

Village of Thurston  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2012

\*\*\*\*\* SPECIAL MEETING \*\*\*\*\*

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Mary Boring. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Robert Ortman – present  
JoAnn Hite – present  
Rita Leiendecker - present  
Jimmy Barber, Jr. – present  
Garry Boring – present  
Lowell Hite – present  
Mary Boring – present  
Aaron Reedy – present

Mary said the purpose of this meeting was to discuss and vote on water source issues. Mary opened the floor for any questions from the people attending. Mary said we are looking at the possibility of installing and operating our own water system for the village.

Jimmy said we have three prospects for location of the plant. We'd have to do the proper testing before any decision is made. The three properties are those owned by Phil Eichorn, Mike Wagner, and the one right behind the fire house. The estimate from the Engineer to install is \$1 - \$1.4 million dollars. Jimmy said we would not need a full-time employee; that was confirmed with the EPA. EPA said we would need 2 wells, 300 feet apart from each other. We'd need between 12 – 14 acres.

Mary said she received the expense information from Pleasantville on what it takes to run their water plant. It was about \$100,000 in 2011.

Eric Valentine and Roger Wolfe were present representing the local farmers. They asked several questions about the costs of installing/operating a water plant. Council does not have firm numbers at this time. They are working with their engineer and with the Ohio EPA for planning and guidance. Aaron asked Eric to confirm that if Thurston continued to pursue installing a water line between Millersport and Thurston along Route 37, that the Farm Bureau and other related entities will bring action against the Village's project. Eric carefully chose his words, but agreed that the Village should anticipate legal roadblocks.

Council discussed possible costs associated with running their own plant. Lowell said the rates for the residents will be 2 to 3 times what the customers are paying now. He stated operations will be a lot more. Others on Council disagreed with him. We spent over \$67,000 just purchasing water from Baltimore last year. Total expenses for the water fund last year were just over \$200,000.

Eric Valentine said he talked to a couple of folks on the Baltimore Council and he feels we should continue to negotiate with them. He feels they are open to negotiating without purchasing our water line. Council strongly disagreed. Baltimore made it very clear in their last letter that they wanted control of the line between Baltimore & Thurston that is currently owned by Thurston. Eric said that was not the feeling of everyone there, and we should try go talk to them again. Council strongly disagreed. Council feels they have tried, and Council does NOT want to sell that water line. Council feels that if Baltimore has changed their stance, and now wish to continue negotiating WITHOUT changing ownership of that line, then Baltimore needs to come back to us and tell us so. Council feels the ball is in Baltimore's court regarding that subject.

Jimmy made a motion that the Village of Thurston should move forward with plans to consider installing it's own water plant. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES, except Lowell and JoAnn voting NO. Motion carried.

Jimmy made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 pm. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Respectfully prepared by,

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Aaron Reedy