

**Thomasboro Village Board of Trustees
Special Board Meeting
July 17, 2017**

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

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Thomasboro was held on Monday, July 17, 2017. President Evans called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Roll Call

The Village Clerk called the roll, finding the following members physically present: Village President W. Tyler Evans and Trustees Anthony Grilo, Anna Martin, Dustin Rhodes, Ronda Scott, and Trent Sage. Trustee Kyle Henegar was absent.

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

Discussion on police department staffing, organization, and hiring process for chief

Trustee Scott reported that she had contacted the Champaign County Sheriff's office to investigate the potential costs for contracting with that agency to provide coverage in lieu of the Village continuing to operate its police department. At the present time, the CCSO had contracts with three municipalities to provide varying levels of coverage at an average rate of approximately \$62.00 per hour. Those contracts would include prorated costs for employee benefits, fuel, and vehicle maintenance expenses incurred by the county.

President Evans expressed some skepticism that county officers would provide better enforcement of local ordinances than a Village police department. Trustee Rhodes stated that he would like to have the Board determine an appropriate amount of weekly coverage hours needed and then obtain a formal quote from CCSO before discarding that option. Although the Thomasboro Police Department currently provided an average of 66-68 hours of coverage per week, Chief Willis stressed that the demographics of the community contributed to a higher rate of substance abuse and mental health issues than towns of similar size. As such, he did not feel it would be appropriate to reduce the hours of coverage. While there was general agreement that the Village should consider hiring a fulltime chief, the Board discussed whether it would be appropriate to supplement that position with one or two part-time officers. Chief Willis opined that the Village should consider having at least two part-time officers, as most of these individuals would have fulltime jobs elsewhere and it would ensure coverage could still be maintained when the chief or other officers were on leave. Trustee Rhodes felt that the Village should begin with just one part-time officer and then, if needed, revisit the issue and add a second officer at a later time.

The Board then discussed the qualifications and requirements for the chief of police position. It was decided to leave the salary range negotiable depending upon qualifications. Residency was also considered, as the Board desired to find a candidate willing to become invested in the Thomasboro community. President Evans felt that the Village might limit its pool of applicants if a strict residency requirement was put into place. Trustee Scott suggested requiring residency within a specified radius of the community, perhaps mirroring the boundaries of the Thomasboro Fire Protection District or the school district. It was decided that residency requirements would be determined once a pool of applicants had been developed. The consensus of the Board was that the Village should begin advertising the vacancy immediately. Chief Willis suggested that

the Village should initially solicit resumes and once the applicants had been narrowed to a group of finalists, those individuals should complete the comprehensive police application.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

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 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 17, 2017, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

Village Clerk