

**Thomasboro Village Board of Trustees  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 7, 2016**

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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, November 7, 2016, 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, Kyle Henegar, Anna Martin, Dustin Rhodes, and Mickey Wilson. Trustee Anthony Grilo was absent.

Other Village officials present: Leon Albers, Treasurer; Tyler Martin, Public Works Superintendent; Deanne Wattjes, Office Manager; David Thies, Village Attorney; 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 Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2016 regular meeting, as prepared. Trustee Henegar seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting "aye".

**Presentation of Bills**

Following review and discussion of the monthly bills, Trustee Rhodes 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:

<b>YEAS:</b>	Robertson, Henegar, Martin, Rhodes and Wilson – 5
<b>NAYS:</b>	None – 0
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Grilo – 1

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

**Committee Reports**

**Police & Safety:** Chair Martin presented the monthly activity reports.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Building Permit & Liquor License:** Chair Robertson reported that a permit had been issued for the installation of a four-inch main extension off of North Church Street to accommodate the sprinkler system at the Altamont facility.

**Health, Sanitation & Public Relations:** No report.

**Waterworks & Sewer:** No report.

**Streets & Alleys:** No report.

**Civil Defense & Parks:** Chair Rhodes reported that the installation of the new playground equipment at West Side Park had been scheduled for November 10 and 11, beginning at 7:00am each day. The Village would welcome any volunteers interested in assisting with the build. He also thanked Darren Suits for lending the equipment to remove the pea gravel from the site to prepare for the new playground.

### **Old Business**

**Consider Ordinance No. 598, amending the Thomasboro Municipal Code to provide for garbage collection and disposal services and related fees**

Trustee Rhodes moved to pass Ordinance No. 598. Trustee Wilson seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

<b>YEAS:</b>	Robertson, Henegar, Martin, Rhodes and Wilson – 5
<b>NAYS:</b>	None – 0
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Grilo – 1

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

### **Discuss ordinance changes related to shutoff procedures for delinquent utility billing accounts**

President Morris stated that the Village had been interested in possibly amending the language of the ordinance to ensure that shutoff provisions would be applicable to those residents who refused to pay the new garbage collection fees. Mr. Martin reported that he had discussed the matter with Mr. Albers and it was felt that no changes were necessary as the ordinance currently provided for disconnecting service to any accounts in arrears a total of \$150.00 or two consecutive months, whichever situation occurred first. Mr. Albers confirmed that the verbiage of all disconnection notices would be updated to explain this to residents with delinquent accounts. The consensus was to proceed without recommending any further amendment to the ordinance.

### **New Business**

**Designation of Deanne Wattjes as an authorized signatory for Village bank accounts**

Trustee Wilson moved to approve adding Deanne Wattjes as an authorized signatory for all Village checking accounts. Trustee Henegar seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

<b>YEAS:</b>	Robertson, Henegar, Martin, Rhodes and Wilson – 5
<b>NAYS:</b>	None – 0
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Grilo – 1

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

### **Discuss elected official residency issue**

Trustee Robertson reported that he had approached President Morris with concerns about the status of his residency in the Village, given that he had been living part-time with his new wife in Bloomington. He noted that this had been an issue of concern that had been brought to him by some residents in the community and he felt he needed to do his due diligence in investigating the facts and bringing the topic forward for discussion. He had consulted with officials in the Champaign County Clerk's office on the requirements for establishing and maintaining residency in order to qualify for elective office, and his impression was that with the recent change in his living situation President Morris no longer met those requirements. Trustee Robertson suggested that the proper course of action for President Morris would be to resign his position.

President Morris responded that these concerns had not been communicated with him prior to the meeting, adding that he had nothing to hide and no intent to mislead anyone in the Village in terms of his commitment to performing his duties. He noted that he still owned a home in Thomasboro, maintained his voter registration here, worked full-time in Champaign County and remained actively involved in Village affairs. While he may have been splitting his time between Thomasboro and Bloomington, he stressed that he still devoted a significant amount of time to working on Village business and had a desire to finish the job to which he was elected. He acknowledged that the situation might be viewed differently had he been earlier into his term or considering seeking another term; however, he did not plan to run for reelection and would therefore be leaving office in May 2017.

Attorney Thies addressed some of the legal aspects of residency, noting that it was not necessarily a black-and-white issue. The question would be one of intent and whether or not the elected official could demonstrate his intention to maintain residency through such measures as home ownership, voter registration, and the like. Some members of the public in attendance expressed support for President Morris and urged that he continue to serve out the remainder of his term. There was no further action taken with respect to the issue.

### **Comments and Questions from the Audience**

There was additional discussion by members of the public expressing opposition to the new single-hauler garbage collection contract, with some opining that this arrangement allowed for one company to maintain a monopoly on the service and effectively robbed Thomasboro citizens of their freedom of choice.

Ronda Scott address the Board with concerns about the Village's ordinance on home-based businesses, as it appeared to permit the operation of an auto shop in a residential neighborhood. Attorney Thies responded that he would review the ordinance and the provisions could possibly be revisited with changes made to alleviate the concerns of neighbors over certain types of home-based businesses.

The Board discussed the two vacant lots at 702 Morris and 501 Frederick which the Village had obtained through the judicial deed process in order to demolish the derelict houses. There was no new information at the present time on the possible redevelopment of the lots for single family homes. There was discussion as to whether the Village should proceed with soliciting bids for the lots and also whether redevelopment conditions should be tied to the sales.

Trustee Henegar moved to advertise for bids for the sale of 702 Morris and 501 Frederick. Motion died for lack of a second. (Clerk's Note: Upon review of the verbatim recording of the meeting, it was determined that a second to the motion had been made by Trustee Robertson;

however, it had not been recognized by the chair during the meeting because it was not audible to President Morris.)

The Board agreed to continue the discussion on the sale of the lots at the next meeting.

**Treasurers Report**

There were no comments regarding the Treasurer's Report.

**Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

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 November 7, 2016, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

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Village Clerk