

VILLAGE OF THORNTON

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday February 17, 2026

Time: 7:12 p.m.

Location: Village Hall, Thornton, Illinois

1. CALL TO ORDER

Village President Maxine Reynolds called the Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Thornton to order at 7:12 p.m.

The meeting was recorded by Village Clerk Nikki Kitakis and streamed live on the Village of Thornton Facebook page.

All electronic devices were requested to be silenced.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of public servants, the military, the sick, and recently departed community members, especially Reverend Jesse Jackson.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

President Maxine Reynolds

Trustee Cunningham

Trustee Middlebrooks

Trustee Glaser

Trustee Pratscher

Trustee Piszczewski

Public Works Superintendent Roberts

Park & Recreation Director Dunlop

Police Chief Wesolowski

Fire Chief Schweitzer

Absent:

Trustee Kaye

3. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2026

A motion was made by Trustee Cunningham and seconded by Trustee Pratscher to approve the Committee Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2026, as written.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES – Trustees Cunningham, Pratscher, Middlebrooks, Glaser, Pisarzewski

ABSENT – Trustee Kaye

NAYS – None

Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2026

A motion was made by Trustee Middlebrooks and seconded by Trustee Cunningham to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2026, as written.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES – Trustees Middlebrooks, Cunningham, Glaser, Pratscher, Pisarzewski

ABSENT – Trustee Kaye

NAYS – None

Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF POLICE DEPARTMENT LINE ITEM TRANSFER

A motion was made by Trustee Glaser and seconded by Trustee Cunningham to approve the Police Department Line Item Transfer from 01-67-8005 (Contractual Services) to 01-67-8002 (Vehicle Maintenance) in the amount of \$5,000.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES – Trustees Glaser, Cunningham, Middlebrooks, Pratscher, Pisarzewski

ABSENT – Trustee Kaye

NAYS – None

Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS – FEBRUARY 17, 2026

A motion was made by Trustee Cunningham and seconded by Trustee Middlebrooks to approve vouchers for February 17, 2026 totaling **\$281,939.74**, including:

- \$174,927.41 – SOS Grant
- \$27,189.47 – Prepaid Checks

Roll Call Vote:

AYES – Trustees Cunningham, Middlebrooks, Glaser, Pratscher, Piszewski

ABSENT – Trustee Kaye

NAYS – None

Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE – BAIT VEHICLE KIT & TRACKING UNITS

A motion was made by Trustee Glaser and seconded by Trustee Pratscher to approve the purchase of a bait vehicle kit and two (2) vehicle tracking units from 3SI for ISAT in the amount of \$12,255.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES – Trustees Glaser, Pratscher, Piszewski, Cunningham, Middlebrooks

ABSENT – Trustee Kaye

NAYS – None

Motion carried.

8. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE – TWO (2) 2026 FORD EXPLORERS

A motion was made by Trustee Glaser and seconded by Trustee Pratscher to approve the purchase of two (2) 2026 Ford Explorers from Ziegler Ford in the amount of \$113,655.26 through the Secretary of State Grant.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES – Trustees Glaser, Pratscher, Piszewski, Cunningham, Middlebrooks

ABSENT – Trustee Kaye

NAYS – None

Motion carried.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Shellie Beno made a public comment: To the Village President, Board of Trustees, and Village Clerk of the Village of Thornton:

Please accept this letter, and reading thereof at Tuesday, February 17, 2026 board meeting, as submitted, as a formal objection for the record to the adoption and implementation of the residential garbage collection fee and as a request for reversal or suspension pending further review.

I hadn't heard meaningful response to my prior suggestions about transparency and realized that I hadn't provided my contact information as Shellie Beno, (redacted) as made public herein.

Residential garbage collection was historically funded through general village revenues. Converting this expense to a direct per-household charge is a sizable funding change that creates a new financial burden for residents who relied on the prior structure. This change was implemented alongside tax increases, resulting in a cumulative cost impact rather than a neutral reallocation.

Under Illinois municipal law principles, a service fee should bear a reasonable relationship to the cost and level of service provided. A uniform flat charge applied regardless of actual usage—where some households do not set out garbage weekly—raises equity concerns and functions more like a revenue measure or tax levy than a true service-based fee. At the time of the Board's decision, had the service provider been asked about the density of pick-ups and it is reasonable to believe that the service provider knows that all households do not set out weekly?

On my behalf, if I generate enough garbage to set out the fourth or the fifth week post my last pick-up, means that I am effectively assuming the whole month's cost for one pick-up. The impact of this is not based on a reasonable relationship to the cost and level of service provided. This may not have been thought of in this manner and if not, this is objectionable.

The service level did not materially change; only the funding mechanism changed. The fee was implemented without a phase-in, offset, or clear advance public explanation and input. Additionally, there is an immediate increase flat fee that has already been announced. Procedural voting compliance alone does not fully satisfy transparency and public participation expectations.

I respectfully request that the Board reverse or suspend the fee and conduct a documented public review of service analysis, service fees vs. tax levy, provider pick-up infrared tagging possibilities, an opt-out procedure and alternatives before further action.

This objection is submitted in good faith for the official record. Nothing in this correspondence should be understood as a waiver of any rights or remedies available under applicable law, all of which are respectfully reserved. Please reach me for your response, concerns or questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Shellie Beno
Resident

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Pratscher and seconded by Trustee Cunningham to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES – Trustees Pratscher, Cunningham, Middlebrooks, Glaser, Pisarzewski

ABSENT – Trustee Kaye

NAYS – None

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned. at 7:23 PM

Maxine Reynolds
Village President

Nikki Kitakis
Village Clerk