

VILLAGE OF YATES CITY COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 6:00 P.M. 102 WEST MAIN STREET, YATES CITY, ILLINOIS

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order

Present: Tom Kinzer, Dave Mahr, Ron Smith, Seth Lekies, Vonda Brinker, Mark Hostetler
Also Present: Joy Mahr, Neely Carr, Scott Brunton Village Attorney, Robin Tompkins
Absent: Matt Ehens
Chief Benson entered at 6:28pm and left at 7:17pm

2. Citizens to Address the Board

Robin Tompkins addressed the Board on behalf of her brother, David Maxwell, a resident of Yates City who has both state and national bench press records for his height and age, and is currently ranked 15th in the world. She requested that the Village consider placing a commemorative sign recognizing him near the corner of Main Street/Route 8 and Dixon Street on the east side of town. The proposed sign would read: "Home of David Maxwell, State and National Record Holder for Bench Press." She stated she has spoken with Lekies, who advised her to contact Knox County; Knox County then directed her to IDOT. IDOT informed her that the request must be made by the Village and provided the required application form, which she has submitted to the Village. She shared that sign placement must meet IDOT requirements: minimum 12 feet from the road, 15 feet from the right-of-way, size approximately 18" x 48", 5 feet off the ground, and green with white lettering. She has spoken with Tyler Hanson at IDOT in Peoria regarding specifications. The cost of the sign itself is estimated between \$75 and \$150, and she stated she is willing to pay for the sign. Tompkins noted that having the sign displayed would be a great honor for her brother, her family, and the community, and asked that the Board consider the request. The Board acknowledged the request and will review the information.

3. Discuss Tax Levy

Scott Brunton explained that the tax levy reflects an approximate 3% increase from last year, totaling about \$2,450. He noted that there is an additional \$1,600 available before a Truth in Taxation hearing would be required. The Board discussed the information.

4. Discuss USDA Rural Development Opportunities for Grants and Loans

The Board discussed possible funding options through USDA Rural Development. An email was received from Travis Weaver with several grant and loan opportunities listed. An email was then sent to Mark Slover and Rep. Weaver explaining the Village's plans for valve exercising and replacement, along with ongoing water line and infrastructure needs, to see what programs might be a good fit. The request has been forwarded to USDA for review, and we are currently waiting to hear back. The Board has agreed to only investigate USDA Grants.

5. Update on Well/Reservoir Project

Hostetler reported he contacted Kevin Cooper regarding the new well pump but has not received a response. For the reservoir project, the Board will review the bids on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 board meeting, with potential action to consider award.

6. Discuss/Update Purchase of Shaft for South Oxidation Ditch Paddle Wheel at the Treatment Plant

No update available.

7. Update on Water Building Amperage Increase from 200AMP Service to 320AMP Service and Moving Electric Boxes to the Car Port Area

AMP (Brandon Hall) had been awarded the project. Both BJ from Quick Electric and Brandon from AMP were provided the digital engineer plans for the reservoir project, and Hostetler informed them that their work should not overlap with that project. Brandon later indicated there may be an overlap involving the meter base and the 2-inch piping in the floor. Parts for the electrical upgrade had already been ordered. Kevin Cooper was contacted and stated he was not aware of any overlap. Brandon Hall is no longer with AMP, and Jason Koenig is now the contact. Kevin indicated that revising the plans could delay the project by approximately 30 days. The Board discussed that if the materials ordered by AMP cannot be used, then the cost of returning or correcting the order should be the responsibility of AMP.

8. Discuss New Three (3) Year Contract with TEST

The Board discussed the revised three-year contract with TEST. Members are still reviewing the changes. Lekies said he had looked it over and agreed with the revisions, and Mahr agreed as well. The Board will give the remaining members more time to review it, and we'll bring it back for a vote at a later meeting.

9. Update on Document Destruction with Confidential Security Corp

Hostetler reported that the application for the certificate has been started. Brian will help clean off totes from the shed and move them to the old library to begin sorting paperwork and gathering measurements needed for the application. The file cabinets in the office have also begun to be reviewed to determine what records can be disposed of.

10. Update Water Shut-Off Valve Exercising and Hydrant Flushing

Kinsel contacted Hostetler and reported that they were here to begin locating valves without prior notification. They located 46 shutoff valves, though the previous list indicates there should be 52. Of the 46 located, 30 were functioning, 11 were broken, and 5 were filled with dirt. They also located 37 hydrants, Hostetler recalled 42 at one time and Mahr also recalled that there had previously been more. Kinsel will continue locating and will use the map and valve list stored in the computer system to identify the remaining valves and hydrants for verification and documentation. Hydrant flushing is scheduled for November 19th, 20th, and 21st, and Neely will place an ad in the Weekly Post to notify residents.

11. Update on Appointment of Sergeant James Record as Chief of Police, Effective December 17, 2025

Hostetler reported that he contacted Sergeant James Record and offered him the position of Chief of Police at a starting wage of \$27.00 per hour; Record accepted the offer.

12. Update on Water Clerk/Treasurer New Computer from CK Computers

The new computer from CK Computers has been installed and the data transfer was completed with no issues. Joy Mahr reported that the Water Treatment Plant computer also needs to be addressed, as Kamstrup will not run without Windows 11. The upgrade needs to be completed before the 20th so the system can continue to read the radio-read meters.

13. Update on Holiday Main Street Decorations

Brinker reported that three snowflake decorations are currently being worked on. They have 150 feet of rope lighting, and each snowflake requires approximately 44 feet to re-light. Menards had three-foot holiday decorations available in different color options; however, the mounting brackets were custom-made and so there is uncertainty if they would work. The Board discussed contacting Jarvis Welding in Canton to see if they can fabricate new decorations and brackets. At this time, one bell and four snowflakes are not functioning. Brinker was also going to contact H&H for a quote on installation assistance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports given.

OTHER

Constellation Energy:

Hostetler reported that the Constellation Energy contract for the old library is on a different schedule than the other Village contracts and will be coming due. He is attempting to obtain the new rate but has not yet received a response.

John Deere Multi-Use Account:

Joy Mahr reported that John Deere is requiring customers to set up a John Deere Financial multi-use account beginning January 1, 2026. The Board agreed to have her proceed with establishing the account so Public Works can continue to purchase parts and arrange repairs as needed.

Gate Valve at Treatment Plant:

It was believed that the gate valve repair had been included in a previous bill from Kinsel; however, that work only was to fix the grate on top of the valve that was caved in and included investigating/attempting to repair the valve. The valve is still broken. This requires a separate bid, instead of being charged for time/material. Hostetler is waiting on a bid.

Post Office Curb Access:

Hostetler contacted Kevin Cooper, who stated that full ADA compliance would require a designated handicap parking space, concrete ramp, and related improvements, with an estimated cost upwards of \$50,000. The Board determined that this is not feasible at this time.

Old Library Restroom:

The restroom in the old library building may be used by Public Works staff once the water meter is installed. Public Works will proceed with the installation so the restroom can be used.

Snow Plowing – 2025–2026 Season:

The Board discussed snow plowing needs for the upcoming winter. Levi Carr, Ken Vallas, and Jason Waugh have previously plowed for the Village and will be contacted to confirm whether they are interested in continuing for the 2025–2026 season.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm

Respectfully submitted,
Neely Carr
Village Clerk