

**Thomasboro Village Board of Trustees  
Reconvened Regular Board Meeting  
February 8, 2019**

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

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Thomasboro was reconvened on Friday, February 8, 2019. President Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Roll Call**

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

Other Village officials present: Leon Albers, Treasurer; Deanne Wattjes, Office Manager; and Jeremy Reale, Village Clerk.

**Old Business**

**Discussion on contracting with Illinois American Water Company for operation and maintenance of Village water system**

President Evans introduced Dave Farrar, Senior Manager for Illinois American Water Company, to discuss the proposed terms of a contract with the Village of Thomasboro. Mr. Farrar had been asked to provide clarification on questions raised by the Board during its prior discussion of the sample contract to operate and maintain the utility systems. Among the items addressed by Mr. Farrar were proposed personnel commitments to semi-annual flushing of hydrants, cleaning of the detention tank, lead and copper testing, and main break repairs. Mr. Farrar provided an estimate of \$2,900.00 in costs billed to the Village for main break repairs during regular business hours, which included materials, equipment, mileage and labor for three employees. He estimated that the cost would rise to roughly \$3,400.00 for emergency repairs made after-hours. In terms of addressing the response to system alarms, Mr. Farrar had recommended SCADA integration for remote monitoring, if allowable by the Illinois Commerce Commission. The charge for SCADA integration with IAWC, if possible, would be subject to negotiation. With respect to handling service turnoffs and reconnections, Mr. Farrar indicated that IAWC was still investigating through corporation counsel and the ICC whether it would be permitted for company personnel to perform those services. It was noted that IAWC would not be allowed to assume responsibility for reading meters or billing customers, so Village staff would continue to perform those functions. Mr. Farrar also discussed the possibility of future changes to EPA regulations which could restrict the Village's ability to utilize a system operator by contract in place of a fulltime employee. He stated that he believed the proposed EPA regulations were being designed to eliminate situations where licensed operators contracted with multiple entities for the purpose of signing paperwork with very little time spent on site. The changes would be based on the amount of time spent by the operator at water facilities, adding that integration of systems to SCADA may possibly be a mitigating factor. In any event, he believed the proposed contract between the Village and IAWC would fall outside of the scope of any new EPA requirements.

President Evans inquired about the possible implications for the Village if the Board elected to hire a fulltime employee to become trained as a licensed operator only to have that individual leave employment with the Village after new EPA regulations are in place. He questioned whether such a situation would limit the pool of potential replacements to only those individuals already holding Class B operator certification. Mr. Farrar recommended that the Board should

take whatever action it determines is in the best interest of the Village rather than waiting to act until after EPA regulations change. Trustee Rhodes asked about the possibility of the Village hiring a fulltime employee to be trained under IAWC to eventually assume responsibility as the licensed operator upon expiration of the contract. Mr. Farrar indicated that this is something that would need to be negotiated with the IAWC bargaining unit.

The Board then engaged in a discussion about the amount of hours of employee time that would need to be dedicated to the operation and maintenance of the water system, based on conversations between President Evans and Tyler Martin. Trustee Scott noted that entering into an agreement with IAWC would eliminate costs for employee benefits and other expenses that the Village would otherwise incur with an additional fulltime employee. It would also avoid problems with having oversight of the systems covered during vacation and other leave time. Trustee Grilo suggested the possibility of hiring a part-time employee to handle the public works responsibilities such as mowing and streets maintenance.

President Evans raised the possibility of entering into a one-year agreement with IAWC, with option to extend. Mr. Farrar noted that these types of agreements had generally been of a business development nature, resulting in the eventual acquisition of the utility systems by IAWC. As there was no reasonable prospect that IAWC could acquire Thomasboro's system, the company would likely have no interest in any type of contract exceeding a term of one or two years. During subsequent discussion, Trustees Scott and Curry signaled support for entering into a limited-term contract with IAWC. Trustees Rhodes and Grilo expressed concern about the implications for the Village budget, as the prospective costs for alarm responses and main repairs would be difficult to quantify. Mr. Farrar suggested that the Board consider utilizing a professional consultant to examine the Village's situation and provide a neutral opinion as to the best option available. Discussion on this item would be continued at the next regular meeting in March.

### **New Business**

Trustee Grilo reported that the Village had a surplus plow and salt spreader that were still in storage. Gary Rosenbeck had been contacted by an individual interested in taking the plow in exchange for repairing the salt spreader. Mr. Rosenbeck also informed the Board that a decision would need to be made on the purchase of ice control salt for next year so the order could be submitted to the county. The consensus of the Board was to direct Mr. Rosenbeck to order 10 tons of salt.

### **Comments and Questions from the Audience**

Mr. Rosenbeck asked if IAWC would furnish generators to power the systems in the event of a major outage. He noted that the Village currently had one generator, and would need to procure an additional one if not provided by the company.

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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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 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees reconvened on February 8, 2019, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

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Village Clerk