

**Thomasboro Village Board of Trustees  
Regular Board Meeting  
October 6, 2014**

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*Thomasboro Village Hall  
101 W. Main Street, Thomasboro, Illinois*

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Thomasboro was held on Monday, October 6, 2014, President Brad Morris presiding. President Morris called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Roll Call**

The Village Clerk called the roll, finding the following members physically present: Village President Brad Morris; and Trustees Joe Wilson, Jeff Robertson, Kim Ratts, Anthony Grilo, and Kyle Henegar. Trustee Roger Rosenbeck was absent.

Other Village officials present: Leon Albers, Treasurer; Keith Willis, Chief of Police; Jeremy Reale, Village Clerk; and David Thies, Attorney.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Following roll call, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Discussion/Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Trustee Grilo moved to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 regular meeting, as prepared. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting "aye".

**Presentation of Bills**

Greg Gustafson was present to address questions regarding the outstanding invoices from Berms, Clancy & Associates for work associated with the filter media evaluation. He told the Board that the charges delineated on the two invoices included tank inspection, filter media sampling, and sending the samples off for laboratory evaluation. He added that additional assistance had been required to open the hatches due to corrosion of the existing nuts and bolts, which had since been replaced with coated materials to prevent future issues. Three of the four lids also had to be rebuilt. He figured that lab results should be made available within the next couple of weeks, adding he would be available to report the results at the next Board meeting. In terms of additional anticipated expenses, Mr. Gustafson noted that lab analysis fees were forthcoming and would likely be \$250.00 to \$300.00. The analysis of the filter media would give engineers a better idea of the degree to which other materials were present in the media and whether the media would need to be replaced. If replacement was necessary, there would be further costs associated.

Following review and discussion of the monthly bills, Trustee Wilson moved to approve the payment of the bills listed and the regular bills yet to be received. Trustee Grilo seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

**YEAS:** Wilson, Robertson, Ratts, Grilo, and Henegar – 5  
**NAYS:** None – 0  
**ABSENT:** Rosenbeck – 1

**Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 to 0, with 1 member absent.**

## **Committee Reports**

**Police & Safety:** Chair Wilson presented the monthly police and code enforcement activity reports. Chief Willis reported that Officer Jeff Metzler had completed his part-time academy training. He also stated that the Village had taken delivery of the new 2015 Ford Explorer squad vehicle, which was currently at the graphic shop to be marked with decals. He hoped to have the new squad in service by the end of October.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Building Permit & Liquor License:** Trustee Wilson reported that a building permit had been issued for the construction of a storage shed at 601 W. Rhodes Street.

**Health, Sanitation & Public Relations:** Chair Grilo reported that the fall community cleanup had been held on Saturday, October 4. Turnout had been less than anticipated, which he attributed to the poor weather conditions and limited publicity for the event. The Village had collected \$232.00 in voluntary contributions for the cleanup and two of the three dumpsters had been filled. The Board discussed the possibility of reducing the amount of dumpsters ordered for future cleanup days; however, the consensus was that the issue should be revisited after the next cleanup in the spring.

**Waterworks & Sewer:** Chair Robertson reported that Mr. Arnold and his assistant had successfully replaced nearly a dozen water meters during the month of September.

**Streets & Alleys:** Chair Henegar reported that Village personnel had cut down a tree in the public right-of-way that created visibility issues at the intersection of Elmore and Church Street. He would follow up with Mr. Arnold on getting the stump removed.

**Civil Defense & Parks:** Chair Ratts reported that monthly siren testing would be conducted on October 7 and again on November 4.

## **Old Business**

**A) Ordinance No. 590, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING NORTHERN ILLINOIS GAS COMPANY (d/b/a NICOR GAS COMPANY) ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A GAS DISTRIBUTING SYSTEM IN AND THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF THOMASBORO**

Mr. Thies noted that this ordinance would provide for the renewal of the Village's franchise agreement with Nicor, which granted the company access to use easements and public rights-of-way for its utility infrastructure. He noted that the only change proposed between the existing agreement and the renewal was that there was no longer a bond requirement included in the indemnification provision. The bond would normally be included to cover any damages that might occur when the amount of the damages is in excess of the assets of the company. Mr. Thies stated that it was likely in this case that the assets of Nicor would be sufficient to cover any damages that might occur; therefore, the absence of a bond requirement was probably not a cause for concern. He added that there was enough flexibility in the language of the franchise agreement that the Board could always address the question of requiring a bond at a later time.

Trustee Henegar moved to approve Ordinance No. 590. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

**YEAS:** Wilson, Robertson, Ratts, Grilo, and Henegar – 5  
**NAYS:** None – 0  
**ABSENT:** Rosenbeck – 1

**Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 to 0, with 1 member absent.**

**B) Discussion/Action on directing Village Attorney to draft an ordinance amending Chapter VII (Traffic) of the Village Code regarding speed limit restrictions**

President Morris noted that the Board had previously discussed the possibility of reducing speed limits in certain areas of the community in response to citizen concerns about the speed of traffic in certain residential areas. As Village ordinances currently provided for a speed limit of 30mph on all roadways unless otherwise marked with signage, the consensus of the Board was that a reduction to 25mph should be implemented on a Village-wide basis. Chief Willis signified that he had no issue with the proposed changes, adding that he believed the speed limit on Central Avenue should be reduced from 35mph to 30mph. He also opined that the speed limit on Thomas Street should be made consistent for its entire length at 25mph. Trustee Henegar suggested that “children at play” signage should be erected in targeted areas as well.

Following discussion, Trustee Wilson moved to direct the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance amending Village speed limit restrictions to specify the following:

- that Central Avenue be reduced from 35mph to 30mph;
- that the section of Thomas Street between Morris and Bradley be increased to 25mph;
- that the section of Schluter between Central and Park Street remain at 20mph;
- and that all other non-highway streets within the Village be reduced to 25mph

Trustee Ratts seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting “aye”.

**C) Discussion/Action on authorizing the Village to participate in the Illinois E-Pay program for water and sewer billing collections**

Trustee Grilo discussed the proposal, which would allow residents to use credit cards to make secure online payments toward water and sewer accounts. Mr. Reale noted that, if authorized, participation in the program would allow for customers to use Mastercard, American Express, or Discover cards for utility payments. Visa would not offer the service for utility payments. He added that there would be a convenience fee of 2.35 percent associated with credit card transactions, which would be passed along to the customer. The consensus of the Board was that the Village should move forward with the proposal, as it would offer residents another convenient option for making payments without any additional costs incurred by the Village.

Trustee Grilo moved to authorize the Village to participate in the Illinois E-Pay program for water and sewer payments. Trustee Henegar seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting “aye”.

**D) Discussion/Action on procedures for certain residential properties determined to be uninhabitable by inspection of Village personnel**

President Morris readdressed the subject of the four residential properties that had previously been examined with the assistance of building inspectors from the Village of Rantoul and determined to be uninhabitable. At this point, the Board needed to determine the best method for proceeding to get these nuisances removed. Mr. Thies told the Board that the Village retained the right to condemn these properties and, if that was the course desired by the Board, the proper action would be to direct the Village Attorney to prepare the documents necessary to authorize condemnation of the properties. He added that the process could potentially move quickly and with minimal costs if the owners of the properties did not contest the condemnation. On the other hand, the Village could spend thousands on legal fees if the owners contested the condemnation in the court system. Mr. Thies noted that Village officials would likely be able to discern early in the process if there was going to be resistance from the property owners and, if so, the Village could always revisit the issue and determine another way to proceed. Trustee Wilson expressed concern about the fact that this process would result in ownership of the properties falling to the Village, adding that there would be additional costs associated with the actual demolition and remediation of the properties following condemnation. He stressed that the Village should determine a source of funding before initiating the process. Trustees Robertson and Grilo argued that the Village really had no option but to address these properties through condemnation. The general consensus was that the property located at 702 Morris Street was in the worst condition from a public safety standpoint. Trustee Grilo suggested that condemnation should also be pursued for the property at 501 Frederick Street, as it was in a more visible location. President Morris noted that the Village could initiate the condemnation process for both properties and then make a determination as to which would be demolished first depending upon the funding available.

Trustee Grilo moved to direct the Village Attorney to prepare the legal documents necessary to commence the condemnation process for the properties located at 702 Morris Street and 501 Frederick Street. Trustee Henegar seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

**YEAS:** Wilson, Robertson, Ratts, Grilo, and Henegar – 5  
**NAYS:** None – 0  
**ABSENT:** Rosenbeck – 1

**Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 to 0, with 1 member absent.**

**New Business**

**A) Set Date/Times for “Trick or Treat” hours and possible rainout date**

The consensus of the Board was to establish “Trick or Treat” hours from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on Friday, October 31, 2014. Upon the suggestion of Chief Willis, it was decided that Saturday, November 1 would serve as a rainout date in the event of inclement weather conditions.

**B) Petitions for Village election**

Mr. Reale reported that any citizen interested in becoming a candidate for one of the trustee positions in the April 2015 election could pick up nominating petitions from Village Hall. He noted that five trustee positions would be included on the ballot for the upcoming election.

**Comments and Questions from the Audience**

Jim Richardson inquired as to whether time limits were placed upon building permits issued by the Village. Mr. Reale clarified by reading from the ordinance that building permits were terminated 180 days after the date of issuance. After a permit has been terminated, the individual granted the permit would have an opportunity to file a written request for a one-time 180-day renewal of the permit, provided that significant progress had been made on the project since the initial application.

Mr. Richardson also complimented Village officials for their efforts in reducing legal expenses by not requiring an attorney to be present at every Board meeting.

**Treasurers Report**

There were no comments regarding the Treasurer's Report.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Grilo moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion. Motion carried viva voce vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeremy A. Reale, Village Clerk

The undersigned Village Clerk of the Village of Thomasboro, Illinois, does hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held October 6, 2014, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

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Village Clerk