

VILLAGE OF THORNTON

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2026

The Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Thornton was called to order by Village President Maxine Reynolds on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 6:27 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Village Hall. The meeting was recorded by Clerk Kitakis and streamed live on the Village of Thornton Facebook page.

President Reynolds led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Moment of Silence honoring public servants, members of the military, the sick, those recently departed, and neighboring communities impacted by the recent tornadoes.

Roll Call

Present

- President Maxine Reynolds
- Trustee Cunningham
- Trustee Middlebrooks
- Trustee Glaser
- Assistant Park & Recreation Director Potwin
- Police Chief Wesolowski
- Deputy Fire Chief Duvall

Absent

- Trustee Kaye
- Trustee Pratscher
- Trustee Piszczewski
- Public Works Superintendent Bryan Roberts

Approval of Minutes

Public Hearing Minutes – June 29 and July 20, 2026

Trustee **Glaser** moved to approve the Public Hearing Minutes from **June 29, 2026, and July 20, 2026**, as written.

Seconded by Trustee **Cunningham**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Cunningham	Yes

Official	Vote
Middlebrooks	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

Special Board Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2026

Trustee **Glaser** moved to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of **July 13, 2026**, as written.

Seconded by Trustee **Cunningham**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

Committee Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2026

Trustee **Glaser** moved to approve the Committee Meeting Minutes of **July 20, 2026**, as written.

Seconded by Trustee **Middlebrooks**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2026

Trustee **Glaser** moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of **July 20, 2026**, as written.

Seconded by Trustee **Middlebrooks**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

Executive Session Minutes – July 2026

Trustee **Cunningham** moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes from **July 2026, with a correction to Administrator Payne's name**.

Seconded by Trustee **Glaser**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Cunningham	Yes
Glaser	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

Approval of Vouchers

Trustee **Middlebrooks** moved to approve the payment of vouchers dated **August 3, 2026**, in the amount of **\$449,875.27**, of which **\$298,918.93** was attributable to Secretary of State Grant expenditures and **\$166,280.94** represented prepaid checks.

Seconded by Trustee **Cunningham**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Middlebrooks	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
Glaser	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 2026-022

Granting a Special Use for an Automotive Repair Shop in the Industrial District at 563 North Williams Street

In the absence of Trustee Pisarzewski, Trustee **Glaser** moved to approve **Ordinance No. 2026-022**, granting a Special Use for an automotive repair shop in the Industrial District at **563 North Williams Street**.

Seconded by Trustee **Middlebrooks**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

New Business

Purchase of Two 2026 Ford Explorers

Trustee **Glaser** moved to approve the purchase of **two 2026 Ford Explorers** utilizing the State Bid from **Curry Motors** in the total amount of **\$117,204.00**.

Seconded by Trustee **Cunningham**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget

Administrator Payne advised the Board that the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning **May 1, 2026, and ending April 30, 2027**, was included in the meeting packet. She explained that the Village had previously approved and certified the statutorily required Annual Appropriation Ordinance and that the appropriation had been based upon the annual budget previously reviewed and discussed by the Board.

As a matter of Village policy, formal Board approval of the annual budget was requested.

Trustee **Glaser** moved to approve the Village of Thornton Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2026, and ending April 30, 2027.

Seconded by Trustee **Cunningham**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

Public Comment

President Reynolds opened the floor for public comment.

Glenn Cunningham – 74 Arrowhead Drive

Glenn Cunningham, 74 Arrowhead Drive, stated that he had lived in Thornton for approximately three years and recently began experiencing significant water intrusion in his basement. Mr. Cunningham explained that a foundation inspection had reportedly found no cracks in the home's foundation; however, water had subsequently begun coming up through the foundation.

Mr. Cunningham questioned whether the condition could potentially be related to blasting or other activity associated with the nearby quarry or whether it was more likely attributable to the age and condition of his home.

President Reynolds explained that Public Comment is generally not intended to be a question-and-answer session and requested that Mr. Cunningham leave his telephone number with the Village Clerk or Administrator so Village staff could follow up with him regarding his concern. Mr. Cunningham agreed and thanked the Board, adding that he found the meeting informative.

Sharianna Fulce

Sharianna Fulce addressed the Board regarding the Village's outstanding water account balances and offered a suggestion intended to assist with the issue.

Ms. Fulce stated that she frequently hears discussion during Village meetings regarding outstanding water balances. She explained that when making payments on her own water account, she routinely pays more than the amount due and consequently maintains a credit balance.

Ms. Fulce suggested exploring whether residents who maintain credits on their water accounts could voluntarily elect to contribute some or all of those credits toward a fund intended to assist with outstanding water balances. She stated that she was attempting to approach the issue with a solution-oriented mindset and believed other residents might also be willing to participate if such an option were available.

Joyce Gills – South Hunter

Joyce Gills, a resident of South Hunter St., addressed the Board regarding communication between residents and Village officials during Public Comment.

Ms. Gills stated that residents frequently raise questions or concerns during Public Comment but do not necessarily receive responses during the meeting or afterward. She asked whether opportunities such as **Coffee with the Mayor** would be a more appropriate setting for residents who want their questions directly addressed.

Discussion followed regarding the purpose of Public Comment. It was explained that Public Comment provides residents with an opportunity to present comments and information to the Board but is not intended to function as a question-and-answer or discussion period. Residents seeking direct responses were encouraged to contact Village Hall, schedule an appointment with staff, or attend Coffee with the Mayor.

Ms. Gills also raised concerns regarding comments submitted by viewers during the Village's Facebook Live broadcasts. She stated that residents may submit comments through Facebook during meetings but those comments are generally not addressed during or after the meeting. She suggested that if the Village is unable to respond to Facebook comments, consideration could be given to disabling the commenting feature during live broadcasts.

President Reynolds reiterated that future Public Comment periods would be used to receive comments from residents rather than for back-and-forth discussion and encouraged residents seeking answers to contact Village Hall directly.

Brittany Paarlberg – Mallette Avenue

Brittany Paarlberg, a resident of Mallette Avenue, addressed the Board regarding Village communication during the recent severe storms and extended power outages.

Ms. Paarlberg stated that residents look to Village leadership for information and reassurance during emergencies and expressed disappointment that she did not hear directly from Village leadership during the recent storms. She noted that many residents experienced multiple days without electrical service and that some residents were also dealing with flooding.

Ms. Paarlberg stated that she observed leaders from neighboring municipalities communicating with their residents through social media during the emergency and felt Thornton residents should have received similar communication from Village leadership. While acknowledging that residents received some information from other sources, she stated that it was disheartening not to receive a more direct communication from Village Hall or Village leadership during a stressful period for the community.

Police Department Recognition

Robert Enright made a public comment to recognize improvements within the Thornton Police Department.

Mr. Enright stated that the Police Department had operated with what he described as essentially a skeleton crew for many years. He complimented Police Chief Wesolowski for his work since becoming Chief, noting that the Department is now fully staffed and that officers are actively serving the community each day.

Mr. Enright thanked Chief Wesolowski and the Police Department for their efforts.

There being no additional comments, Public Comment was closed.

Executive Session

Trustee **Cunningham** moved to enter Executive Session to discuss matters concerning the **purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body** and matters pertaining to **collective bargaining**.

Seconded by Trustee **Glaser**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
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Official	Vote
Cunningham	Yes
Glaser	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

The Regular Board Meeting was temporarily recessed while the Board entered Executive Session. Department heads were excused if they wished, and President Reynolds advised that the Regular Board Meeting would reconvene following Executive Session at 6:46 PM.

Reconvene Regular Board Meeting

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened in Open Session on **August 3, 2026, at 7:51 p.m.**

Roll Call

Present

- President Maxine Reynolds
- Trustee Cunningham
- Trustee Middlebrooks
- Trustee Glaser

Absent

- Trustee Kaye
- Trustee Pratscher
- Trustee Pisarzewski

Old Business

None.

New Business

President Reynolds advised residents that Village Hall and the Community Center serve as the Village's emergency heating and cooling centers and are equipped with generators.

President Reynolds explained that during emergencies and extended power outages, residents are welcome to utilize these facilities to charge cellular phones and other electronic devices and to access available heating, cooling, water, and other emergency resources.

President Reynolds thanked Village employees and elected officials for their service. She also thanked Village residents for allowing Village officials to serve the community and expressed appreciation to those who attended and remained through the conclusion of the meeting.

Adjournment

Trustee **Glaser** moved to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Seconded by Trustee **Middlebrooks**.

Roll Call Vote

Official	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
President Reynolds	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Motion carried.

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:52PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Kitakis
Village Clerk

Maxine Reynolds
Village President
