

The Thorntown Utility Service Board met with all members present. Present was Max Allen, by remote, George Gideon, Mike McKenzie and Gary Moody.

The Clerk Treasurer presented no claims for approval.

In other business, Western Boone School Superintendent Rob Ramey, members of the elementary construction team and 2 members of the Western Boone School Board was present to discuss the issues with 2 transformers and wiring to the new ball diamond. Ramey stated they were not upset just wanted an in person meeting to discuss the problems. He stated they are investing 17 million dollars in the elementary school project and have a timeline with which they would like to stick. The electrical engineer, Tom from SCO stated he was just assuming the utilities would cover the cost of the transformers and the rerouting of the primary line to the relocated baseball/softball diamond. He stated other utilities normally cover the costs of those as standard practice.

Gary Moody stated he had sent them an email stating the utilities would not be covering the cost and the engineer did agree he had received that email after the final costs had been submitted. Ramey stated they have found a reconditioned pad mount transformer for the new chiller. It has been ordered and it is approximately 30 weeks out. The cost is \$18,000.00. They would like to work together along with the utilities in getting the other wiring ran and the second transformer for the ball diamond.

Max Allen stated the utilities would do as much as we possibly could to help them out, but the problem being the utilities is in the midst of possibly signing a contract with IMPA to take over the electric department. He would hope that IMPA would have the knowledge and crew that could help do the extra labor and it would be covered in the contract we would be signing with them. They may also have materials that we do not that could help with the project. But until a vote is taken on having IMPA take over the electric department, the only answer given was the Thorntown Utilities would do as much as they could to help out. Ramey asked once the pad mount transformer is delivered, who would do the wiring to hookup and later if something were to go wrong, would Thorntown Utilities be the one to service it? These are all questions that need answers from IMPA. Gary Moody is to call them and then relay their answers back to Charlie Gault, project manager. Again, all is contingent on signing a contract with IMPA or hiring an electrical lineman. The group from Western Boone thanked everyone for their time and exited the meeting.

In other business, Max Allen asked everyone's opinion on either signing the contract with IMPA or hiring an electrical lineman. There is one applicant that has applied. He has stated he would be willing to start at \$30.00 per hour and when he takes over as superintendent he would want \$35.00 per hour. Gary Moody's main concern with IMPA is the response time they would have for a power outage, it could possibly be 2 or more hours to respond. Mike McKenzie's concern there is still a lot to do outside of the electric department with water and sewer and the mowing. The extra employee would be very beneficial. As it is now, we have 2 men that are trying to do it all and cannot keep up. Moody responded with whether we go with IMPA or hire an extra employee, either would be a big help. The questions over the school project and some questions over the contract with IMPA, Moody will call and get some follow up answers. He will also send a copy of the IMPA contract to Jeremy Fetty, utility attorney. George Gideon will call Advance and maybe a couple other towns that use IMPA services and see how they like the decision they made. Mike McKenzie would like to go ahead and interview the 1 applicant, just to see what he has to offer before he makes his final decision. Everyone was in agreement to interview the applicant then be prepared to make their final decision at the next Utility Board Meeting.

Max Allen also suggested calling the other applicant for the office position to see if he would be interested in helping out with any of the mowing for the rest of this season. Moody stated we would not be mowing the park next year as there is now extra mowing around the new sewage pond.

Allen also asked about the ordinance the Town Council was working on. If IMPA is hired then the employees would receive a \$2.50 per hour increase. If another employee is hired, then each employee would receive a \$5.00 per hour increase. George Gideon asked when this raise would go into effect? Allen stated if the raise goes into effect within the next 30 days, then there would be no raise at the beginning of 2023.

Moody also announced the lead and copper testing has been completed for the water department and we did pass that testing. It has been 3 years since that test was needed. Upon passing, our next testing will probably be another 3 years. IDEM will notify when the next test is needed.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

*George T. Tabor*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Max Allen*  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Utility Service Board