

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM
333 E 162nd St SOUTH HOLLAND, IL 60473
March 18, 2026**

Thornton Township Supervisor Harris called the Thornton Township Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Nesbit called the roll:

PRESENT: Supervisor Napoleon Harris, Trustees Christopher Gonzalez, Byron D. Stanley, Valeria Stubbs and Mary C. Avent

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Casey A. Nesbit, Attorney Steve Laduzinsky and Highway Commissioner Antwon T. Russell

ABSENT: Assessor Ca Sandra Holbert-Elston

PRAYER: By Pastor Nathaniel Bowman

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Participants: Felicia Johnson, Paul Robertz, Carlos Rhodes and Rosyln Lewis.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

Finance Director Robert Hunt gave an overview of the Tentative FY 2026-2027 Budget for the General Fund, General Assistance Fund and the Road and Bridge Fund. Supervisor Harris explained that the Township will offer a property tax refund program that will be available in the next few weeks. Supervisor Harris also stated that by law the Tentative Budgets must be available for 30 days and that within those 30 days changes can be made. Residents can receive a copy of the budget and submit questions to the clerk's office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on February 23, 2026, at 6pm. The motion was made by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Stubbs. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the bills for the General Fund. The motion was made by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the bills for the General Assistance Fund. The motion was made by Trustee Stubbs and seconded by Trustee Stanley. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the bills for the Road and Bridge Fund. The motion was made by Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Stanley. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve to post and publish the notice of the Tentative, FY 2026-2027 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance for the General Township Fund of Thornton Township and to direct the Township Clerk to schedule and publish notice of a public hearing to be held April 20,2026. The motion was made by Trustee Avent and seconded by Trustee Stubbs. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve to post and publish the notice of the Tentative, FY 2026-2027 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance for the General Township Assistance Fund of Thornton Township and to direct the Township Clerk to schedule and publish notice of a public hearing to be held April 20,2026. The motion was made by Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Avent. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve to post and publish the notice of the Tentative, FY 2026-2027 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance for the General Township Road and Bridge Fund of Thornton Township and to direct the Township Clerk to schedule and publish notice of a public hearing to be held April 20,2026. The motion was made by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve TAP Senior Lawn Care RFP
The motion was made by Trustee Stubbs and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the agenda for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. The motion was made by Trustee Stubbs and seconded by Trustee Stanley. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the Proposed ADP Service Agreement. The motion was made by Trustee Stubbs and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference (LGRC) “The AI Edge”, April 8-10,2026 Orland, Florida, 2026 Watercon, April 14 & 15,2026, East Peoria, IL and Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) 120th Annual Conference, June 28 through July 1, 2026, Chicago, Illinois. The motion was made by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Stubbs. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve upcoming events: Volunteer Appreciation Event, April 22, 2026 amount of \$5,000; Cinco De Mayo at the Township amount of \$2,000, May 5, 2026; Mother's Day Brunch at the Township, May 9, 2026 amount of \$5,000; Senior Services Brunch, May 15, 2026 amount of \$3,700; South Holland Memorial Day Parade, May 25, 2026 amount of \$2,000; Men's Health Matters Initiative-Father's Day Cookout, June 13, 2026 amount of \$4,600; Everybody's Birthday, June 29, 2026 amount of \$6,400; Homewood 4th of July Parade, July 4, 2026 amount of \$2,000; Senior Services Ice Cream Social, July 27, 2026 amount of \$4,500; Senior Day at the State Fair, August 17, 2026 amount of \$12,200; Senior Day on the Water, September 4, 2026 amount of \$9,100; Township Holiday Luncheon, November 21, 2026 amount of \$25,000; Senior Services New Year's Event, December 28, 2026 amount of \$8,800. The motion was made by Trustee Stubbs and seconded by Trustee Stanley. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Closed Session

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to go into closed session to discuss the hiring, discipline, performance, compensation and dismissal of certain personnel, legal counsel, acquisition of real property, matters pending, probable, or imminent litigation, pursuant to section 2© (1) of the Open Meetings Act, related to the employment or discipline of specific employees. The motion was made by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Stubbs. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

The Board goes into Closed Session 6:40pm

Supervisor entertained a motion to come out of closed session. The motion was made by Trustee Stubbs and seconded by Trustee Stanley. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0

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

The Board Comes out of Closed Session 7:10pm

Actions Following Closed Session

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the revisions of the Employee Handbook. The motion was made by Trustee Stubbs and seconded by Trustee Stanley. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant NO. 23-203456 Appeal Denial and \$500,000 reimbursement to the state of Illinois. The motion was made by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Stubbs. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the settlement of Dwayne Thrash v Thornton Township. The motion was made by Trustee Stubbs and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to approve the closed session minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on February 23, 2026. The motion was made by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Stubbs. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll. On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

Personnel Matters N/A

Presentations N/A

Supervisor's Report: See attached

Adjournment

Supervisor Harris entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Stubbs. There being no questions or comments, Clerk Nesbit called the roll.

On the Roll Call, the vote was:

YES: 5 Trustees Avent, Gonzalez, Stanley, Stubbs, and Supervisor Harris

NO: 0 None

ABSENT: 0 None

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

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 7:37pm

X

Casey A. Nesbit
Clerk

X

Mary Avent
Trustee

X

Christopher Gonzalez
Trustee

X

Byron D. Stanley
Trustee

X

Valeria Stubbs
Trustee

X

Napoleon B. Harris III
Supervisor

March Board Meeting Report

The transportation department remains vital to Thornton Township residents. We are averaging around 4,000 trips a month. Between February and March we were able to provide transportation to 369 residents to their dialysis appointments. In fact, 63% of the trips we provide are for dialysis, physical therapy and medical appointments.

Our senior lunch program continues to be a valuable service for seniors at Thornton Township. During the month of February, our senior luncheon program served over 2300 meals. Our outreach efforts continue to pay off. We registered 51 new seniors in our program.

The Secretary of State Mobile Unit visited the Calumet City Senior Center on March 16th, assisting more than 40 residents with obtaining REAL IDs, renewing driver's licenses or state IDs, and purchasing license plate stickers. The Mobile Unit is scheduled to return to the Senior Center in July and November 2026 to continue offering these important services to the community.

Senior Services recently visited St. Anthony Senior Living Housing, where 16 residents signed up to participate in the Thornton Township Senior Program. We are excited to welcome these new participants and look forward to providing them with valuable programs, resources, and activities designed to support and enrich the lives of our seniors.

The pantry looks forward to working with both new and returning partners this month. The Humane Society provided pet food for cat and dog food distribution.

Additionally, on February 18th, we participated in three pantry visits arranged by the Greater Chicago Food Depository. These visits will help us enhance and strengthen the food experience we provide within the township..

The Food Pantry continues its Client Choice distribution model, ensuring a dignified and positive experience for all clients.

The General Assistance Department remains dedicated and unified in supporting the community through its various programs.

Funding remains available for LIHEAP, Nicor Sharing, and Energy Assistance programs to support community members in need. Funds also remain available through the Salvation Army; however, they are very limited.

Promotion and Outreach efforts have increased through email communications, updates to our website, and the distribution of printed materials at community events.

This month, the IT Department completed the wireframing phase for the Township's new website redesign. This project is focused on improving overall usability, ensuring the site meets updated ADA accessibility compliance standards, and presenting Township information in a clearer and more effective way for residents. The updated structure will make it easier for users to find services, programs, and important Township updates. The team will now move forward with the next phase of design and development.

In addition, the department continues its ongoing infrastructure upgrade initiatives to improve system performance, reliability, and security across Township operations.

In partnership with Senior Services, IT Department also hosted another successful Tech Savvy class for Township senior residents, helping participants learn essential technology skills and better navigate digital tools and online resources.

The department looks forward to continuing to provide a high level of technological support and service to Thornton Township staff and the community.

Thornton Township realizes that some Seniors are not as mobile and therefore unable to attend events within the Township. We have initiated bringing Bingo to them. We were able to visit five Senior Homes with 95 residents participating since our last Board Meeting.

March is Women's History Month, and we are preparing to honor the **unsung heroes in our community** at a special dinner on **March 27th** titled "**Motivated by Love.**"

As we move right into April, we're excited to kick off our **Spring-themed events**, starting with **Kids Bingo on April 4th!** Children will enjoy playing bingo, winning prizes, having lunch, and taking pictures with the **Easter Bunny**.

Our Special Services department is preparing for our **Spring Fling Dance** with our Special Services residents. We are excited to bring in the season with fun, music, and celebration as we welcome spring together.

April is also **Volunteer Appreciation Month**, and we can never forget our faithful and dedicated volunteers. Our events are such a success because of their willingness to give of

themselves and their time to help make each event special. We look forward to celebrating them on **April 22nd!**

Don't forget to check your emails or Thornton Township's website for more exciting events as we continue to keep our community engaged!

Youth and Family Services hosted its First Annual Black History Month Program last month for Thornton Township. Youth and Family will begin its hiring for youth instructors and assistants for our Summer Enrichment Program.

Spring Break is April 6th-April 10th. Our after school program will be closed that week, and resume April 13th from 3:00pm-6:00pm. Our After-school program ends on May 29th.

The HR department is preparing for its summer employment. We anticipate hiring 20 employees for our Summer Enrichment Program and about 30 employees for our summer lawncare program. This is a perfect opportunity to provide jobs to youth within the Township.

We are still committed to employee development. Managers received training in February on Loss Control.

The new fiscal year began on March 1, 2026, and Thornton Township has officially closed the prior fiscal year. The Finance Department is currently in the process of finalizing year-end activities, including closing the books and preparing documentation for the upcoming annual audit.

In addition, the department is completing the final touches on the FY2027 budget and preparing materials for the Township's annual Town Hall report, where we will present the Township's financial position.

Overall, the Township's finances finished the fiscal year in a strong position, reflecting careful financial management and monitoring of revenues and expenditures throughout the year.