

**Thomasboro Village Board of Trustees  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 2, 2020**

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

A Teleconference Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Thomasboro was held on Monday, November 2, 2020. Zoom Meeting ID 8837767869. President Evans called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

**Roll Call**

The Village Clerk called the roll, finding the following members also in attendance via video or audio: Trustees Robert Pinske, Anthony Grilo, Mick Curry, Jeff Robertson, Dustin Rhodes and Ronda Scott.

Other Village Staff present via video or audio: DeAnne Wattjes, Office Manager; Leon Albers, Treasurer; Chad Polsky, Public Works Superintendent; Eric Shumate, Chief of Police and Officer Mike Martinez, Jasmyne Boyce, Village Clerk.

Mayor Evans made an announcement regarding public participation during virtual meetings, encouraging everyone to mute themselves while not speaking or turn off music and tvs in the background. Maintaining order and allowing for public participation is our priority during public comments, please state your name and remember the media can and likely will publish any and all comments stated during these meetings. Without being in person, we need to avoid frequent interruptions during other items of business to maintain efficiency.

**Discussion and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Pinske moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2020.

Trustee Curry seconded the motion. The Village Clerk called the roll:

**YEAS:** Pinske, Curry, Grilo, Scott – 4  
**NAYS:** None – 0

*Abstain (no audio):* Rhodes, Robertson - 2

**Motion carried by roll call vote of 4 to 2.**

**Presentation of Bills**

Trustee Pinske moved to strike \$4700 invoice 10906 from Duce Construction on the invoice list. Trustee Curry seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

**YEAS:** Pinske, Grilo, Rhodes, Scott, Robertson, Curry – 5  
**NAYS:** None – 0

*Abstain (no audio):* Robertson - 1

**Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 to 1.**

Trustee Grilo inquired about the Trimble Invoice for \$17,000 regarding the upgraded software for reading meters. Chad said it was approved in the April session when the budget approval was issued. Tony said it wasn't approved other than to configure the budget for the items. Chad stated that Leon confirmed it was discussed during the budget study session and we had an estimate from Mike from Badger was presented to the board for information. It was at that

time that the system we have was becoming obsolete as no technical support or parts are available. Tony confirmed it was budgeted but not approved by procedure in a meeting prior to the purchase being made. Mayor Evans stated we need to ensure we follow procedure, despite difficulties transitioning into digital meetings.

Trustee Pinske moved to approve the bills, excluding the \$4700, and any bills yet to be received  
Trustee Grilo seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

**YEAS:** Pinske, Grilo, Rhodes, Curry – 4  
**NAYS:** None – 0

*Abstain (no audio): Scott, Robertson - 2*

**Motion carried by roll call vote of 4 to 2.**

### **Old Business**

#### **Discussion and Approval of Ameren Franchise Agreement Ordinance #621**

Mayor Evans thanked Ronda Scott for her communications and research with other municipalities related to their rates and figures or drafts of their agreements. He confirmed it would be wasteful to have an attorney negotiate terms when we have the ability to discuss and decide. The first draft was brought before the board in June 2020. Mayor Evans confirmed he's had communication regarding this agreement since last fall and we have yet to make a formal agreement before the cost rises. Mayor Evans provided the response that included recommendations for terminology changes from our attorney, but we should have the ability to negotiate the scaling increases over future years for streetlights, etc. We should hire a consultant to get the best deal or we do the legwork and form our own agreement based on surrounding municipalities figures.

#### **Discussion and Approval of Champaign County Animal Control Agreement**

Mayor Evans stated this appears to be the same standard agreement for service relative to animal control services and transportation for the village as we have agreed to before. Clerk Boyce confirmed the letter we received was dated October 16.

Trustee Pinske moved to approve the Champaign County Animal Control Agreement.  
Trustee Grilo seconded the motion.

The Village Clerk called the roll:

**YEAS:** Pinske, Grilo, Rhodes, Robertson, Curry – 5  
**NAYS:** None – 0

*Abstain (no audio): Scott - 1*

**Motion carried by roll call vote of 5 to 1.**

**Presentation and Adoption of Annual Tax Levy Ordinance #625** – Trustee Pinske moved to approve annual tax levy ordinance #625. Jeff Robertson seconded the motion.

Treasurer Leon Albers was in communication with our Attorney Bartell, there was not a copy received prior to this meeting. There was a previous appropriations ordinance in the June board packet that was shared as a reference for approvals through April 2021. We have not received the tax levy ordinance updates and should table this item until it is received. Confirmed, item will be brought forth in December regular session for presentation.

**Discussion and Approval of Water Service Installation Invoice Amount \$4700.00.**

Mayor Evans said there was a discrepancy between the original plan prints and executed plan prints through IEPA, it resulted in multiple changes. The original number we previously approved was for budget purposes only. There were materials adjustments and a variance in the contract price, which is slightly higher. Trustee Rhodes reminded the board that through the annexation and development of agreements leading up to the store's build out, there was a contract stating that Dollar General shall pay no less than 50% of the cost of the expansion of the water service installation and associated costs. Trustee Pinske inquired about a bid amount vs. a firm contract amount. Who agreed and signed the contract? Mayor Evans stated he executed the contract and was unsure that there would be adjustments to the final dollar amount. Trustee Curry wanted to confirm that the Board agreed to pay only \$85,000 when entering into the approval of the scope of work. Mayor Evans accepted responsibility for approving the agreement. Mayor Evans stated he should have adjusted the contract in terms of a not to exceed amount to allow for fluctuations in price. Trustee Pinske suggested shifting this cost back to Dollar General. Trustee Rhodes agreed that we should inquire about Dollar General paying a higher portion as it would be included in their 50% of responsibility. Mayor Evans stated the discussion should be tabled pending additional information.

Trustee Grilo confirmed the annexation agreement states: "In No Event shall owner's costs associated with the water and sewer service be less than 50%". He shared his screen to show the contract to the board. Trustees Rhodes and Pinske stated that we should attempt to negotiate to prevent having to pay the additional \$4700. Mayor Evans confirmed there is still additional work to be performed in terms of external improvements. Trustee Grilo stated we should reach out to Overland Group (Rodney) and see what he says.

**Treasurer's Report:** No Report to give. There will be a resolution to move funds from the General Fund in the December Meeting.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Evans stated that we all would rather give correct answers, well researched answers, than respond immediately to your concerns in this forum with inconsistency or simply wrong information. A lot of concerns directed during these comments can and should come to us either in person, by phone or in email either before or after the meeting. If you need to know how to contact us, please reach out to any one of the board members or myself for contact information.

**Jim Richardson** – never sign agreements for percentages, always a solid price. There was an agreement in the initial discussions not to exceed 50% last June. We have a lot of dirt sitting in the thoroughway where they haven't cleared out the worksites on either side of Church and Central around the Catholic Church. We should ensure we hold a retainer amount to make sure the grading and seeding is done before the invoice is paid in full to make sure it is finished.

**Melvin Griest** – I had questions about the contract price increasing from \$85,000 to \$89,700. Mayor Evans stated the increase was the initial approval for \$85,000 was a budget amount. When the contract came, there were changes that resulted in the increase. The contract should

have been brought before the board but that was not done. I incorrectly assumed that over the last 2 years, those discussions covered what we would have agreed to. Mel stated it would be advantageous to create a procedure to avoid this happening in the future and maintain accountability. That is a big figure not to catch. Mayor Evans stated there is not a standard operations manual for our office but he is in agreement that we should have one.

**Tyler Martin** – you spent \$85,000 on a new water line and another \$17,000 on software updates, right? How many meters were being estimated last month? 18? How many meters have been replaced to ensure they're tracked properly. We are losing revenue whenever these are not done and we need this revenue to offset the \$102,000 we spent. There are Trustees tonight that didn't know the software would be purchased. The handhelds weren't required until 2022. Leon stated he was unaware that the system still had 2 years left on it before an upgrade was needed. Dustin confirmed meters were purchased and several have been replaced. There is a plan to replace the remaining ones that need it. The school meter and estimated meters have been replaced as we can. The street sign to replace the vandalized sign has been ordered, has the damaged sign been replaced? Chad confirmed it was replaced.

**Jake Brownfield** – Most of the town is aware he is trying to make a living at home. He said the cops are called to his home every single day. 75% of calls are unfounded. What can I do to stop that? The noise ordinance has been followed and I haven't been charged with violations of anything.

Chief Shumate stated he went back to July 15, 2020 to date, there have been 16 complaints lodged to dispatch either Martinez, myself or the county responded. There was one citation issued and the rest required no action.

Clerk Boyce inquired about enforcement: if 15 times our resources have been wasted on unfounded complaints, is there anything that can be done to those that are calling in and filing false claims? This is harassment.

Chief Shumate says the abuse of the 911 system or filing a false report is a misdemeanor. Our time has been wasted as has the Sheriff's office when it seems like someone wants us to be their own personal police force whenever they are inconvenienced.

Mayor Evans stated he wants to keep an open eye on the police committee to stay in the loop and check in on the status of continued complaints.

Trustee Grilo stated that being neighborly goes both ways. Use of property and consideration of others who also want to enjoy their property.

Jake said we had a Halloween candy hand out for the kids. I do the best I can, I take care of my property and have improved it. I try to be the best neighbor I can and am tired of the police stopping by because there is a lady standing on her porch taking pictures

Mayor Evans stated his appreciation for the event for the kids on Halloween. So many people enjoyed it and the feedback was excellent.

Chief Shumate stated the Fire Department still needs to receive their new computers and expressed thanks to Officer Martinez and Mayor Evans for assistance in installation of technical equipment and Surveillance equipment. Officer Carey will be resigning but upon review of the budget we will reallocate that salary in the equipment and maintenance line item. We will discuss future plans for equipment upgrades at another meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Pinske moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Grilo seconded the motion. Motion carried via voice vote, all present voting “aye”. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jasmyne Boyce, 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 2, 2020, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

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Village Clerk