

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING – MARCH 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Acting president Pisarzewski called the committee meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Acting President Pisarzewski reported the meeting was being recorded by interim Clerk Kitakis, and also recorded on social media.

Public Comment:

Mary Ellis made a public comment regarding her water bill.

Committee Topics:

Trustee Cunningham: February report for the Fire department. The fire department responded to 112 calls, 68 calls being within the corporate limits. 210 training hours were completed. The citizens academy was cancelled due to lack of community participation.

Trustee Reynolds: Trustee Reynolds inquired about the controlled burns the forest preserve has been doing, and if there was a schedule, or if we could post on our Facebook to notify residents. Chief Schweitzer explained the fire department received a call for smoke, and upon investigation the forest preserve informed the department that 68 acres were being burned. Chief Schweitzer due to smoke reported had to shut the control burns down.

No financial report

Trustee Kaye: Absent

Trustee Glaser: The police department received 366 calls in the month of February.

Trustee Atkinson: The building department Issued 10 permits, with a total value of \$110,000. Keith Zigterman completed his training for property maintenance, and housing inspection, and is now certified through the Illinois code council.

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Frye: Treasurer Frye went over the February board report. Treasurer Frye explained the water fund has a surplus because there is a discrepancy with the Chicago Heights water bill. The Village of Thornton was mis-billed in August and Chicago Heights has still not resolved that missed billing. Interim Clerk Kitakis will reach out to Chicago Heights again for a resolution. Trustee Reynolds questioned Treasurer Frye on how the budget will be modified since the Village had the unexpected expenses of the storm, and rec center was not able to be used for rentals, and preschool. Treasurer Frye explained they will use past budgets to try and construct a budget for 2026.

Trustee Reynolds also inquired about how the police fine revenue is split up. Chief Wesolowski explained it is dependent upon the type of ticket that is written.

Trustee Atkinson stated there are 5-line items over budget, 2 from General Administration, 1 from building, 1 from Public Works, and 1 from Police. They are over appropriation by 120%.

Treasurer Frye explained that in the past the Village has allowed small overages, and allow for one transfer at the end instead of doing several small line item transfers.

Trustee Atkinson says she understands that, but given this is probably the last treasurer's report she will be voting on, it would be a violation of her oath to pass this treasurer report with the appropriation overages. Treasurer Frye apologized for the oversight, and the vote for the treasurer's report will be tabled until the next meeting.

Engineer Report:

None

Attorney Report:

Noise Ordinance: Attorney Dillner stated that the noise ordinance is the same ordinance that we have currently in place, the only difference is it would prolong the hours till 11 P. M. on the weekends, and it does add a decibel reading. Acting President Pisarzewski asked for the board to table the noise ordinance until the April 21, 2025 meeting.

Trustee Atkinson stated she would be fine with tabling the noise ordinance, but she would like to see the hours extended on the weekends, and on holidays.

Trustee Cunningham agreed hours should be extended.

Trustee Reynolds welcomed Chief Wesolowski into the conversation about the proposed times. Chief Wesolowski said he's not really concerned with the time as much as he would like something in place to determine definitively if it too loud, and its not left up to personal preference.

Trustee Atkinson asked for board opinion on issuing permits for special occasions for extended hours. Trustee Reynolds said it would depend on the occasion because Sunday is difficult. Trustee Cunningham deferred to Chief Wesolowski for direction. Chief Wesolowski commented there is already a section for issuing permits and all the factors for the permit would be up to the board for discussion and issuing. Trustee Reynolds clarified the new ordinance the time would be 10pm on week days and 11 pm on Friday and Saturday nights.

Trustee Atkinson was in agreement with the extended hours, and suggested to add a clause for a permit to be issued to extend hours with board approval for special events, and holidays. Acting President Pisarzewski asked again for the noise ordinance to be tabled.

Trustee Glaser disagreed and felt the board should continue the discussion.

Attorney Dillner requested for clarification as to what would constitute a holiday. Trustee Atkinson stated anything past the normal hours for the ordinance would be subject to needing a permit. Attorney Dillner questioned with the permit it would be the scope of the event meaning the date, times permitted, the decibel level, and location. Trustee Atkinson recommended permits to be looked at on an individual basis to be analyzed. Trustee Reynolds asked Attorney Dillner if something could be written up and ready to be reviewed for the next board meeting.

Trustee Cunningham stated it's been going on for a year we shouldn't wait longer to discuss the ordinance.

Acting President Pisarzewski requested the disturbing the peace ordinance be included in the ordinance as well.

Trustee Reynolds suggested put it to the April 21st meeting.

Trustee Cunningham stated the board should vote tonight on the ordinance.

Acting President Pisarzewski stated he will abstain from voting on this matter. Trustee Atkinson also stated she would like to see it writing before voting on it.

Administrator Report:

E-cycling Day, Village-wide garage sale, Dump your junk, and Youth Night:

Acting President Pisarzewski stated the dates the Village will be holding E cycling day will be April 12th, Village wide garage sale will be May 16th – 18th, dump your Junk Day is May 23rd, and Youth Night will be April 7th.

FY25 Line item transfer requests:

Acting President Pisarzewski stated the line-item transfer for Public Works. Trustee Atkinson pointed out there needs to be a change to the line it transfers the 08 needs to be changed to 01.

ISATT Vehicle Purchase:

Purchase has been completed.

2025 Employee Manual:

Trustee Atkinson stated she will not vote with the employee manual. There are three items that should be changed in section 7.8. Discussion continued. The Employee Manual will be voted on at the April 7, 2025 board meeting.

Thornton Public Works Capital Purchase Request

Public Works superintendent Bryan Roberts requested from the board permission to purchase a new riding lawn mower in the amount of \$22,850.00 for public works. This purchase will fall under the 2026 fiscal year.

Attorney Dillner:

Attorney Dillner talked about the possibility of Netflix filming in the village on Tuesday April 8, 2025.

Old & New Business:

Trustee Cunningham requested to have some extra newsletters put out at the Recreation Center, Police Department, and Library. Interim Clerk Kitakis agreed and will get newsletter to those buildings.

Trustee Reynolds asked for update on the tank removal at 123 Williams. Interim Clerk Kitakis informed Trustee Reynolds Administrator Wiak is actively working on get the tankers removed.

There being no further business for the good and welfare of the Village, Acting President Pisarzewski asked for a motion to adjourn the committee meeting. Trustee Atkinson made the motion to adjourn the committee meeting. Seconded by Trustee Reynolds.

All in favor.

Motion Carried

Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Interim Clerk Nikki Kitakis