

**Thomasboro Village Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
August 5, 2013**

*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, August 5, 2013, 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, Fred Meek, Kim Ratts, W. Jake Tatar and Roger Rosenbeck. Trustee Joe Wilson was absent.

Other Village officials present: Leon Albers, Treasurer; Jay Arnold, Public Works; Keith Willis, Chief of Police; 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 Meek moved to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2013 regular meeting, as prepared. Trustee Tatar seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting "aye".

Presentation of Bills

Trustee Meek questioned the bill for placing an employment advertisement for a police officer. Chief Willis confirmed that Officer Dustin Heuerman had resigned, and that he had solicited applications for this vacant position. He noted that he was in the process of reviewing the applications received to determine which candidates he would like to select to be interviewed.

Following a review of the monthly bills, Trustee Ratts moved to approve the payment of the bills listed and the regular bills yet to be received. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

YEAS:	Robertson, Meek, Ratts, Tatar, and Rosenbeck – 5
NAYS:	None – 0
ABSENT:	Wilson – 1

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

Committee Reports

Police & Safety: Trustee Tatar discussed the monthly activity report. Chief Willis further discussed the process for filling the vacancy created by Officer Heuerman's resignation. He stated that he was interested in pursuing two applicants and had sent each candidate an employment package to be completed prior to any interviews being conducted. He commented that there may be a complication involving the leading candidate, as additional firearms training would be required for this individual to obtain his state certification for Illinois. While the department was short one officer, he told the Board that shift coverage was not currently a problem. Trustee Robertson inquired about the vehicle that the Village had obtained through seizure. Chief Willis responded that he had two individuals who had looked at the vehicle. He was asking for \$800.00 to purchase the car.

Personnel: No report.

Building Permit & Liquor License: Chair Rosenbeck reported that the Village had received a permit application from the grain elevator to install a new grading building. Mr. Arnold has reviewed the application, and has no concerns about the plans.

Health, Sanitation & Public Relations: Chair Tatar reported that he had been making progress on the redesign of the Village website. He still needed to meet with President Morris, Chief Willis, and other officials to determine what content was to be made available on the site. He noted that meeting notices and agendas could be published on the website, which would then satisfy the Village's posting requirements under the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Reale confirmed that this was correct, and would eliminate the need to post paper copies of these notices at any locations other than the Village Hall.

Waterworks & Sewer: Trustee Meek stated that he had spoken to Rantoul Mayor Chuck Smith regarding the upcoming phosphorus removal project to be undertaken at the Rantoul wastewater treatment facility. He noted that Thomasboro could experience an increase in the wholesale sewer rates charged by Rantoul, as this was a multi-million dollar project for which the Village of Rantoul had already approved a bond issue. At the present time, there was no indication as to what any proposed increase might entail.

Streets & Alleys: Chair Meek reported that the oil and chip work on the streets identified in the 2013 Street Maintenance Program had been completed. He also stated that the Village had received notification from the Canadian National Railroad that the crossing at CR 2600 N would be closed for repairs during the week of August 19, with the crossing at Central Avenue slated for a temporary closure the following week. The resulting detour of traffic would require the grading and addition of rock to the section of North Schluter between Rhodes and CR 2600 N. It was noted that some clarification of the maintenance agreement between the Village and Schluter Homes Inc. was needed to ascertain the responsibility for the maintenance of North Schluter.

Civil Defense & Parks: Chair Ratts reported that monthly siren testing would be conducted on August 6, adding that the siren located on St. Joseph Drive was still not operational as it awaited repairs. She also reported that the park signage delineating pet rules had been ordered.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Chairman Bill Kurth reported that the ZBA had voted to recommend approval of a variance application which would provide for the location of a new residential home on the property located at 700 W. Clark Street. The petitioners, Bill and Charlotte Schroeder, planned to situate the new house on the property in such a manner that it would encroach on the front yard setback line by approximately seven feet. The ZBA had found no significant issues with the requested variance, and believed that the addition of the new home would serve as an enhancement to the overall quality of the neighborhood.

Trustee Meek moved to approve the petition for setback variance filed by Bill and Charlotte Schroeder for the property located at 700 W. Clark Street. Trustee Rosenbeck seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting "aye".

Old Business

None

New Business

Adoption of Annual Tax Levy Ordinance

Trustee Meek moved to adopt Ordinance No. 584, the annual tax levy ordinance of the Village of Thomasboro. Trustee Tatar seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Robertson, Meek, Ratts, Tatar, and Rosenbeck – 5
NAYS: None – 0
ABSENT: Wilson – 1

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

Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals Members

President Morris announced the reappointment of Fred Meek, Jeff Robertson, Bill Kurth, Larry Scott, and Marlin Hays to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for four-year terms expiring in 2017. Trustee Tatar moved to approve the appointments, as presented. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting “aye”.

Discussion on Citizen Concerns Regarding Groundhogs and Rabbits

President Morris stated he had received a call from a resident expressing concern over the proliferation of groundhogs and rabbits in the Village, particularly on the east side of the community in the neighborhoods around Main Street. Resident Betty Kurth had contacted a firm called “Anything Wild” to obtain estimates for the trapping and removal of these animals. She had been quoted a figure of \$130.00 for the first animal and \$65.00 for each additional animal trapped. The fee for trapping and destroying skunks would be \$100.00 each; all other wildlife would be captured and relocated. There was some discussion as to whether the Village might be able to save money by having officials place traps themselves rather than utilizing an outside contractor. Chief Willis commented that the Village would need to contact the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine whether any permits would have to be obtained to allow the Village to trap these animals. The consensus of the Board was to have the trapping initially done by Village personnel before trying any outside service. President Morris would consult with DNR on possible requirements.

Request from Thomasboro Fire Department for Parking Area

President Morris stated that the Village had received a request from Chief Cundiff of the Thomasboro Fire Protection District to apply rock to an approximately 20ft x 200ft section of the grassy area along the east side of Church Street, immediately across from the fire station. It was intended to use this area for additional parking for the members of the fire department. Trustee Meek moved to authorize the Thomasboro Fire Protection District to use the requested area for additional parking. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting “aye”.

Comments and Questions from the Audience

Mr. Jim Richardson inquired as to whether the municipal lien recorded against the property located at 201 Main Street had been satisfied. Mr. Reale confirmed that the Village had not yet received any payment for the mowing fees and delinquent water bills for which the lien had been created. He added that he had spoken to a representative from the firm currently holding the property, and his understanding was that full payment for those debts would be forthcoming. In response to further questions about the status of the property at 200 Eads Street, Mr. Reale noted that the Village also held municipal liens against this property for weed cutting and delinquent water bills.

A resident in attendance commented on the issues of barking dogs and dogs running loose. Chief Willis noted that the Village had an ordinance in force addressing these issues, adding that residents should call the non-emergency dispatch to report any such incidents.

Mr. Anthony Grilo reported that Volo had held an open house and ribbon-cutting event on Saturday, August 3, at the fire station facility with approximately seventy-five people in attendance. In addition to growing interest from the residents of Thomasboro, he noted that individuals from Champaign-Urbana had also come to the open house to check out the broadband service. He stated that installation work was nearing completion on the west side of the Village, with eight customers currently up and running with the new service. He then presented the public with a brief overview of the rate structure for the services offered through Volo.

President Morris announced that State Representative Chad Hays would be holding a public forum for Thomasboro residents at the Village Hall on Tuesday, August 13, 2013, from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Treasurers Report

There was no discussion regarding the Treasurer’s Report.

Executive Session – Semi-Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes

Trustee Tatar moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) 21, for the purpose of conducting the semi-annual review of Executive Session minutes as mandated under Section 2.06. Trustee Ratts seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Robertson, Meek, Ratts, Tatar, and Rosenbeck – 5
NAYS: None – 0
ABSENT: Wilson – 1

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

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:48pm. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:59pm.

It was announced that the Board had completed its semi-annual review of Executive Session minutes, and had determined that the need for confidentiality no longer existed as to the records of Executive Sessions or portions thereof held on the following dates: September 6, 2011 (Parts A & B); February 6, 2012 (Part B); and February 4, 2013.

Trustee Meek moved to authorize the release of the Executive Session minutes, as stated. Trustee Tatar seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting “aye”.

Adjournment

President Morris announced that the next regular meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

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 August 5, 2013, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

Village Clerk