specific on what they meant by “events”, etc. Trustee Carlisle says they will make it more specific and narrow it down. The supervisor asked when they will make the adjustments and bring it back.

Trustee Jones entertained a motion to table an Ordinance to regulate event expenditures and budget approvals. The motion was made by Trustee Jones 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:

**YES:**            4            Trustees Gonzalez, Jones, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

**ABSENT:**      1            Trustee Gray-Everett

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve an Ordinance to regulate retail/credit card/net 30 policy. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Trustee Gonzalez reads the purpose of the Ordinance. The Supervisor suggest that Robert should be consulted, and the trustees can bring this ordinance back on Tuesday. Senior Services Manager, Marcia Browns asks if someone could Elaborate on what exactly this means. Trustee Carlisle gives an explanation. IT Manager, Leon Messi, speaks on how his department regulates and explains that Comcast is a reoccurring

payment. Youth & Family Services manager, Ebonie questions what's the credit card limit. Trustee Carlisle explains the point of this Ordinance. Trustee Jones says he supports the Trustees and their caution on Township spending. Keith Price speaks about reviewing invoices with the Clerk's office. A lengthy discussion occurred.

Trustee Jones amend the motion to TABLE the Ordinance to regulate retail/credit card/net 30 policy until the board meeting on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Henyard seconded

There being no further questions or comments Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:**            2       Trustees Jones, Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             2       Gonzalez, Carlisle

**ABSENT:**       1       Trustee Gray-Everett

There being a tie vote, **the motion failed.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve an Ordinance to regulate the use of Township merchandise for personal promotion by elected and appointed officials. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle 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:**            3       Trustees Gonzalez, Jones and Carlisle

**NO:**             1       Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:**       1       Trustee Gray-Everett

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve three additional contractors for HAP lawn mowing and maintenance services at \$35 per lawn (1. Hall and Sons, 2. Rodriguez Lawn Services, and 3. Raul & Sons) and authorize Township Officials and the Township attorney to negotiate a contract consistent with the award. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Jones. South Holland Resident, Belinda Williams speaks about the Lawn Care Services being helpful because she can't walk. She says the Lawn Care and Food services is something that she needs. Township Resident, Gloria Red gives her view of the Lawn Care program and Senior Lunches. Dolton Resident, Ruby Scott explains she went three weeks without getting her grass cut, then she contacted Stan Brown, and the service ended up being done. She questions if she will continue to get her grass cut. Tony Sherman speaks on the amount of calls he receives about vendors not being paid. 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       Trustees Gonzalez, Jones and Carlisle

**NO:**             1       Supervisor Henyard

**ABSENT:**       1       Trustee Gray-Everett

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Edna Boston, South Holland Resident - Ms. Boston explains that she notices people are being held responsible in their positions. She says she feels that by showing up at the meetings, intelligent decisions should be made that will affect this community.

Sharon Hudson, Township Employee

Barbra, Township Employee - There's a lot of people that has something negative to say about this Township. She says something needs to be given and stopped.

Debra Reeves, Township Resident Says it's hard to tell that everyone is for the people. Not paying bills hurts the employees and the citizens. She says everyone needs to do better and what about the citizens.

Michael Smith, Township Resident Speaks about his FOIA Request and that he wants it answered within a certain time frame.

Dan Lee, Township Resident Speaks about FOIA Requests, Deficits and open meetings act

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to go into closed session. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle 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, Jones, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

**ABSENT:**      1            Trustee Gray-Everett

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

***Closed Session started @8:21pm***

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle 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:**            3            Trustees Gonzalez, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

**ABSENT:**      2            Trustee Gray-Everett and Trustee Jones

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

***Closed Session ended @8:49pm***

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle, 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:**            3            Trustees Gonzalez, Carlisle, and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

**ABSENT:**      2            Trustee Gray-Everett and Trustee Jones

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

*The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.*

**X**  
Loretta Wells  
Clerk

**X**  
Gerald "Jerry" Jones  
Trustee

**X**  
Christopher Gonzalez  
Trustee

**X**  
Darelene Gray-Everett  
Trustee

**X**  
Carmen Carlisle  
Trustee

**X**  
Tiffany A. Henyard  
Supervisor