

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING – MAY 18, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President Kolosh called the Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE – President Kolosh; Trustees Kaye, Hudson, Ehlers, Paris, Atkinson; Recreation Director Dunlop; Fire Chief Habecker; Public Works Superintendent Oberman; Police Chief G. Beckman.

Absent: Trustee Pisarzewski.

Also in attendance: Administrator D. Beckman; Attorney S. Dillner; Treasurer Frye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment from the public.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire Department Promotions – Trustee Kaye reported there will be two firefighters being promoted to Captain this evening. Chief Habecker will make that presentation at the Regular Board meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT

April ’15 Preliminary Financial Report – Treasurer Frye reported this is only a preliminary report. She explained most of the expenditures should already be in the report. Actually, all of the expenditures are held open until the audit because, as part of the auditors field work, they will review all subsequent disbursements for any invoices that should have been recorded. Auditors are coming out the end of July, and the year-end report is always open until they are finished with their audit. The final draft of the report will not be available until the end of August.

Trustee Hudson questioned how Governor Rauner’s proposal to cut State money to municipalities in half is going to affect Thornton. Treasurer Frye responded that proposal involves the LGDF fund which is Thornton’s distribution of income tax funds, and it has been put on hold for this current year. The State did cut half of Thornton’s MFT funds for the month of March, but it’s still intact. In the governor’s budget, he has cut the MFT fund and he’s cut the local use fund; but according to what’s being said, there is sufficient money in those funds at the state level to not disrupt what is going to the municipalities for the current fiscal year.

Trustee Ehlers asked Treasurer Frye to review a few of those items in the water fund. He is particular interested in the 24 percent shortage in the revenues; and on page 10, the \$50,000 shortage, and whether or not those figures will have any adjustments. Treasurer Frye stated there will be some adjustments in the water fund revenues. There is a calculation for unbilled usage because the Village bills every other month which is water sales incurred through April 30 but not billed yet. The same applies to water purchases in

the water fund. When we get the billing from Chicago Heights and South Holland for purchases, those days that are attributed through April 30th will be calculated.

As far as the \$50,000 on page 10, this amount is a shortfall in the revenues and expenses for that fund. The Board budgeted for a \$36,700 deficit. So the mark wasn't missed by too much; but there are some adjustments yet to be made with that fund.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Beckman introduced Charles Powell who is the President of Straight Shots. He is here to make a presentation to the Board regarding this company.

Charles Powell is the President of Straight Shots which was approved to do business in the Village about two years ago. His business purchases, sells and transfers legal firearms. He wishes to bring a mobile shooting range to Thornton. He already operates such a facility in New Lenox.

Mr. Powell stated, relatively speaking, the big rush is over for concealed carry training but there is still a need. His partner, Kevin Zizic, and he thought the next step would be to bring a range and training to Thornton. Straight Shots Inc. is proposing to bring a 53 foot mobile shooting range to 601 N. Williams Street to be used for the purposes of NRA training; live fire qualification for Illinois concealed carry permit and practice for qualification; live fire qualification for security guards and commercial shooting range. Straight Shots Inc. is prepared to move forward with this project.

The range itself looks like a semitrailer from the outside. He reviewed for the Board what is actually contained inside the trailer. There are three shooting lanes with approximately 45 feet from the firing line to the furthest distance the target will travel. There are safety dividers to separate the shooting lanes.

At the current Kevin's Garage location, he is proposing two possible options for location of the trailer. One would be on the north side of the rear yard of that facility. Location two would be on the south side. Mr. Powell reviewed the Standard Operating Procedures for the range. There have been over 900 permit holders, over 40,000 rounds, already in this range. Everyone signs an indemnity agreement. A full copy of insurance is provided in binder.

Straight Shots Inc. proposes to use 601 N. Williams Unit #2 for a classroom portion of NRA, Illinois Concealed Carry, and Illinois approved armed security guard training. Straight Shots Inc. proposes to use 601 N. Williams, Unit 2, as a store front for commercial sale of firearms and accessories.

President Kolosh questioned whether that size trailer would fit where they are proposing to put it. Chief Habecker stated he would have to measure everything. He is most concerned with the front of the trailer and having access to it. Mr. Powell stated it definitely fits. It's just a matter of positioning. The panel that operates the lights, etc., is

immediately inside the door. A more remote set-up can be designed. There is not always a range officer in the range. There is always a range officer on duty running the range. Access to the trailer is kept locked and cameras and monitors could be set up. It takes about 45 minutes to get three people certified; but that type of training does not happen without a trained person there.

Attorney Dillner commented the training is basically permissive within the Village code, as long as it's not with live firearms. An ordinance has previously been passed allowing gun sales within the Village. As it stands now, the Village ordinance prohibits a gun range; so if the proposal is acted upon, there will need to be an ordinance that allows a gun range approved by the Board. Mr. Powell would need to complete an application for a special use; and a presentation would be made to the zoning board. The zoning board would then make a recommendation to this Board.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

587-589 N. Williams Street Variance – Attorney Dillner informed the Board of the facts of the variance request recommended by the Planning and Development Commission. This property is located at 587-589 N. Williams Street. The request is being made by Mr. Boston, who originally applied for a special use to rebuild cars, which was administratively denied. After speaking with the Board, Mr. Boston filed an amended special use to just sell vehicles that had already been rebuilt. The zoning board heard the presentation and is recommending this special use with some restrictions. Attorney Dillner prepared an ordinance for Board approval this evening reflecting the request and restrictions.

Trustee Atkinson commented the Police Department in their review stated no unlicensed vehicles will be stored outside. She doesn't see that in the restrictions. Attorney Dillner asked the Board to include that restriction when voting on the ordinance, which would be number 14.

Village Sticker Ordinance – Attorney Dillner reported, based upon the vote at the last meeting, he prepared an ordinance amending the Village Vehicle Sticker Ordinance which reflects the new prices.

Surplus Ordinance – Attorney Dillner stated there is a surplus ordinance which declares certain Village property surplus and authorizes the sale of the property. The proceeds of any sale will be reported back to the Board.

Trustee Atkinson asked about the 2000 GMC that is currently sitting at Public Works. Public Works Superintendent Oberman stated it is used by his employees.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Kolosh has a few announcements he will bring up at the Regular Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Beckman advised the Board that Public Works is planning on putting the flags up mid-week for the Memorial Day weekend.

Trustee Ehlers commented the Community Garage Sale was a success despite the rain. Staff did a nice job coordinating the whole event.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Atkinson, seconded by Trustee Ehlers, to adjourn the Committee meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

President Kolosh adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Village Clerk