

VILLAGE OF THOMASBORO BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022

VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM
101 W. MAIN STREET, THOMASBORO, IL 61878

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Thomasboro was held on Monday, July 5, 2022, President W. Tyler Evans presiding. Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Evans led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Upon Roll Call, the following members were present:

Mayor Tyler Evans, Trustee Jeff Robertson, Trustee Anthony Grilo, Trustee Dustin Rhodes, Trustee Dustin Hill, and Trustee Cale Coffin

The following representatives of Village departments were also present: Leon Albers, Treasurer, Chad Polsky, Public Works Superintendent, and Acting Chief Mike Martinez

Closed Session

Trustee Grilo made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) 1, for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, performance, discipline, and/or compensation of one or more employees of the Village Trustee Coffin seconded the motion.

On a Roll Call vote:

YEA: Grilo, Rhodes, Hill, Coffin, Robertson

NAY: None

The motion carried 5-0

The Village Board entered into Executive Session at 7:02pm, and the Village Board reconvened into open session at 7:19pm.

Discussion / Approval of Minutes

In the absence of the Village Clerk, the Meeting Minutes were deferred to the August 1, 2022 Board Meeting.

Presentation / Approval of Bills

Following a review of the monthly bills, Trustee Grilo moved to authorize and approve the payment of the current and anticipated bills as specified on the financial report. Trustee Hill seconded the motion.

On a Roll Call vote:

YEA: Grilo, Rhodes, Hill, Coffin, Robertson

NAY: None

The motion carried 5-0

Public Works

Mr. Polsky provided his monthly Public Works report. He did not provide any updates for the ongoing projects, which include the West Side Park border work, the downtown sidewalks, and the Public Works building fence.

Committee Reports

Trustee Coffin reported on the Veteran Banners. The first batch of 23 banners are hung, with another four produced. There are a total of 40 brackets hung for the next round of banners produced. Mayor Evans thanked the residents for contributions to date, and he encouraged others to donate to the cause. The effort is funded 100% by donations received.

Trustee Grilo reported that \$277.00 were received in donations for the Village Clean-up. The next Village Clean-up date is the second week in October.

New Business

Trustee Coffin stated that residents were questioning when the water tower would be cleaned, as it is looking rough. Mr. Polsky stated that he would need to get bids for the process. Trustee Grilo stated that it previously cost approximately \$7,000.00, and we may need to defer this to 2023 due to other ongoing projects. Trustee Robertson stated that this would be lower on the priority scale.

Trustee Grilo made a motion to remove Trustee Curry and Chief Shumate, and to add Chad Polsky, as the Gifford Bank signatory for the Village. Trustee Coffin seconded the motion.

On a Roll Call vote:

YEA: Grilo, Rhodes, Hill, Coffin, Robertson

NAY: None

The motion carried 5-0

Trustee Grilo made a motion to approve the annual Village Appropriation Ordinance. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion.

On a Roll Call vote:

YEA: Grilo, Rhodes, Hill, Coffin, Robertson

NAY: None

The motion carried 5-0

Trustee Grilo shared an update on the Rebuild Illinois Grant. The total of \$80,000.00 will be received in the Village's Motor Fuel Tax disbursement, and will need to be used on street improvements prior to 2024. Mayor Evans reminded citizens that the Village will be doing oil and chip seal to half the town, versus the previous method of two streets at a time, in an effort to be more cost effective.

Old/Unfinished Business

Trustee Grilo made a motion to approve the option to renew the contract with Republic Services at a 3% increase for residential trash collection for a three-year extension. Trustee Robertson seconded the motion.

On a Roll Call vote:

YEA: Grilo, Rhodes, Hill, Robertson

NAY: Coffin

The motion carried 4-1

Trustee Grilo shared that Republic Services will be producing a postcard as a resource for citizens on the services offered, along with customer service information.

Mayor Evans discussed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project of jetting the Storm Sewer System. To date, Shamburg & Shamburg has completed the east and south side of the Village. Mr. Polsky added that in the past month, 3/4 of the town has been completed, exceeding the 100 hours of pre-approved time. He added that he had emailed the Board for approval on June 17 when Shamburg & Shamburg reached approximately \$26,000.00.

Trustee Grilo made a motion to authorize and approve additional ARPA funding to continue with Shamburg & Shamburg for jetting the Storm Sewer System, not to exceed 116 hours. Trustee Hill seconded the motion.

On a Roll Call vote:

YEA: Grilo, Rhodes, Hill, Coffin, Robertson

NAY: None

The motion carried 5-0

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Albers provided the monthly Treasurer's report. He noted that the loan with Duce Construction for work on the Dollar General has been paid in full.

Public Comment

Mayor Evans opened up the public comment portion of the meeting per the

James Miller questioned the plan in motion for coverage with the Chief of Police being dismissed. He stated that he has obtained 77 signatures on a petition to reinstate Eric Shumate as Chief of Police. He added that Chief Shumate wrote 50 plus Ordinance violations during the past month, and citizens would like to know how those violations are getting followed up on.

Jim Richardson questioned the reasoning for the Chief of Police being dismissed. He added that the citizens deserve to know what the plan is moving forward. He offered praise to the job that Acting Chief Mike Martinez provides to the Village during his two days of coverage each week.

Gertie Richardson questioned the election dates, and who would be up for reelection Spring 2023. Mayor Evans responded that the Trustees whose terms expire April 2023 are Trustee Grilo, Trustee Rhodes, Trustee Coffin, and the recently vacated seat of Trustee Curry.

Mel Grice questioned if there was a board meeting held to discuss the termination of Chief Eric Shumate. He also questioned how many board members were present at this meeting. Trustee Grilo responded that this item was discussed during Executive Session of the June 6, 2022 Board Meeting, and all Board Members were present.

Mel Grice then questioned if there are Minutes on file for Executive Sessions that are accessible by the public. Trustee Grilo responded that there are Minutes, however they are not accessible to the public, and they are reviewed semi-annually to determine if they are released to the public at that time. Mayor Evans added that this is the protocol under State Statute for releasing Executive Session Minutes.

Mel Grice then read a statement from former Board Member Rhonda Scott regarding the job that Chief Shumate had done on behalf of the Village, and grants that had been acquired.

Unknown Citizen responded that Villages of our size in Central Illinois all have a full-time Police Chief, and she added that Thomasboro has an 11.6% poverty rate, which equates to a higher crime rate statistically.

Connie Watson expressed concerns with Village safety and protection with the lack of a full-time Chief of Police. She questioned if she needed to get a gun to protect herself.

Mary Wanke questioned what can be done about the shrubs around the tracks, which makes visibility difficult. Trustee Coffin commented that the railroad is responsible for that cleanup.

Superintendent Bonnie McArthur shared concerns regarding safety at the schools for both students and staff. She added that the Texas incident occurred at small town at a small school. She suggested that Champaign County would have a slow response time.

Acting Chief Mike Martinez responded the safety of the students is top priority. He is going to reach out to Champaign County to see if they have a spare Deputy that can be available during school dismissal. Mayor Evans added that the Village of Rantoul and Champaign County are both available if needed during an emergent situation with a rapid response time.

Mary Wanke questioned if the Village has Veterans who may be willing to watch the students.

Jake Brownfield expressed concerns about the firing of the Chief of Police, and the emails that had circulated regarding the reasoning. He added that the No Parking Zone within the Village are not being enforced, except on his street with his family.

Vanessa Brownfield thanked Mayor Evans, Mr. Polsky, and Trustee Hill for their work on behalf of the Village. She questioned the ongoing crime investigation updates, and the response time of Champaign County Deputies.

Vanessa Brownfield also questioned why the west side was not considered for the storm sewer jetting project. Trustee Grilo responded that the board only approved the ARPA project for jetting the storm sewer, not where Shamburg and Shamburg would start the work.

Jim Richardson questioned if the Village was going to hire a new Chief of Police.

Trustee Grilo stated that the Board does not have a definitive and concrete plan at this time. The board is taking a few steps back to take needed services into consideration, and problems that need to be solved in the Village. The Board is not going to rush into a decision to hire a Chief, and we will look at everything with an open mind.

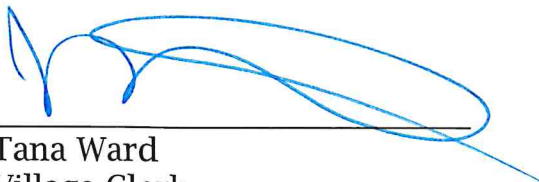
Mayor Evans stated that although he was not on board with the decision, and he agrees with the sentiments that had been shared this evening, he is looking to move forward and take advantage of the opportunity to come up with a solution for the Village as a whole. He is working along with the Board to get the answers and resolutions that the Village needs for service. Collectively, the Board is taking all options into consideration, and the Board is more in tune with each other than they likely ever have been. The Board is not always in unison, but that is the purpose of the Board is to have dialogue to come together for what is best for the Village.

Mayor Evans opened up an Open Forum to allow for dialogue between the citizens and the Board. Discussion ensued regarding plans for Police coverage to keep the Village safe and crime under control, and questions arose regarding the June 6, 2022 Board Meeting Executive Session Minutes. Bonnie McArthur stated that legally and ethically the Board cannot comment on Closed Session proceedings regarding personnel information.

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.

Mayor Evans adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.



Tana Ward
Village Clerk

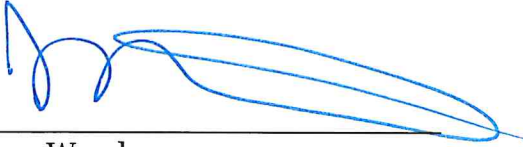
APPROVED:



Mayor W. Tyler Evans
Village President

ATTEST:

I, Tana Ward, Village Clerk of the Village of Thomasboro, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes, transcribed from an audio recording, are a true and correct copy of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on July 5, 2022 as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.



Tana Ward
Village Clerk