

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING – JUNE 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Piszewski called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Acting President Piszewski reported the meeting was being recorded by Clerk Piszewski and also recorded live on social media.

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Acting President Piszewski led the pledge to the flag, followed with a moment of silence for our public servants, our military, our recently deceased, and our sick especially Kim Swetlik.

ROLL CALL

Present at Roll Call: Acting President Piszewski, Trustees Cunningham, Reynolds, Kaye, Glaser; Recreation Director Dunlop; Police Chief G. Beckman; Public Works Superintendent Roberts; Fire Chief Schweitzer.

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

Absent: Trustee Atkinson.

PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Chief Wesolowski commented on the well-deserved retirement of Police Chief Glenn Beckman after 32 years of service with the Thornton Police Department. He touched on Chief Beckman's career with the Village, and how deeply grateful everyone is for his service and commitment to the community he served. Deputy Chief Wesolowski wished Chief Beckman a retirement filled with joy, relaxation and satisfaction knowing he made such a difference in so many lives.

Administrator Doug Beckman was also honored for his service with the Thornton community – from beginning his career as a police officer, advancing to Police Chief, and eventually being appointed to Village Administrator for a total of 31 years. Acting President Piszewski wished Administrator Beckman a happy retirement.

President Piszewski presented Administrator Beckman and Police Chief Wesolowski with retirement certificates and engraved watches from the Village, and commented on how much both gentlemen are going to be missed.

SWEARING IN OF NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Melissa Wiak was sworn in as the Interim Village Administrator by Clerk Piszewski. On behalf of the Board members, Acting President Piszewski congratulated Administrator Wiak and welcomed her to the Village.

MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Reynolds, seconded by Trustee Glaser, to approve the Committee meeting minutes of May 6, 2024, as presented.

All in favor.

Abstain: Trustee Kaye.

Absent: Trustee Atkinson.

Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Cunningham, seconded by Trustee Glaser to approve the Board meeting minutes of May 6, 2024, as presented.

All in favor.

Abstain: Trustee Kaye.

Absent: Trustee Atkinson.

Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Kaye, seconded by Trustee Glaser, to approve the Committee meeting minutes of May 20, 2024, as presented.

All in favor.

Absent: Trustee Atkinson.

Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Glaser, seconded by Trustee Reynolds, to approve the Board meeting minutes of May 20, 2024, as presented.

All in favor.

Absent: Trustee Atkinson.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathleen Andersen Reingold, 106 East Harriet, commented on how difficult it is to hear the Board when any one speaks. She asked for the Board members to speak into their microphones. Ms. Reingold asked if there is public comment allowed when discussing the Appropriation. Attorney Dillner responded that, by law, the Village is required to publish notice in a local newspaper 10 days before the hearing, which is tentatively set for July 1. Treasurer Frye added the Appropriation is available for public review at the Village Hall 10 days before the hearing.

Ms. Reingold stated there doesn't seem to be an end in sight as far as recovering from the cyber attack. She specifically was concerned about updating the Village web site. She questioned what type of fees have been paid up to this point pertaining to this attack, and what steps are being taken so it doesn't happen again.

Ms. Reingold commented that, when water bills are mailed late, it gives residents an excuse not to pay them on time. Lastly, she asked why the Village engineer is doing some type of work for Skyline. Attorney Dillner stated, in order for Skyline to get a building permit, they submit plans from their engineer. The Village engineer reviews the plans; and the cost of the Village engineer is included in the building permit fee.

VOUCHERS

Acting President Pisarzewski asked for a motion to approve the payment of the prepaid vouchers in the amount of \$797.50, and vouchers in the amount of \$791,737.97 for a total of \$792,535.47 of which \$127,498.29 is from the SOS Grant.

Motion by Trustee Reynolds, seconded by Trustee Kaye, for the warrants to be drawn and vouchers be paid and placed on file for audit.

Ayes: Trustees Reynolds, Kaye, Glaser, Cunningham, Acting President Pisarzewski.

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Atkinson.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion by Acting President Pisarzewski, seconded by Trustee Reynolds, to appoint Melissa Wiak as the Interim Administrator for the Village of Thornton, effective immediately.

Ayes: Acting President Pisarzewski, Trustees Reynolds, Cunningham, Kaye, Glaser.

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Atkinson.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Cunningham expressed concern about the Village Hall hours changing to 8:00 to 4:30. Most people work until 6:00, there are no Saturday hours and no other department gets summer hours. She asked how the residents are going to be accommodated.

Clerk Pisarzewski responded the ten-hour day was too difficult, so she decided to go back to the eight-hour day. If there is a problem with a resident's sewer or water and it's not an emergency, Public Works closes at 3:00 and the resident must wait until the next day. The Police Department office closes at 4:30 p.m. If a resident works until 5:00 p.m., whether the clerk's office closes at 4:30 or 5:00 is not going to make a difference. The clerk chose to keep the office open early because there have been a lot more residents taking advantage of the morning hours rather than the evening hours. When asked, resident feedback has been positive about the new hours. The clerk's office also tried alternating lunches; but it hasn't

worked, especially when it's busy. Also, there are only two people in the clerk's office; and if you have one person on vacation or sick and the office has to now close for lunch, then residents are upset about that because it's not scheduled to be closed.

Lastly, there are multiple ways to pay water bills. Residents can sign up for the ACH where the amount of their bill is taken directly from their bank account. Residents can drop their bills off in the locked drop box behind Village Hall. They can go on line and pay their bill through LexisNexis. Residents can call the clerk's office during operating hours and we will take a credit card payment over the phone for them. Or they can come in and pay directly at the office.

Trustee Reynolds asked for Board discussion regarding residents having chickens in Thornton back on the agenda. Trustee Glaser seconded the suggestion. This discussion will be on the agenda for the next Village meeting. Attorney Dillner will provide the Board with the prior chicken ordinance that was drafted. Trustee Reynolds would also like to see the Elmhurst ordinance that was discussed this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

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

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Acting President Pisarzewski adjourned the Regular Board meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Joseph Pisarzewski, Acting President

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Clerk