

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

**August 20, 2024**

Thornton Township Clerk Wells called the Thornton Township Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. Clerk Wells called the roll.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk Loretta Wells, Highway Commissioner Geary DePue, Assessor Cassandra Elston (Via Tele-Conference) and Attorney Eric Stach

**ABSENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes held on July 16, 2024. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everette 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:**            5           Trustees Jones, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Carlisle, and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Trustee Carlisle entertained a motion to Table Item - A. 2024/2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 24-009 Thornton Township GAF and Item B. 2024-2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 24-010 for Thornton Township GF. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Supervisor Henyard informed everyone that as of now the Township is operating without a budget. Trustee Gonzalez states that there are some changes to the budget that will be presented soon. 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 Jones, Gonzalez and Carlisle

**NO:**             2           Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the General Fund as presented to the Board for payment. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Supervisor Henyard.

Trustee Carlisle entertained an amended motion to approve the General Fund as presented to the Board for payment except for the following invoices. Call Hub - \$1,000 and \$2,500; Quadient Finance - \$1,237.80, and \$1,237.80; Hit God - \$900, \$1,425, \$1,275, \$2,550; 3L Media - \$125 and \$600; BLT Payment - \$1,200, \$1,200, \$1,200, \$1,200, \$1,200 and \$1,000; Emmanuel Bansa - \$3,000; Illinois Production - \$1,900 and \$85; Nation Builder - \$1,966.30, \$1,966.30 and \$1,966.30; Rakeem Wintert - \$500 and \$600; Santee Shannon - \$8,425, \$8,425, \$13,700, \$8,100; Stay Focused Media Group - \$5,876.08 and Kaci Bansa - \$2,000. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Supervisor Henyard asks the Trustees their reasons for not paying the staff. Trustee Carlisle asks for clarity on the separations of payroll employees and contracted employees and asks what they are producing. Per supervisor, invoices can be reviewed in the clerk’s office. As it relates to employees, they do work for us and they should be paid, if you have questions you should ask. 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 Jones, Gonzalez and Carlisle  
**NO:**            2           Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard  
**ABSENT:**      0

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

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

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:**           5           Trustees Jones, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard  
**NO:**            0

There being five 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 Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Jones. There being no questions or comments Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:**           5           Trustees Jones, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard  
**NO:**            0

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

**ORDINANCES:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve to amend Ordinance 24-005 to regulate event expenditures and budget approvals for Thornton Township, Cook County, Illinois. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzaez. Supervisor Henyard explains the purpose for this Ordinance and reads off the list of events that she says the Trustees want to eliminate. Trustee Gonzalez says the purpose of this budget is not to eliminate events but is to regulate the budgeting and expenditure processes for events organized by Thornton Township ensuring proper oversight, approval and adherence to set financial limits. 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       Trustee Jones, Gonzalez and Carlisle  
**NO:**             2       Trustees Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard

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

Trustee Carlisle entertained a motion to approve an amended Ordinance 24-006 to establish a retail/credit card/net 30 policy for Thornton Township, Cook County, Illinois. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and seconded by Trustee Gonzaez. Trustee Gonzalez explained the ordinance is to put safeguards in place and to regulate what's spent on credit cards. Trustees are open to changes, etc., but it is important to get this ordinance passed tonight. Supervisor Henyard states that the body or the staff was not included in drafting the ordinance and that she's not for having a credit card. The supervisor wants her name to be removed from this ordinance.

Supervisor Henyard entertained an amended motion to remove the Supervisor name from Ordinance 24-006 to establish a retail/credit card/net 30 policy for Thornton Township, Cook County, Illinois. The motion was made by Supervisor Henyard and seconded by Trustee Gray-Everett. A lengthy discussion occurred. There being no questions or comments Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:**            2       Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard  
**NO:**             3       Trustee Jones, Gonzalez and Carlisle

There being two affirmative votes, **the motion failed.**

The Attorney explained that there was still a motion on the floor to approve an amended Ordinance 24-006 to establish a retail/credit card/net 30 policy for Thornton Township, Cook County, Illinois. The motion was made by Trustee Gonzalez seconded by Trustee Carlisle. The supervisor asked again for the trustees to remove the supervisor's name from the ordinance. There being no questions or comments Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:**            3       Trustee Jones, Gonzalez and Carlisle  
**NO:**             2       Trustees Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard

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

Supervisor Heard entertained a motion to approve the retainer agreements with Leinenweber Daffada & Sansonetti, LLC (LDS) to represent the Township and the Township Officials in cases of: A. Lawrence v. Thornton Township, et al, 24 cv 5054. B. Thrash v. Thornton Township, et al, 24 CV 4936. C. Dukes, et al v. Thornton, et al, 24 L 3789. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Supervisor Henyard. Trustee Carlisle questions if there's a conflict of interest with this specific Attorney/Law Firm. Supervisor Henyard states that this Attorney represents multiple people and the Township. Attorney Eric Stach states that he does not know the details of this case, and he's not aware of any conflict of interest. Robert Hunt stated that DelGaldo Law Firm did look over the retainers and they said the retainers are in compliance of state law.

Trustee Gonzalez entertained an amended motion to table the retainer agreements with Leinenweber Daffada & Sansonetti, LLC (LDS) to represent the Township and the Township Officials in cases of: A. Lawrence v. Thornton Township, et al, 24 cv 5054. B. Thrash v. Thornton Township, et al, 24 CV 4936. C. Dukes, et al v. Thornton, et al, 24 L 3789. The motion was made by Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Carlisle. Trustee Carlisle asked if there was a deadline. Per supervisor and Attorney there is a deadline but was not aware of the date. 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 Jones, Gonzalez and Carlisle

**NO:**              2              Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard

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

### **SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

Supervisor Henyard thanks everyone for coming to the meeting and announces all the great things we do here in Thornton Township. Gives an update and announces all past successful events and the great things that we do at Thornton Township and the Surplus.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Back to School Event – August 10, 2024, 3pm-7pm
- Big Bingo – August 15, 2024, 4pm-7pm (Main Building)
- Township Talk– August 28, 2024, 4pm-7pm (Main Building)
- Tech Savvy – August 29, 2024, 11am-1pm
- Friends of Tiffany Henyard – September 1, 2024

**Clerk Loretta Wells reminds everyone that the Early voting for the Presidential Election is held on October 21, 2024, through November 4, 2024, and November 5, 2024 is Election Day. If anyone needs to register to vote they can come to the Clerk's Office, Monday-Friday, from 9am-4pm to register.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Dan Lee, Dolton Resident - Gives a few suggestions to the Trustees. He speaks on Township meetings and locations, scholarships, past events in Dolton
- Chris Z, Lansing Resident - Speaks about how the Township is being a laughingstock for the world and the way Employees speak to residents.
- Nate Fields, South Holland Resident – States that he’s here to stand up to bullying and intimidation tactics used by those who are supposed to represent the township. He speaks about an altercation that happened between him and a current Township Employee.
- Jennifer Robertz, Lansing Resident – Speaks about Childhood trauma and Generational curses. Mrs. Robertz mentions past Employee, Fenia Dukes and the situation that occurred on a Township Trip. She also speaks about a current employee, Kamal Woods, his salary and an altercation he had with a Resident less than a week ago and questions why he’s employed at the Township.
- Paul Robertz, Lansing Resident– He talks about February’s 1million dollar giveaway and the Attorney General. He speaks about the Townships FOIA Officer and questions who it is and how the IT Department doesn’t list any emails on the website, Attorneys, and the Townships monthly spending and Invoices.
- Thelma Price, Dolton Resident – Says that everyone needs to stay focused on what’s really happening. She speaks about events and Supervisor Henyard’s Cancer Foundation and the money that was raised. She commends the Trustees and Thanks them for standing up.
- Gardis Watts, South Holland Resident- Speaks about FOIA Request, Subpoenas, and Residents helping change the direction of the Township.
- Trina Downs, Dolton Resident – Questions why Trustees would give Supervisor Henyard a credit card that she does not want. She speaks about the Supervisor and Board officials Backgrounds, bonds and proper spending.
- Janell Taylor, South Holland Resident - Speaks on the way seniors are being treated, the way meetings are being set up, public comments limited time.
- L. Carter, South Holland Resident - Mentions that According to the Agenda you can only have one position. Ms. Carter questions what’s the plan to help residents with their Property Taxes.
- Michael Smith, Township Resident - Gives a message to all Thornton Townships Residents. Says he watches everyone disrespect leadership.

Edna Boston, South Holland Resident – Speaks about the disrespect from some Residents. Says she’s here to support the Township. She questions Board Members salary and talks about how often they table Agenda Items.

Valerie Stubbs  
Tells Trustees their doing an awesome job. Speaks on how the Township is a laughingstock and how we have the worst Mayor and Township Supervisor. She talks about past events and spending time.

Alicia N, Township Resident  
Speaks on Supervisor Henyard’s choice of words and how it’s unprofessional, questions Employee Kamal Woods youth Program and what he’s paid to do, mentions Township Employee Keith Price and the way he speaks to Board Members, and paying Vendors.

Emmanuel Bansa, Township Employee- Talks about employees doing work for the Township but not being paid for the work they’ve done because the Trustees vote against it. He also mentions how residents already pay for services that they’re receiving but telling the Trustees not to vote for them.

Township Resident -  
Says her and her husband have been attending meetings for years but they’ve never been like this and speaks on last Supervisor, how the meetings went and his positions. Mentions how she wants everyone to attend every event and not just the ones leaned towards negativity.

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:**            5            Trustees Jones, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Carlisle, and Supervisor Henyard

**NO:**             0

**ABSENT:**      0

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

*The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 8:55 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