

VILLAGE OF THORNTON

COMMITTEE MEETING
January 20, 2026 – 6:09 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Village President Reynolds called the Committee Meeting to order at **6:09 PM**.
This meeting was recorded by Clerk Kitakis.
All electronic devices were requested to be silenced.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Kitakis called roll:

Elected Officials / Staff	Attendance
President Maxine Reynolds	Present
Trustee Cunningham	Present
Trustee Middlebrooks	Present
Trustee Kaye	Absent
Trustee Glaser	Present
Trustee Pratscher	Present
Trustee Piszczewski	Present
Public Works Superintendent Bryan Roberts	Absent
Parks & Recreation Director Dunlop	Present
Police Chief Wesolowski	Present
Fire Chief Schweitzer	Present

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was accepted for items listed on the agenda only.
No public comment was offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building Department – Trustee Piszczewski

December Activity:

- 11 permits issued
- Total permit revenue: **\$1,950.00**
- Valuation of work: **\$210,613.68**
- 321 inspections completed
- 22 citations issued

2025 Year-End Totals:

- 178 permits issued
- Total permit revenue: **\$26,655.50**
- Valuation of work: **\$2,173,487.17**
- 4,031 inspections completed
- 290 citations issued

No discussion.

Finance – Trustee Cunningham

Village cash position as of December 2025: **\$8,602,428.22**

No discussion.

Parks & Recreation / Community Center – Trustee Middlebrooks

- Preschool classes have resumed and new programs are developing
- Monthly Senior Bingo Luncheon continues
- Library’s free Chair Yoga, TOPS, AA, and Senior Card Clubs ongoing
- Youth Pizza Bingo and Pickleball Open Gym coming soon
- Recreation Center fully reopened May 2025 following storm damage and restoration from July 2024
- Rental revenue from ISSAT not included in 2025 chart
- Residents encouraged to follow Comcast Channel 4, Facebook, and thorntonil.us for updates

No discussion.

Public Works – Trustee Kaye (Absent)

Report presented by President Reynolds:

- J.U.L.I.E. locates: 8

- Water main breaks: 3
- Hydrants repaired: 0
- Water service line repairs: 1
- Sewer complaints: 6
- Sanitary sewer repairs: 0
- 20 Lead and Copper samples collected and submitted
- Five snow and ice call-outs
- Holiday decorations installed
- Daily maintenance of Village Hall, Police, Fire, Recreation Center, Public Works, pump stations, and lift station

No discussion.

Police & Public Safety – Trustee Glaser

Annual Activity Summary:

2024:

- 3,600 calls for service
- 973 traffic stops
- 1,143 citations and warnings

2025:

- 7,503 calls for service
- 2,498 traffic stops
- 3,577 citations and warnings

Year-over-Year Increase:

- Calls for service: 96%
- Traffic stops: 157%
- Citations/warnings: 213%

December 2025:

- 709 total calls
- 141 traffic stops
- 43 assists to citizens
- 25 ordinance violations
- 24 suspicious activity calls

Retirement Recognition – Officer William “Bill” Lyons

Police Chief Wesolowski recognized Officer Lyons for 25 years of dedicated service, highlighting his work as a patrol officer, Field Training Officer, and auto theft task force inspector with the Secretary of State Police. Remarks honoring his professionalism and service will be posted separately.

No discussion.

Fire Department – Trustee Pratscher

2025 Annual Totals:

- 1,360 emergency responses
- 1,003 calls within Village limits
- 107 emergency responses (as categorized)
- 220 training hours
- Zero inspections, complaints, tickets, or fines

Community Connection (Citizens Fire Academy):

- Four-week program beginning February 18, 2026
- Applications due February 6, 2026
- No walk-ins accepted
- CPR certification included
- Free to participants

No discussion.

Treasurer Jackson

December 2025 Treasurer’s Report:

Fund	Revenues	Expenses	Net
General Fund	\$399,121.29	\$436,675.12	(\$37,553.83)
Water/Sewer Fund	\$785.78	\$91,909.68	(\$91,123.96)

No discussion.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Administrator Straighter-Pain

1. Preschool Room HVAC Replacement – Recreation Center

The Administrator presented three proposals for replacement of the furnace and air conditioning unit serving the preschool room at the Recreation Center. Staff recommended awarding the contract to **Lansing Heating** in the amount of **\$6,995**, as the lowest responsible bidder.

Discussion clarified that:

- Trustee Cunningham inquires as to if the unit failure was due to the tornado, Administrator Payne confirmed the failure was due to age and normal
- Administrator Payne confirmed this unit is the one that survived the storm, but was one of the few rooftop units not replaced during earlier restoration efforts.
- Due to the importance of maintaining appropriate conditions for preschool programming, timely replacement was necessary.

This item was presented for discussion only and scheduled for action at the Regular Board Meeting.

2. South Suburban Mayors & Managers Environmental Justice Committee

Recommendation to appoint Mayor Reynolds as representative and Treasurer Jackson as alternate. Resolution to be presented at Regular Board Meeting.

3. Planning Commission Code Amendment

Proposed changes include holding Planning Commission meetings only when applications or petitions are submitted, rather than on a standing monthly basis, and codifying commissioner compensation. The draft ordinance proposes a stipend of **\$15 per meeting** for commissioners in attendance and **\$25 per meeting** for the Chair.

Board discussion included:

- Trustee Pisarzewski stated, Planning and development Commission had historically met monthly even when no agenda items were present, and since they met every month that’s why they received the stipends. But if all the commissions are going to meet on an as needed basis shouldn’t they all get a stipends?
- Administrator Payne posed the question regarding statutory authority for compensating Fire & Police Commission members, noting that portions of their duties are governed by state law. Attorney Touhey stated she would research if police and fire commission were able to receive a stipend. And return with revised draft ordinances for Board

consideration. This item was for discussion only and is scheduled for a vote at the **February 2, 2026** meeting.

4. **Fire & Police Commission Meeting Schedule**

Proposed change to hold meetings only as necessary. Attorney to research statutory authority regarding stipends and report back.

5. **Petty Cash Policy**

A draft petty cash policy and accompanying resolution were presented at the request of the Board and in response to prior auditor recommendations.

Discussion clarified:

- Trustee Glaser inquired who used the petty, Clerk Kitakis stated the **Police Department and Recreation Center**. The police generally keep \$100 on hand the Rec center generally gets \$350.
- Police Department petty cash is used primarily for prisoner meals and making change; Recreation Center petty cash is used for programming activities such as bingo and concessions.
- The Village currently maintains a limited petty cash balance and utilizes a log with dual signatures for accountability.
- Trustees expressed support for formalizing procedures, recordkeeping, and departmental limits through an adopted policy.
- Trustee Cunningham asked Treasure Jackson her thoughts on the proposed petty cash procedure. Treasure Jackson stated she is agreement with the procedure.

No changes were requested to the draft as presented. The policy and resolution will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the **February 2, 2026** Board Meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT – President Reynolds

- Thanked Toni from ComEd for attending Coffee with the Mayor on January 10
- First court session held successfully in Village building; future sessions on first Wednesdays
- Shared WGN Channel 9 feature on historic firearm discovery at local distillery
- Announced library, recreation, and community programming
- Community Center designated as warming center during extreme cold
- Fire Department offers blood pressure checks and child safety seat installations
- 2026 dog tags available for \$5 at Village Hall

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Pratscher, seconded by Trustee Glaser.

Roll Call Vote:

- Trustee Pratscher – Yes
- Trustee Glaser – Yes
- Trustee Middlebrooks – Yes
- Trustee Cunningham – Yes
- Trustee Pisarzewski – Yes
- Trustee Kaye – Absent

Motion carried.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at **6:45 PM**.

Village Clerk Nikki Kitakis