

**Thomasboro Village Board of Trustees
Special Board Meeting
July 19, 2021**

*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 19, 2021. President Evans called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Roll Call

Upon roll call, the following members were found to be physically present: President W. Tyler Evans; and Trustees Mick Curry, Anthony Grilo, Dustin Hill, and Dustin Rhodes. Trustee Craig Stafford arrived at 6:12 PM and Trustee Jeff Robertson was absent.

Other Village Staff present: Leon Albers, Treasurer; Chad Polsky, Public Works Superintendent; Bailey Billman, Office Manager; and Jeremy Reale, Interim Village Clerk.

Consider extension of building permits for Morris and Frederick Street properties

President Evans noted that the agreement for the redevelopment of the lots at 702 W. Morris and 501 W. Frederick had stipulated that the developer would have a period of one year in which to construct new single-family homes on the sites. The one-year period from the date of closing would be in September 2021; however, given the issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Village officials had agreed to give the developer until the end of the calendar year to complete the construction. George Papametro, the owner of the properties, addressed the Board to state that the delay was primarily due to building material shortages. Although he had contractors lined up to begin work once the materials had been secured, he was unable to get a timetable for the availability of siding, windows and flooring for the homes. Once the materials were on site and construction could begin, Mr. Papametro indicated that he expected it would take approximately four months to complete the projects.

Discussion on American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding and projects

President Evans commented that a citizen had approached him about possibly investigating the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility to serve the Village in lieu of continuing the intergovernmental agreement with Rantoul to provide those services. He stated that he had done some preliminary inquiry and determined that the cost for a new plant would be expected to be \$500,000.00 at minimum and possibly as much as \$3,000,000.00. Trustee Rhodes suggested that such a project might be worth considering once the Village's existing debt was retired.

It had also been previously suggested by Bill Kurth that the Village should consider looping the water system in the North Church Street area. Mr. Polsky noted that there would be nothing in the vicinity to loop into without extending across the railroad area and connecting with the system on Michael Street. With extensive engineering work and construction involved, this project would likely far exceed the amount of ARPA funding that was available to the Village.

Mr. Polsky discussed possible projects that could utilize the funding within the areas of water, sanitary sewer, and storm drainage. He had identified procurement of a chopper pump for the Michael Street lift station as one item of interest. Trustee Grilo stated that he would prefer to focus on storm drainage improvements with the ARPA funds, as there would be other funding sources available specific to the sanitary system. Mr. Polsky also expressed an interest in using the funds for the installation of new remote read water meters, as upgrading the meters had been a slow process for Village personnel to complete. He would be obtaining a quote from A&R Mechanical Contractors to perform the installation of the remaining replacement meters. He had also indicated an interest in purchasing a utility vehicle; however, it was unlikely this

would be an eligible expense under the ARPA guidelines. Trustee Grilo stated that he was reluctant to spend the funds for meter installations that staff would be capable of completing internally, even if at a slower rate.

President Evans reported that the project funds for ARPA needed to be committed by the end of 2024, and that Champaign County also had received a significant amount of ARPA funding with the possibility of using a portion of their funds to supplement eligible project costs for municipalities and other units of government. He suggested that County Executive Darlene Kloeppel would be willing to meet with the Board to discuss the potential for County funds once the Village had identified desired projects.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was that storm drainage improvement projects should be identified and prioritized for the use of ARPA funds. The areas of chronic drainage problems discussed included Shurbet, Pearl and Clark Streets on the west side of the Village. The Board agreed to contact Fehr Graham about engineering design for this significant project.

Discussion on local CURE funding for eligible expenses

President Evans stated that he had done some research that indicated that this funding may possibly be used for upgrading the Police Department radios. The Village was eligible to receive up to \$46,000.00 for the reimbursement of pandemic-related expenses incurred. Mr. Reale noted that when he had worked for the Village of Fisher, the government had updated its guidelines with respect to CURE funding for personnel expenses to include all law enforcement. Therefore, Fisher had used its entire allocation in 2020 to reimburse the costs of salaries and wages for its Police Department. The consensus of the Board was to further investigate possible options for using the CURE funding. Mr. Albers would consult with Kemper CPA to see if they could offer guidance to the Village on this.

Consider approval and location of blessing house

The Board considered a request to permit the installation of a “blessing house” on a portion of public property. This is essentially a small community food pantry that would be constructed as a community service project at no cost to the Village. Trustee Rhodes noted that there could possibly be liability issues connected with having the blessing house situated on Village property. President Evans responded that it would be covered under the Village’s property and liability insurance. Following discussion, the consensus was to approach one of the community’s churches to inquire about allowing the blessing house to be located on their property. Trustee Grilo suggested that Peace Lutheran Church may be a more favorable location given its proximity to the school. Mr. Polsky would contact the church and report back.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Rhodes moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Grilo seconded the motion. Motion carried via voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy A. Reale, Interim 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 19, 2021, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

Village Clerk