

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

September 10, 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, Darlene Gray-Everett, Carmen Carlisle, and Supervisor Tiffany Henyard

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Loretta Wells, Highway Commissioner Geary DePue, Assessor Cassandra Elston and Attorney Eric Stach

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the Special Board Meeting minutes held on August 15, 2024. The motion was made by Trustee Jones 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 Trustees Jones, Gray-Everett, Carlisle, and Supervisor Henyard

NO: 1 Trustee Gonzalez

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes held on August 20, 2024. 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:

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

NO: 0

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the upcoming event, **Gospel Fest**. The motion was made by Supervisor Henyard 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: 2 Supervisor Henyard and Trustee Gray-Everett

NO: 3 Trustees Gonzalez, Jones, and Carlisle

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the upcoming event: **House Fest**. 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: 2 Supervisor Henyard and Trustee Gray-Everett

NO: 3 Trustees Gonzalez, Jones and Carlisle

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the upcoming event: **Big Bingo (per month)**. 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: 2 Supervisor Henyard and Trustee Gray-Everett

NO: 3 Trustees Gonzalez, Jones and Carlisle

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the upcoming event: **Tech Savvy (per month)**. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Supervisor Henyard. A lengthy discussion occurred. Trustee Carlisle amended the motion, and it was seconded by Gonzalez to approve Tech Savvy with limited spending (only sandwiches). There being no further 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 retainer agreements with Leinenweber Daffada & Sansonetti, LLC (LDS) to represent the Township Officials in the cases of: Lawrence v. Thornton Township, et al, 24 CV 5054, Thrash v. Thornton Township, et al, 24 CV4936 and Dukes, et al v. Thornton Township, et al, 24 L 3789. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Jones. Trustee Carlisle talked about the letter that was received from the attorney, indicating that there was no conflict of interest. There being no further 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.**

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the General Fund Bills. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett, there was no second. Trustee Carlisle entertained an amended motion to approve the General Fund, as presented to the Board for payment except for the following line items 54

thru 172 and 392 thru 436. Supervisor Henyard asked that the line items be read. The supervisor asked Finance Director Robert Hunt to read the line items that were mentioned. After the items were read, the supervisor further explains more events that are on the list, she then asked the trustees to reconsider their motion. Trustee Carlisle speaks about the outreach program and the FOIA requests she made but haven't gotten any answers back and the money being spent that no one knows much about, she questions how money's being spent in a department that hasn't been approved by the board, who runs the department and authorizes payments. A lengthy discussion occurred. After the discussion, Trustee Carlisle amended the motion to add line items # 420 and 425 back to the GF bill list to be paid, Trustee Gonzalez second. 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 Gray-Everett and seconded by Supervisor Henyard. Trustee Gonzalez asked how much a program will cost, there was no answer given. Trustee Gonzalez asks questions about line items 14 and 42. Trustee Carlisle entertained a motion to amend the motion to approve the General Assistance Fund as presented to the board for payment, excluding line items 14 and 42. 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 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 Road and Bridge Fund as presented to the Board for payment. 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:

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

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

BUDGE APPROVAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Trustee Carlisle asked that Items A and B both be tabled until next week. Trustee Carlisle made the motion and it was seconded by Trustee Gonzalez to table the adoption of 2024/2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 24-009 for Thornton Township General Assistance Fund and 2024/2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 24-010 for Thornton Township General Fund. 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 Jones, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard

NO: 2 Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard

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

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. Finance Director, Robert Hunt gave a brief 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 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. Supervisor Henyard explains the Ordinance and questions why the Trustees decided to give her a credit card instead of Department heads. A lengthy discussion occurred. 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. 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 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 the trustees how the Departments would operate as it relates to day-to-day operations with there only being one credit card. 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.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a for approval of purchase – Handicap Accessible Vehicles for Transportation Department. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Supervisor Henyard. Trustee Carlisle questions how many vehicles are in rotation currently? How many could be repaired? if possible, can the vehicles be leased? and why’s the Board just now getting the information about this without the budget not being passed. Supervisor Henyard explains how you operate without a budget. Tony Sherman gives a brief overview, explains why this was placed on the agenda on the agenda and answers a few questions from Trustee Carlisle. Trustee Gonzalez questions if his is something that should be bid out, Tony Sherman answered his question. Trustee Gonzalez made a motion to pass this agenda item until there’s a new budget to operate under. The motion was made by Trustee Gonzales 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: 3 Trustees Jones, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Carlisle and Supervisor Henyard
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. Supervisor Henyard went over spendings and total costs for the Taste of Thornton, she speaks about the past Administration, HAP, Scholarships, the increase in Departments and also gives a overview of events that they’ve created that the board voted against.

Upcoming Events:

- Township Talk– September 25, 2024, 4pm-7pm (Main Building)
- Tech Savvy – September 26, 2024, 11am-1pm
- Friends of Tiffany Henyard – September 1, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Michael Smith, Township Resident - Speaks about the FOIA Request, past trips that were booked by Trustee Carlisle and missing receipts, budgeting, texting during the public board meetings and how Board members phones are foia-able because it's against the law and Robert rules of order.
- Kathryn Granberry, Dolton Resident - Discussed the past event, Taste of Thornton Township and how she was asked to perform at the event, and no one contacted her team about being apart of the events. She had to turn down another gig to be there for the Township's, but she didn't find out she was approved until after the event. Ms. Granberry asks the board if it's possible for her to be paid half of what she asked for in her contract if anything was to happen to where she'd have to cancel.
- Janell Taylor, South Holland Resident - Speaks about Tech Savy and how she feels people shouldn't have to be fed as much at events and the Seniors don't need so many pastries. Ms. Taylor says she thinks the Township's Supervisor should have a credit card, but there should be one department in charge of purchasing everything for each department.
- Dennis Thomas, Phoenix Resident – Explains that everyone needs to pray and how the Trustees are standing up more than they were in the past.
- Tiffini Trotter, Homewood Resident – Talks about the Budget and her appreciation for Trustees Carlisle and Gonzalez for getting someone else to look at the budget. She speaks about how its unsure what the surplus is until the numbers get audited. She speaks about legal accounts and conflict of interests.
- Trina Downs, Dolton Resident – Speaks about cash assets in 2011 being 14.6 million, which was 42% of the township's assets held in cash. She questions how much is left, who keeps accounting of it and who oversaw it. She asks if anyone could answer the question outside of Supervisor Henyard. She says she's going to foia until she gets answers.

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Supervisor Henyard, 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 8:40 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