

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD AT LESTER LONG FIELDHOUSE
14700 EVERS, DOLTON, IL 60419**

December 20, 2024

Thornton Township Clerk Wells called the Thornton Township Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Clerk Wells called the roll.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Wells, Highway Commissioner Geary DePue, Assessor Cassandra Elston and Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski

ABSENT: None

Prayer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 4 Trustees Gonzalez, Carlisle, Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard
NO: 0 None
ABSENT: 0 None

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve General Fund Bills. The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and second by Trustee Gonzalez. Supervisor Henyard superseded the motion and motion to approve of paying all the bills presented on the General Fund list. The supervisor went on to say, if you did any work for Thornton Township you should be paid. Bills have not been paid in three months, so no one should be removed from the list. Trustee Gray-Everett second the motion. 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: 2 Trustees Gonzalez and Carlisle
ABSENT: 0 None

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

Trustee Carlisle made an amended motion to pay the bills, but to remove line items # 199; 200 (Excel Printing & Mailings); 202 (J M Sales); 216 (OKK Trading Inc); 223; 224 (Southland RCM Communication). The motion was second by Trustee Gonzalez. Trustee Carlisle went on to say that they

are just trying to make sure that the rules that have been put in place are followed, also, Trustee Carlisle questions whether Christmas Toys have been purchased and are they in the Township. Trustee Gonzalez also questions if the toys are already paid for. Supervisor Henyard stated that at the end of the day the trustees should know what is paid for and what is not, and she does not understand why purchasing toys is an issue, the township purchases toys every year. Trustee Carlisle comments on the Township not having insurance and says there could be a possibility of a child getting hurt by a toy and there's no coverage to take care of the situation. The supervisor says there is no insurance because the trustees did not come to the meetings to approve the insurance. A lengthy discussion continued.

The attorney reminded the board that there was still a motion on the floor by Trustee Carlisle. The motion was to approve all bills presented on the General Fund list except for line items # 199; 200 (Excel Printing & Mailings); 202 (J M Sales); 216 (OKK Trading Inc); 223; 224 (Southland RCM Communication). The motion was made by Trustee Carlisle and 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: 2 Trustees Gonzalez and Carlisle
NO: 2 Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard
ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the General Assistance Fund as presented to the Board for payment. The motion was made by Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Supervisor Henyard. Trustee Carlisle questions whether this still applies with the Image Ordinance or do they not have to comply with the image ordinance in General Assistance. The attorney said she would have to pull up the ordinance, because she did not remember what it said. 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: 2 Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard
NO: 2 Trustees Gonzalez and Carlisle
ABSENT: 0 None

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

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 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: 2 Trustees Gonzalez and Carlisle
ABSENT: 0 None

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

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ORDINANCES:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to make a consent agenda for the items under this department. 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 Supervisor Henyard
NO: 0 None
ABSENT: 0 None

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried to approve the consent agenda**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to group items numbers 1, 2 and 4 on the Consent Agenda.

1. Approve Resolution 24-R-009: Property Tax Limitation Act (PTELL) for the General Fund and General Assistance Fund
2. Approve Resolution 24-R-010: Property Tax Limitation Act (PTELL) for the Road & Bridge Fund

4. Approve Ordinance 24-014: Road & Bridge Fund Tax Levy Ordinance

A motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Carlisle. Trustee Gonzales asked if they would vote on the other item as well and asked what was #3. Supervisor Henyard explain item number 3 was being removed from the agenda because we are doing something different with that item. Supervisor Henyard asked Clerk Wells to call the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 4 Trustees Gonzalez, Carlisle, Gray-Everett, and Supervisor Henyard
NO: 0 None
ABSENT: 0 None

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried, to approve items #1, 2 and 4**

Supervisor Henyard went on to explain that item #3 is the General Fund and General Assistance Fund Tax Levy Ordinance. The Supervisor stated the reason it is being pulled from the agenda is because you must first approve the Budget, you cannot levy the people’s tax money without telling them how you will spend their money. A lengthy discussion occurred. Trustee Gonzalez made a motion that item #3 be approved. The supervisor indicated that this was the items that she removed from the agenda. Trustee Gonzalez asked why the other items were different. The supervisor indicated that this is for our general fund and general assistant fund and the other one has nothing to do with it. Trustee Carlisle stated that you can approve the levy without approving the budget, you shouldn’t but you can. Trustee Carlisle asked the attorney to answer the question, whether you can pass the levy without passing the budget. The Supervisor stated that she received counsel that said you cannot pass the levy without passing the budget first. A lengthy discussion occurred. The attorney was asked to advise on the question. The attorney indicated that she has not had the opportunity to research this exact question, but she did a quick research and it states that, yes it is generally advisable to approve the budget before the levy, but her concern is, that you have a time frame in which you need to file the levy by the last Tuesday in December or you cannot levy taxes next year, her advice would be to pass the levy. The attorney went on to say that there is a specific timeframe as to when the levy needed to be approved by and there is a specific timeframe for when the budget needs to be approved by, but that has not happened. This is a very unorthodox thing. The

attorney continued to say there is nothing in the law that addresses this, but yes as a general rule the budget and appropriation ordinance should be adopted before approving the levy, however her concern is if you do not adopt the levy now, the township could be putting itself into another bad position. The attorney said her suggestion would be, of course, to pass the budget and the levy, but if you can't get both, at least pass the levy. The levy can attentionally be amended later and the budget could also be amended later. The attorney has concerns about not taking action at all. Another lengthy discussion occurred. It was stated that December 31st is the deadline to pass the levy. The supervisor indicated that another special meeting would have to be called. Trustee Gonzalez asked why they could not pass the budget now. The supervisor indicated that the budget is not part of the agenda. The discussion continued.

Trustee Gonzalez entertained a motion to pass the Tax Levy. The motion was made by Trustee Gonzalez 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: 2 Trustees Gonzalez and Carlisle
NO: 2 Trustee Gray-Everett and Supervisor Henyard
ABSENT: 0 None

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to Consolidate numbers 1 through 7 to a consent agenda. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. Trustee Gonzalez questions what is item #3. Finance Director, Robert Hunt, gives clarification. 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 Supervisor Henyard
NO: 0 None
ABSENT: 0 None

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried to approve the consent agenda including items #1-7**

Supervisor Henyard entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda that include items numbers 1 through 7. The motion was made by Trustee Gray-Everett and seconded by Supervisor Henyard. 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 Supervisor Henyard
NO: 0 None
ABSENT: 0 None

There being four affirmative votes, **the motion carried to approved items 1-7 on the consent agenda:**

1. *Appoint Alliant Insurance as the Broker for record for Worker Comp effective 1/1/2025*
2. *Approve to purchase an Aerator for lawn maintenance at Thornton Township Buildings*
3. *Approve Extended Report Period Coverage with IPMG*
4. *Approve Thornton Township Crime Coverage for December 1, 2024, to December 1, 2025*
5. *Approve Thornton Township Cyber Coverage Extension for December 1, 2024, to December 20, 2024, with Corvus Insurance*
6. *Approve Thornton Township Cyber Coverage for December 21, 2024, to December 1, 2025, with Corvus*
7. *Approve Thornton Township's 2025 Holidays and Board Meetings Calendar*

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

Items that were removed from the agenda:

Appropriate Budget for the GF and GAF

100% Supervisor Tax Refund;

Approval of Bonuses and

Approve and accept the resignation of Jerry Jones.

Toys

A special meeting will be scheduled to pass the budget and the tax levy.

Appointments

Removal of Trustees

Meeting locations

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were 13 residents who signed up and shared comments with the public.

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 2:35pm.

X

Loretta Wells
Clerk

X

Trustee

X

Christopher Gonzalez
Trustee

X

Darelene Gray-Everett
Trustee

X

Carmen Carlisle
Trustee

X

Tiffany A. Henyard
Supervisor