

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK
APPROPRIATION HEARING – JULY 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Piszewski called the Appropriation Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Acting President Piszewski reported the meeting is being recorded by Clerk Piszewski; and recorded on social media.

ROLL CALL

Present at Roll Call: Acting President Piszewski, Trustees Cunningham, Reynolds, Kaye, Glaser, Atkinson; Public Works Superintendent Roberts; Recreation Director Dunlop; Deputy Fire Chief DuVall; Deputy Police Chief Wesolowski.
Also Present: Administrator Wiak; Attorney S. Dillner; Engineer Kaminsky; Treasurer Frye.

PRESENTATION

Attorney Dillner reported on the agenda is the Appropriation Ordinance for the Village of Thornton. This ordinance sets the ceiling for spending. It is part one of a two-step budgeting and taxing process. This ordinance gives the Village authority to spend funds. Illinois law requires a hearing be held prior to passage. Notice of this hearing was published in the newspaper; and a copy of the proposed ordinance has been on file in the Village Clerk's office for public inspection for the last ten days.

The proposed 2024-2025 Appropriation for the year for all funds is \$19,656,628. This is not a tax levy. This is the Appropriation. This money is funded through grants, user fees and the tax levy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Dillner asked for public comment regarding the Appropriation Ordinance.

Sandy Jamrock, 101 North Kinzie, asked what the Appropriation Ordinance is all about. Attorney Dillner explained, basically, the Village cannot spend money without having authority. This is an ordinance giving the Village of Thornton authority to spend money. In the ordinance, spending is broken down by Police Department, Fire Department, Rec Department, Public Works Department – there are line items on what they have authority to spend.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, motion by Trustee Kaye, seconded by Trustee Reynolds, to adjourn the Appropriation Hearing.

Ayes: Trustees Kaye, Reynolds, Cunningham, Acting President Piszewski, Atkinson, Glaser.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Acting President Piszewski adjourned the Appropriation hearing at 7:04 p.m.

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – JULY 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Piszewski called the Committee Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Acting President Piszewski reported the meeting is being recorded by Clerk Piszewski; and recorded on social media.

ROLL CALL

Present at Roll Call: Acting President Piszewski, Trustees Cunningham, Reynolds, Kaye, Glaser, Atkinson; Public Works Superintendent Roberts; Recreation Director Dunlop; Deputy Fire Chief DuVall; Deputy Police Chief Wesolowski.

Also Present: Administrator Wiak; Attorney S. Dillner; Engineer Kaminsky; Treasurer Frye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Acting President Piszewski asked for public comments on any subject not already listed on the agenda.

Sandy Jamrock, 101 North Kinzie, stated she has lived in Thornton for about 32 years. She is on the corner of Kinzie and Margaret. She commented at how many trucks go by her home without tarps. She questioned if there is an ordinance pertaining to this; and if so, why this ordinance isn't enforced. If these trucks were ticketed and given a fine, perhaps word would get out that the Village is charging a fine if tarps weren't used. Mrs. Jamrock also mentioned she is aware Williams and Margaret are State roads; but a driver cannot see the lines in the road on Williams Street in certain areas. When it's raining out, it's really difficult to navigate through that area. She would like to see those roads painted.

Noel Wiora stated that, by legalizing backyard chickens, the Village could make a small profit. Studies have shown it increases property values. It would stimulate local business. Workshops could be offered for residents interested in chickens. She has done a lot of research focusing on the benefits, and how concerns could be addressed safely and cost effectively. Ultimately, it could bring a little extra money to Thornton.

Linda Kammert, 36 Arapaho Drive, appeared representing the Thornton library. She is still waiting for an answer regarding placing two full-time library employees on the Village's insurance.

Ms. Kammert added the library was trying to change the carpeting. They had a gentlemen come in to appraise the job. The third person that came in cut a piece of the carpeting and informed the library they have asbestos. The Village is the landlord. The library has been given an estimate of \$26,000 to remove the asbestos. She needs Village help to figure out what to do.

Lois Weis, 63 Indianwood, recognized Public Works and the Rec Center for the Memorial Brick program. It's a wonder thing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Appropriation Ordinance and '24-'25 Budget – Trustee Reynolds asked if there was any further discussion regarding the budget or the Appropriation Ordinance. Trustee Atkinson commented approval of the budget is not on the agenda, only the Appropriation Ordinance. Administrator Wiak stated it is on line. It's just the way the software company set it up. It was discussed by the Board that, since it was not posted on the Village Board outside, approval of the budget will be tabled until the next Board meeting. Approval of the Appropriation Ordinance was displayed, and it can be voted on.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Sale of Westview Property – Attorney Dillner reported the Village-owned property on Westview was sold last Friday to J.A.C.K. CSI.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Village of Thornton's IT Services – Administrator Wiak stated there was comment made at the last Board meeting about the status of the Village's IT services since the cyber attack. Mr. Watson, the Village's IT consultant, reached out to the Board and did a play-by-play of steps he has taken since the hack in January as far as bringing the Village back on line, etc. Two of the trustees responded to him; and he addressed their issues and concerns. She has since received no further questions from the Board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Appointment of Interim Police Chief – Acting President Pisarzewski stated he will be asking for the Board to approve the appointment of Rick Wesolowski to serve as the interim Police Chief for the Village of Thornton.

OLD BUSINESS

Since there seems to be so much controversy over backyard chickens, Trustee Reynolds suggested putting the issue on the November ballot as a referendum for the residents to choose. Attorney Dillner stated, to get on the November ballot, there are time periods; and he will check into that. The Board will have to vote to place the item on the ballot and decide whether it's advisory or binding. He recommended the wording be similar to "should the Village allow backyard chickens." If it passes, then the Board would pass an ordinance allowing it; and the specifics could be crafted then.

Trustee Cunningham asked about a letter that went out to the residents from Public Works discussing replacing lead pipes? Public Works Superintendent Roberts explained it was a mandated EPA letter stating the EPA is attempting to inventory the service lines. The Village never promised to replace any lead lines in the homes. Trustee Cunningham never received such a letter. She would like a copy emailed to the trustees.

Trustee Cunningham asked what requirements exist for a Section 8 landlord in Thornton. Acting President Pisarzewski remarked any residential rental in Thornton must have a Village inspection. Section 8 housing does not require any other Village approval. Attorney Dillner commented Section 8 housing has its own inspection process. The Village cannot license or regulate Section 8 housing. Rentals as a whole could be regulated; but not Section 8 specifically.

NEW BUSINESS

No comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the good and welfare of the Village, a motion was made by Trustee Kaye, seconded by Trustee Glaser, to adjourn the Committee meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Acting President Pisarzewski adjourned the Committee meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Clerk