

VILLAGE OF THORNTON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2026

The Committee Meeting of the Village of Thornton was called to order by Village President Maxine Reynolds on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 6:01 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Village Hall. The meeting was recorded by Village Clerk Kitakis and streamed live on the Village of Thornton Facebook page.

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 Pisarzewski
- Trustee Pratscher
- Public Works Superintendent Bryan Roberts

Engineer Kaminsky arrived after the initial roll call.

Public Comment – Agenda Items

President Reynolds opened the floor for public comment regarding items appearing on the meeting agendas.

Sharianna Fulce

Sharianna Fulce addressed the Board and stated that she wished to make three points.

First, she commented on the negative remarks she frequently sees from residents regarding the Village of Thornton. She encouraged residents to recognize the positive aspects of the community and stated that there are many good things happening within Thornton. She emphasized that Thornton is a good place to live and encouraged residents to look for and acknowledge the positive things occurring throughout the community.

Second, Ms. Fulce expressed dissatisfaction with the Village's communication during the recent power outages. While acknowledging that the outages resulted from an act of nature, she stated that she believed protocols should be established to inform residents about available resources during emergencies.

Ms. Fulce referenced concerns she had previously raised regarding communication and reiterated the need for additional methods of communicating with residents, including those who cannot attend Village meetings. She suggested that the Village consider ways to monitor or respond to communications submitted electronically.

Ms. Fulce specifically noted that she had received numerous Village messages regarding traffic patterns but did not recall receiving comparable information advising residents where they could go to charge phones or electronic devices during the power outage. She stated that although she considers herself resourceful, she did not know what Village resources were available or where residents could go for assistance.

She encouraged the Village to develop a communication plan for future emergencies that would inform residents of available facilities, resources, and opportunities to provide assistance or donate resources when appropriate.

Third, Ms. Fulce reiterated her willingness to assist the Village with identifying grant opportunities. She stated that she had previously discussed potential resources with President Reynolds and Village Clerk Kitakis and had spoken with President Reynolds earlier that day regarding possible grants.

Ms. Fulce explained that she is employed by **DCEO with the State of Illinois** and regularly sees grant opportunities that she believes may potentially benefit the Village. She offered to continue sharing those opportunities and assisting the Village in identifying resources that could support the community.

Ms. Fulce concluded by again emphasizing that Thornton is a good place to live, stating that she considers Thornton her community and her home.

President Reynolds thanked Ms. Fulce and clarified that the Public Comment period at the Committee Meeting was intended for comments concerning agenda items and that another Public Comment opportunity would be available during the Regular Board Meeting.

There being no additional comments regarding agenda items, Public Comment was closed.

Committee Reports

Building Committee

Trustee Pisarzewski was absent and there was no report.

Finance Committee

Trustee Cunningham reported there were no items to report.

Recreation Committee

Trustee Middlebrooks reported there were no items to report.

Public Works Committee

Trustee Kaye was absent and there was no report.

Police Committee

Trustee Glaser reported there were no items to report.

Fire Committee

Trustee Pratscher was absent and there was no report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jackson had no report.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Kaminsky no report

Administrator Payne:

Elected Officials Compensation

Administrator Payne introduced discussion regarding a proposed amendment to the Village Code concerning compensation for elected officials.

It was explained that under the Illinois Constitution, the compensation of an elected official cannot be increased or decreased during that official's current term of office. It was further explained that any compensation change must be enacted at least 180 days prior to the election for the offices affected.

The Board was advised that if an ordinance changing compensation were adopted at least 180 days before the April 6, 2027 Consolidated Election, only the three Trustee positions appearing on the 2027 ballot would initially receive the revised compensation upon beginning their new terms. The remaining three Trustees, Village President, and Village Clerk would not become eligible for the revised compensation until their subsequent terms beginning in May 2029.

Trustee Cunningham presented a proposal to revise elected officials' compensation.

Trustee Cunningham proposed increasing Trustee compensation from approximately \$4,800 annually to \$5,100 annually, representing an increase of approximately \$300 per year, or \$25 per month.

He further proposed increasing the elected Village Clerk's annual compensation from approximately \$3,300 to \$5,100.

Trustee Cunningham also proposed increasing the compensation of the Village President to \$10,000 annually and increasing compensation associated with service as Liquor Commissioner from \$600 annually to \$1,200 annually.

In addition to the base compensation changes, Trustee Cunningham proposed providing elected officials with an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) based upon the applicable cost-of-living percentage.

Trustee Cunningham also proposed an attendance provision for Trustees. Under the proposal, Trustees would be permitted to miss up to two meetings per year without a reduction in compensation. If a Trustee missed more than two meetings, compensation would be withheld for additional meetings missed.

Discussion followed regarding when elected officials' compensation had last been amended. It was noted that the Village Code appeared to have last been amended regarding compensation in **2019**. Trustee Cunningham stated that he had reviewed compensation paid by surrounding municipalities and believed his proposed compensation levels placed Thornton approximately in the middle of comparable communities.

Because three Trustees were absent, President Reynolds asked the Trustees present whether they preferred to advance the proposed amendment or allow the full Board another opportunity to discuss it.

The Trustees agreed that the matter should return to the August 17, 2026 Committee Meeting for additional discussion. If sufficient agreement existed following that discussion, the proposed ordinance could be presented for consideration at the first Regular Board Meeting in September.

No formal action was taken.

Purchase of Two 2026 Ford Explorers

The Board discussed the proposed purchase of two 2026 Ford Explorers through the State Bid from Curry Motors in the total amount of \$117,204.00.

It was noted that the vehicle purchase had been included in the Village's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

Police Chief Wesolowski explained that comparable new Ford Explorers generally cost approximately \$52,000 to \$57,000 each, depending upon the vehicle and equipment package.

Chief Wesolowski advised that the two vehicles available through Curry Motors had been utilized as demonstration vehicles and were already configured in the Village's desired color scheme. Additionally, approximately 85% of the necessary police equipment had already been installed.

Chief Wesolowski stated that the vehicles already contained equipment including emergency lighting, switches, and prisoner cages. Because much of the required equipment was already installed, the Village was expected to realize additional savings by substantially reducing subsequent equipment and installation costs.

Chief Wesolowski stated that the Police Department had researched available options and believed the proposed purchase represented a favorable value for the Village.

There being no additional questions, the item was advanced to the Regular Board Meeting agenda for consideration later that evening.

Police Department Swearing-In and Promotions

President Reynolds congratulated the Thornton Police Department on the hiring and promotion of several officers and turned the proceedings over to Police Chief **Wesolowski**.

Officer Jamarion Thompkins

Chief Wesolowski introduced **Officer Jay Thompkins**, who had joined the Thornton Police Department in April following the departure of another officer.

Chief Wesolowski stated that Officer Tompkins brought approximately **two years of prior law enforcement experience from Phoenix** and had progressed quickly through the Department's field training process. He complimented Officer Tompkins on his performance and stated that he had integrated into the Department as though he had been with Thornton considerably longer.

Officer Tompkins was formally sworn in as a **Full-Time Police Officer for the Village of Thornton**.

Officer Jacob Price

Chief Wesolowski introduced **Officer Jacob Price**, who joined the Department on **July 20, 2026**.

Chief Wesolowski stated that Officer Price came to Thornton from **Calumet Park** with approximately two years of prior law enforcement experience. He noted that Officer Price's experience in a busy municipality provided him with a strong foundation and stated that early reports from his field training officers had been positive.

Officer Price was formally sworn in as a **Full-Time Police Officer for the Village of Thornton**.

Officer Andres Espinoza

Chief Wesolowski introduced **Officer Andres Espinoza**, who also joined the Thornton Police Department with prior law enforcement training and experience.

Chief Wesolowski stated that Officer Espinoza had been sent to the police academy through **Palos Park** and noted that Officer Espinoza reads and speaks Spanish, which would provide an additional resource for the Department and the community.

Officer Espinoza was formally sworn in as a **Full-Time Police Officer for the Village of Thornton**.

Police Department Promotions

Sergeant Anthony Notter

Chief Wesolowski announced the promotion of **Anthony Notter to Police Sergeant**.

Chief Wesolowski stated that Sergeant Notter had served with the Thornton Police Department for approximately **eight years**, beginning as a part-time officer before becoming a full-time officer. He described Sergeant Notter as a steady and even-tempered officer who had spent significant time working the night shift and had already frequently performed supervisory responsibilities as an officer in charge.

Chief Wesolowski stated that Sergeant Notter would be an important addition to the Department's supervisory staff, particularly on the night shift.

Anthony Notter was formally sworn in as **Police Sergeant for the Village of Thornton**.

Deputy Police Chief Patrick Leone

Chief Wesolowski announced the promotion of **Patrick Leone to Deputy Police Chief**.

Chief Wesolowski explained that Deputy Chief Leone had previously served as a Sergeant and had subsequently stepped into an administrative role to assist Chief Wesolowski following his appointment as Police Chief.

Chief Wesolowski praised Deputy Chief Leone's work as Administrative Sergeant and stated that the two had developed a strong working relationship in which they regularly challenged one another's ideas and decisions in an effort to improve the Department.

Chief Wesolowski stated that Deputy Chief Leone had been instrumental in helping move the Department toward his vision for its future. He noted that the Department had successfully recruited several experienced officers from other agencies, including some who accepted reductions in compensation because they wanted to work for Thornton. Chief Wesolowski credited the Department's command staff and officers with helping create an agency that experienced officers wanted to join.

Patrick Leone was formally sworn in as **Deputy Police Chief for the Village of Thornton**.

President Reynolds congratulated the newly sworn officers and promoted supervisors and welcomed the new officers to the Village of Thornton.

President's Comments and Announcements

President Reynolds reminded residents that **National Night Out** would be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center, providing residents an opportunity to meet members of the Thornton Police Department and the newly sworn officers.

President Reynolds announced that **Coffee with the Mayor** would be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The meeting would conclude promptly so that President Reynolds could attend the Backpack Giveaway at the Community Center, scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

President Reynolds also announced that the Township would host a free community barbecue on August 16, 2026, at Green Lake, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and stated that Thornton residents were welcome to attend.

Trustees interested in attending the upcoming Illinois Municipal League (IML) conference were asked to notify Village staff. Additional information regarding conference dates would be provided.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Trustee **Glaser** moved to adjourn the Committee Meeting.

Seconded by Trustee **Middlebrooks**.

Roll Call Vote

Trustee	Vote
Glaser	Yes
Middlebrooks	Yes
Cunningham	Yes
Kaye	Absent
Pratscher	Absent
Pisarzewski	Absent

Prior to concluding the meeting, President Reynolds advised a resident waiting to speak that another Public Comment period would be provided during the Regular Board Meeting immediately following the Committee Meeting.

Motion carried.

The Committee Meeting was adjourned. at 6:26PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki L. Kitakis
Village Clerk

Approved: _____