

VILLAGE OF THORNTON

Committee Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2026 – 6:05 PM

1. Call to Order

President Reynolds called the Committee Meeting of the Village of Thornton to order on March 2, 2026 at 6:05 PM. President Reynolds thanked those present for their patience and announced that the meeting was being recorded by Village Clerk Kitakis and may be streamed on the Village's Facebook page. All attendees were asked to silence their electronic devices.

2. Roll Call

Clerk Kitakis called the roll.

Present:

President Reynolds

Trustee Cunningham

Trustee Middlebrooks

Trustee Kaye

Trustee Glaser

Trustee Pratscher

Trustee Piszczewski

Village Officials Present:

Public Works Superintendent Roberts

Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Potwin

Police Chief Wesolowski

Fire Chief Schweitzer

3. Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

President Reynolds asked if there was any public comment regarding agenda items only. There was no public comment.

4. Committee Reports

Trustee Piszczewski reported no committee updates.

Trustee Cunningham reported no committee updates.

Trustee Middlebrooks reported no committee updates.

Trustee Kaye stated there were no updates at this time.

Trustee Glaser reported no committee updates.

Trustee Pratscher reported no committee updates.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jackson reported the Village's current cash position as \$10,017,896.90.

Trustee Pisarzewski inquired about why both reports weren't given. Treasurer Jackson discussed the difference between book balances and bank balances that appear in monthly financial reports. Trustee Cunningham asked why the January report included both balances while the February report did not.

Treasurer Jackson explained that the Village typically presents two different summaries during the month. The first meeting of the month reflects the book balance, while the second meeting provides both the book balance and the bank balance once reconciliation is completed.

Trustee Pisarzewski had questions regarding the Water Fund balance, which reflects a deficit of over \$300,000. Treasurer Jackson noted that the account has historically reflected a negative balance for several years and has remained an ongoing financial concern for the Village. President Reynolds stated the same issue has been ongoing with the water fund since Trustee Pisarzewski was clerk, and President Reynolds was a Trustee.

6. Engineer's Report – 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Village Engineer Steve Kaminsky presented information regarding the draft resolution and certification for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered through Cook County.

Engineer Kaminsky explained that the Village typically applies annually for the program, although awards are generally received every two to three years. The maximum request allowed is \$500,000, although typical awards range from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

The Village last received approximately \$200,000 in 2023, which was used for roadway resurfacing improvements.

A map identifying CDBG eligible areas was presented. Eligible areas must contain more than 51% low-to-moderate income households based on census data. Based on the most recent census update, eligible areas are primarily south of Margaret Street and west of Julian Street.

Engineer Kaminsky explained that a census tract previously eligible for funding has fallen below the threshold with 43.1% low-to-moderate income, resulting in that portion of the Village no longer qualifying.

Trustees discussed prior projects funded through CDBG including Indianwood Drive and Blackhawk Drive. Trustee Piszewski addressed the poor condition of Arrowhead Street, particularly the section near Chicago Road. President Reynolds, Administrator Payne, and Engineer Kaminsky confirmed they are working with previous grant monies to work on Arrowhead.

Engineer Kaminsky stated the Village still has remaining funds from a Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant that may be used for patching and concrete improvements. He noted that grant modifications are currently being processed with state grant managers.

If the Village receives funding, award announcements typically occur in August or September and construction would likely occur during the 2027 construction season.

7. Attorney Touhy's Report – Business License Ordinance Amendment

The Village Attorney presented a proposed amendment to Chapter 5-1 of the Village Code relating to business license regulations.

The amendment would clarify eligibility requirements for obtaining a business license, define what constitutes good standing, establish formal procedures for suspension or revocation, outline hearing procedures and standards of evidence, and provide an appeal process to the Board of Trustees.

The amendment would also add a late renewal fee structure and require commercial and industrial landlords to obtain licenses. Existing fee categories, business classifications, and inspection requirements would remain unchanged.

Administrator Payne suggested including additional application requirements such as a current government-issued identification, proof of insurance, and a background check upon request.

Trustee Cunningham also inquired regarding how the ordinance relates to contractor permits, demolition permits, and arborist registration requirements, which are governed under separate ordinances.

The attorney explained that emergency procedures would allow immediate suspension if necessary, followed by notice and a hearing. Businesses would retain the right to appeal decisions before the Board of Trustees.

Trustees agreed the ordinance should be reviewed again with the additional application requirements incorporated before final adoption.

8. Administrator's Report – IMRF Authorized Agent

Village Administrator Vivian Payne reported that Village Clerk Kitakis is currently the authorized agent for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).

Administrator Payne explained that IMRF recently upgraded its system, which has created administrative difficulties and additional workload. Treasurer Jackson has been working extensively with IMRF staff to resolve system issues.

Due to the financial nature of the responsibilities, Administrator Payne recommended appointing Treasurer Jackson as the Village's IMRF Authorized Agent. Trustees expressed agreement with the recommendation.

The item will appear on the Regular Meeting agenda for formal approval.

9. Mayor's Announcements

President Reynolds announced several upcoming community events including Coffee with the Mayor on March 14 at 9:00 AM at Village Hall with a special appearance from the Fire Department at 10:00 AM. Senior Bingo and Lunch will be held March 11 at the Community Center. Additional events include the Wilco PTA Meeting on March 5, School Board Meeting on March 9, Early Dismissal on March 11, and Teen Draw Club on March 5 at 4:00 PM at the library.

Trustees were reminded that March 4 is the deadline to confirm attendance for the SSMMA Vendor Fair scheduled for March 19 at 3:30 PM. The Village will be co-hosting the event.

Residents were encouraged to stay informed through the Village Facebook page, newsletter, and Village sign. President Reynolds also noted Comcast continues to be uncooperative regarding service issues.

10. Old Business

Trustee Cunningham asked about Statements of Economic Interest filings. President Reynolds explained the Village must submit required information to the State before trustees receive the electronic filing links. The filing deadline will be in May.

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Adjournment

Trustee Kaye made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting. Trustee Pratscher seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Kaye – Yes

Trustee Pratscher – Yes

Trustee Cunningham – Yes

Trustee Middlebrooks – Yes

Trustee Glaser – Yes

Trustee Piszewski – Yes

Motion carried. The Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Nikki Kitakis Village Clerk