

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HELD AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HALL  
333 E 162<sup>ND</sup> STREET, SOUTH HOLLAND, IL 60473**

**January 28, 2025**

Before the meeting began, the Supervisor welcomed the newly appointed Trustee Stephanie Wiedeman.

Thornton Township Clerk Wells called the Thornton Township Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Clerk Wells called the roll.

**PRESENT:** Trustees Christopher Gonzalez, Darlene Gray-Everett, Carmen Carlisle, Stephanie Wiedeman and Supervisor Tiffany Henyard

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the Special Board Meeting minutes held on December 20, 2024, at 12:30pm. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Carlisle. There being no questions or comments, Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Well to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

**YES:**           5           Trustees Carlisle, Gray-Everett, Gonzalez, Wiedeman and Supervisor Henyard  
There being five affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve General Fund Bills as presented. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and second by Supervisor Henyard.

Trustee Carlisle superseded and entertained an amended motion to remove item numbered 276, 293,300, 301, and 302 on the bill list, Trustee Wiedeman seconded the amended motion. Supervisor Henyard asked why remove RCM Southland Communications? Trustee Carlisle explained that the vendors knew about the image ordinance and most of the items weren't in compliance, and she would like to see what was sent out. Supervisor Henyard says she knows they have had the bills for some time now, and she believes they should have gotten this squared away now since vendors have been waiting on their money for over 90 days and thinks it's unfair. 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 Carlisle, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman, Gonzalez and Supervisor Henyard  
There being five affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

Supervisor Henyard asked for a motion to approve the General Assistance Fund Bills as presented, the motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett, there was no second.

Trustee Carlisle superseded and entertained an amended motion to remove numbers 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, which are credit card bills previously paid, but she would like to see what communication was sent out to the residents, and items numbered 74, 75 and 76, in which the trustees want to make sure the image ordinance is being complied with, for the General Assistance Fund. Also, want to double check if General Assistance falls under the image ordinance, if so, they should be complying also. Waiting for the attorney to give confirmation. The amended motion was seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Supervisor Henyard said again that ample time was given to do checks and balances prior to the board meeting, via call or email, to check and get the information they wanted to know before now. She says that people have waited over 90 days to get paid, and she believes every vendor is entitled to their money. 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 Carlisle, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman, Gonzalez and Supervisor Henyard  
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 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 Carlisle, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman, and Supervisor Henyard  
There being five affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve a 100% Property Tax Refund for all homeowners in Thornton Township. 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           Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard  
**NO:**           3           Trustees Gonzalez, Carlisle and Wiedeman  
There being two affirmative votes, **the motion failed.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve bonuses for all Thornton Township Employees. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Wiedeman. Trustee Wiedeman addressed the employees; this is definitely a discussion she would like to keep on the table. Trustee Wiedeman feels like we need to get through budgets first and make sure the financials are where they need to be, to do this, she says that her vote tonight does not reflect conversations moving forward and she means that. 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           Trustees Wiedeman, Carlisle and Gonzalez  
There being two affirmative votes, **the motion failed.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve Forensic Audit Proposal submitted by EideBailly. The motion was made by Trustee Wiedeman and seconded by 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:**            1            Supervisor Henyard  
**NO:**            4            Trustees Wiedeman, Carlisle, Gray-Everett, Gonzalez  
There being one affirmative vote, **the motion failed.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve IT and Senior Services Department to receive a credit card to handle day-to- day operations. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Wiedeman. 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            Trustees Wiedeman, Carlisle, Gonzalez  
There being two affirmative votes, **the motion failed.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to adopt 2024/2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 24-009 for Thornton Township General Assistance Fund. A 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            Trustee Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard  
**NO:**            3            Trustee, Gonzalez, Carlisle, Wiedeman  
There being two affirmative votes, **the motion failed.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to adopt 2024/2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 24-010 for Thornton Township General Fund. A motion was made by Trustee 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            Trustee Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard  
**NO:**            3            Trustee, Gonzalez, Carlisle, Wiedeman  
There being two affirmative votes, **the motion failed.**

Trustee Carlisle entertained a motion to approve item 7 on the agenda - Discussion and possible action to retain an independent investigator to investigate the Township's Outreach department to include investigations related to the Outreach Department's funding, expenditures, contracts (independent contractors), contracts for other goods and services, staff/employees, and management of the Outreach Department and its finances. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle, seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

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

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve item 8 - Discussion and possible action to retain an independent investigator and/or a forensic auditor to audit and investigate the use of certain grant money and possible Township Funds related to the Township's At-Risk Youth program, including but not limited to how, where and by whom the grant funds and Township funds were used to support this and other similar programs. The motion was made by Trustee Wiedeman 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 Wiedeman, Gonzalez, and Carlisle

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

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve item 9 on the agenda - Discussion and possible action to retain an independent investigator to investigate Employee A and B allegations of misconduct and improper pay. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle 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:**            3       Trustees Carlisle, Gonzalez, and Wiedeman

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

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the amended 2025 Holidays and Board Meetings Calendar. The motion was made by Trustee Wiedeman and seconded by Carlisle. A brief discussion happened concerning a conflict with the board meeting date falling on election day.

Trustee Wiedeman asked about the February 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting being scheduled for the same day as election, The Board discussed changing the meeting to February 24<sup>th</sup> or the 26<sup>th</sup> instead.

Trustee Wiedeman entertained a motion to amend a change in the schedule for the Board Meeting dates from Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, the motion was seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. 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, Carlisle, Gray-Everett and Wiedeman

**NO:**             1       Supervisor Henyard

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the overall amended 2025 Holidays and Board Meetings Calendar. 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, Carlisle, Gray-Everett and Wiedeman

**NO:**             1       Supervisor Henyard

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

## RESOLUTIONS / PROCLAMATIONS / ORDINANCES

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve Ordinance 24-013: General Fund and General Assistance Fund Tax Levy Ordinance. 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 Carlisle, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman, and

**NO:**             1             Supervisor Henyard

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to Adopt Resolution in Memoriam of Jesse Elston. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Carlisle. Trustee Carlisle expressed that out of respect to the Assessor the resolution should be read into the record. Trustee Carlisle reads the resolution. 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 Carlisle, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman, and Supervisor Henyard

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

Assessor Cassandra Elston thanked the Board and the residents of Thornton Township for their love, the cards, the prayer and their total support. She continues saying how Jesse loved everyone here in Thornton Township and did his best to show that love to all. Assessor Elston expressed her love and appreciation to everyone.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to do a consent agenda for Items 1,2,3, and 5 under new business. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Wiedeman. 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 Carlisle, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman, and Supervisor Henyard

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve Items 1,2,3, and 5 under new business, as a consent agenda, (To Accept All Insurance presented by Alliant including Property and Equipment, Auto, Public Officials and Employment practices liability, General liability and the TPA agreement). The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle 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:**            5            Trustees Carlisle, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman, and Supervisor Henyard

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included items 1,2,3, and 5 (To Accept All Insurance presented by Alliant including Property and Equipment, Auto,

Public Officials and Employment practices liability, General liability and the TPA agreement). The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle 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:**           5           Trustees Carlisle, Gonzalez, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman, and Supervisor Henyard  
There being five affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to go into closed session at 7:01pm to discuss the hiring, discipline, performance, compensation and the dismissal of certain personnel, legal counsel, acquisition of real property, matters pending, probable, or imminent litigation. Pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, related to the employment or discipline of specific employees. 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, Carlisle, Gray-Everett and Wiedeman  
**NO:**            1           Supervisor Henyard  
There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to return from the closed session at 7:13pm. The Motion was made by Trustee Wiedeman 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:**            5           Trustees Gonzalez, Carlisle, Gray-Everett, Wiedeman and Supervisor Henyard  
There being five affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

**ACTION FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION:**

Supervisor Henyard entertained if there’s any action following the closed session. Trustee Wiedeman made a motion to put Kamal Woods and William Moore on Administrative leave with pay effective immediately, the motion was seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:  
**YES:**            3           Trustees Gonzalez, Carlisle, and Wiedeman  
**NO:**            2           Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard  
There being three affirmative votes, **the motion carried.**

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

Supervisor Henyard gave a brief overview of the wonderful 2024 year, and the surpluses at the Township. She appreciates the residents throughout all the turmoil and will continue to make sure the residents get what they need. She is happy with the things we have done at Thornton Township. Supervisor Henyard also thanks her employees for their efforts and for all they do to push the Township forward.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Trustee Carlisle made brief comments on welcoming the Newly Appointed Trustee Stephanie Wiedeman and welcomed her to the team, she also wanted to honor and say a few words to Gerald “Jerry” Jones on his service as Trustee, his unwavering support and passion for the community. Stating that he will always be a part of Thornton Township.

Trustee Gonzalez thanked the Clerks Office for the smooth Town Hall Meeting of Township Electors that took place on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> at South Suburban College. He thanked the staff that helped out, He thanked the police departments that helped out, South Suburban College, South Holland, Calumet City and Cook County Sheriff’s Dept. Trustee Gonzalez also made mention that temporary insurance coverage to host the board meeting tonight at the Township was purchased.

Trustee Wiedeman expressed that Thornton Township Employees should carry a level of dignity and respect, and we should always express that to our residents regardless of differences and feelings.

There were 7 residents who signed up and shared their comments with the public, those individuals included:

Dan Lee

Vivian Allen

Beth McBride

Jennifer Roberts

Alicia Nichole

Janell Taylor

Jedidiah Brown

*The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was abruptly ended without adjournment at 7:35pm.*

X

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Loretta Wells  
Clerk

X

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Stephanie Wiedeman  
Trustee

X

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Christopher Gonzalez  
Trustee

X

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Darelene Gray-Everett  
Trustee

X

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Carmen Carlisle  
Trustee

X

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Tiffany A. Henyard  
Supervisor