

**Thomasboro Village Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
July 6, 2015**

*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, July 6, 2015, 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 Jeff Robertson, Anthony Grilo, Kyle Henegar, Anna Martin, Dustin Rhodes, and Mickey Wilson.

Other Village officials present: Leon Albers, Treasurer; Tyler Martin, Public Works Superintendent; Keith Willis, Chief of Police; Karen Eller, Office Manager; Laurel Zook, ESDA Coordinator; and Jeremy Reale, Village Clerk.

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 June 1, 2015 regular meeting, as prepared. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting "aye".

Presentation of Bills

Trustee Grilo commented that the ESDA office computer should be connected to the Volo Broadband service within the next week, after which the Village's Mediacom internet service could be cancelled. Ms. Eller was also directed to further inquire about the Nicor gas billing, as the amount appeared somewhat high for the current time of year.

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

The Village Clerk called the roll:

YEAS:	Robertson, Grilo, Henegar, Martin, Rhodes, and Wilson – 6
NAYS:	None – 0
ABSENT:	None – 0

Motion carried by roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Presentation by Premier Cooperative

Mike Kuhns and representatives from Premier Cooperative addressed the Board with a proposal that would curb the use of Main Street by truck traffic to and from the elevator. Under the plan, an outbound scale would be installed on the north side of the elevator property, with a new route developed to take the empty trucks directly eastward to North Church Street and the access road to U.S. Route 45. This would involve the construction of a new drive across the Premier Cooperative property, from the alley and connecting to Church Street immediately north

of the existing mini-warehouses. The proposal had been discussed with area farmers who use the elevator, and the consensus was that they were pleased with the concept. There were also no objections raised by the owners of the property adjacent to the new proposed drive-out. President Morris suggested that Village and cooperative officials may need to work together to achieve funding for improvements to Commercial Street, as that roadway was subjected to a considerable amount of stress from the trucks. The officials from Premier signaled that they were receptive to the idea of partnering with the Village and other downtown businesses in furthering that objective. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to take any actions necessary to begin to move forward with the proposed project. The attorney for Premier Cooperative would draft an agreement containing project specifications for the Village to review and engineers would begin developing specifications and performing survey work to ensure that Church Street is of sufficient width to handle the influx of truck traffic.

Committee Reports

Police & Safety: Chair Martin discussed the monthly activity reports. It was noted there were more calls for service in June than usual.

Personnel: No report.

Building Permit & Liquor License: Chair Robertson suggested that the Board should consider an ordinance amendment addressing setback requirements for fences in order to keep them off of property lines and outside of easement areas. Any existing structures would be grandfathered in as legal non-conforming uses. There was considerable discussion as to property owner responsibilities for maintenance and mowing on each side of private fencing. This item would be placed on the August agenda for further discussion.

Health, Sanitation & Public Relations: No report.

Waterworks & Sewer: The Board discussed ongoing issues with storm drainage deficiencies in certain areas of the Village. Mr. Martin stated that he would like to have storm lines in the most problematic areas jet cleaned in order to improve flow and alleviate some of the flooding issues. He noted that catch basins had been cleaned periodically; however, the Village had not routinely maintained the storm drainage lines in the past. There was some discussion about the drainage problems in the Pearl-Clark-Park Street area on the west side of town, with Trustee Robertson suggesting that the Village should consider installation of a new tile connection from the Pearl Street line to the Morris Street line to alleviate the stress on the system in that area. President Morris responded that clearing out the existing lines and putting into place a routine maintenance schedule would be the most economical solution at the present time. In the long term, the Village would need to involve its engineers in surveying the situation to determine what infrastructure improvements may be necessary to address the chronic issues. It was noted that one major impediment to the efficient operation of the storm tiles was the fact that the tiles empty into the ditch at a relatively low point, which made it impossible for the tile contents to be emptied when the water level in the ditch surpassed the output area. Mr. Martin added that he would be working to keep the ditch banks cleared of obstructions and vegetation overgrowth as well.

Streets & Alleys: Chair Grilo reported that Village personnel were hoping to be able to cold patch some potholes during the upcoming weeks.

Civil Defense & Parks: Chair Rhodes reported that siren testing was scheduled for tomorrow. Ms. Zook reported that siren on St. Joseph was working, noting there had been a resident

complaint that it could not be heard. There was discussion about repairing the flag pole at West Side Park, with the consensus that monies should be taken from the Park Improvement Fund account to cover that expense. Chief Willis also noted that he had suggested to Mr. Albers that remaining funds in the long-dormant Neighborhood Watch Fund account should be used toward park improvements. The consensus of the Board was that this proposed arrangement would be acceptable, particularly in light of the various improvements needed in the park areas.

Old Business

Filter Media Replacement at Water Treatment Plant

Trustee Grilo reported that he had research possible alternatives for the replacement of the filter media at the water treatment plant. He had contacted a company based out of Decatur that would provide this service; however, the firm would not provide the Village with a quote until the radium levels in the current filter media had been adequately tested. There was apparently some disagreement between Berns Clancy & Associates and other engineering contacts as to the manner in which the radium was required to be tested. Trustee Grilo suggested that the Village should get the radium levels tested as quickly as possible before moving forward with the project, as there was some question whether or not it had been tested correctly by BCA. He stated he would reach out to state oversight officials to determine whether the materials needed to be retested and would then take this information to Mr. Gustafson. There was some discussion about whether it would be more cost effective for Village personnel to replace the media instead of using an outside contractor, although there were concerns about the potential liability assumed by the Village in that case. This item was tabled to the August meeting, pending receipt of further information on the radium testing process.

Updated Personnel Policy

President Morris reported that the policy draft had not been received from the attorney in time to review and discuss it. It was therefore tabled to the next meeting.

Purchase of Water Meters

Mr. Martin reported that approximately 25 to 30 additional meters were needed to replace the remaining non-functional meters in the community. Mr. Albers confirmed that sufficient funds were available in the Water Fund to cover this expense.

Trustee Henegar moved to authorize the purchase of additional water meters, not to exceed a total of 30 units. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

YEAS:	Robertson, Grilo, Henegar, Martin, Rhodes, and Wilson – 6
NAYS:	None – 0
ABSENT:	None – 0

Motion carried by roll call vote of 6 to 0.

New Business

Ordinance No. 594, Annual Tax Levy Ordinance

Trustee Grilo moved to approve Ordinance No. 594. Trustee Henegar seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

YEAS:	Robertson, Grilo, Henegar, Martin, Rhodes, and Wilson – 6
NAYS:	None – 0
ABSENT:	None – 0

Motion carried by roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Amendment to Burning Ordinance for Recreational Fires

Chief Willis noted that the department receives complaints each year about residents using recreational fires outside of the approved burning hours specified by ordinance. He therefore suggested amending the ordinance to permit such activity. Trustee Grilo asked where the line would be drawn on enforcement of burning sticks and other yard wastes in recreational fires. Chief Willis responded that this would be permissible, provided that leaves or grass were not being burned.

Trustee Grilo moved to direct the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance amending the municipal code to permit recreational fires. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting “aye”.

Purchase of Cordless Power Tool Set

Trustee Grilo moved to authorize the purchase of a Milwaukee cordless power tool set, for an amount not to exceed \$600.00. Trustee Wilson seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

YEAS:	Robertson, Grilo, Henegar, Martin, Rhodes, and Wilson – 6
NAYS:	None – 0
ABSENT:	None – 0

Motion carried by roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Purchase of New Computer for Public Works Office

Trustee Grilo reported that he had addressed and resolved the issues with the current computer at Mr. Martin’s workstation which had precipitated the original purchase request. A new computer would now not be required.

Comments and Questions from the Audience

Richard Fitton, representing Aflac, stated he would like to make presentation to the Board at the next meeting on options for providing Aflac services to all full and part-time Village employees and elected officials. Mr. Reale was directed to include this on the August agenda.

Trustee Rhodes publicly commended Petmecky Tree Service for removing a dead tree from West Side Park before the street dance festivities at no cost to the Village. A letter of appreciation would be sent to the business on behalf of the Village.

Phyllis Harper inquired as to whether the Village still maintained the apparatus for mosquito spraying. Trustee Henegar responded that a sprayer license was required to mix the chemicals and operate the equipment to apply them. Mr. Martin would be testing for this so the Village would have a licensed sprayer on staff to operate the equipment.

Ms. Harper also asked if any progress had been made concerning the trees that had been planted in the railroad right-of-way. Trustee Grilo responded that officials from Canadian National were aware of the trees, adding that he was working with the railroad to address that issue along with the possible northern extension of Thomas Street.

Rex Pillow asked if any progress was being made on addressing the nuisance property at 501 Frederick Street. President Morris stated that Village attorneys continued to work on the situation, adding that the Village was considering the possibility of purchasing the parcel through

the tax sale process in order to take possession and demolish the house. Mr. Pillow also requested that residents be kept informed on the status of drainage improvements in the Schluter subdivision. Mr. Martin responded that he would provide an update at the August meeting, adding that any information and updated drainage maps could be published on the Village website to make them readily accessible to residents.

Bill Kurth commented favorably on the new addition of a cautionary light on U.S. Route 45 approaching the intersection with Central Avenue.

David Faith asked if it would be possible for the Village to use licensed personnel from other communities to operate the mosquito sprayer until such time that Mr. Martin obtained his license. Village officials would look into that option.

Corky Kirts commented that the new flag pole provided a great addition to West Side Park.

Gertie Richardson asked if any grants might be available to defray the costs of purchasing new park equipment. Trustee Rhodes noted that some grants were available; however, most required a minimum of 50% in matching funds from the municipality. Furthermore, all potential state grant monies would be frozen until the passage of a budget. President Morris added that there had been discussion about possible fundraising activities that could be undertaken for this purpose as well.

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 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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 July 6, 2015, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

Village Clerk