RESOLUTION No. 01-17-12-1

A RESOLUTION FORMALLY OBJECTING TO THE RATE INCREASE REQUEST TO THE ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION BY AQUA ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, Aqua Illinois is the private water and wastewater utility company that has been providing water distribution and sewer service to the Village of Hawthorn Woods since 2003; and

WHEREAS, through this relationship, Aqua Illinois presently services the subdivisions of the Hawthorn Woods Country Club, Countryside Meadows, Hawthorn Ridge, The Trails of Hawthorn Woods, and The Commons of Hawthorn Woods and provides bulk water to Lake County Government to service the Glennshire Subdivision, thus representing approximately 30% of the homes and 50% of the businesses in the Village Hawthorn Woods; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2011, the Village of Hawthorn Woods approved a water supply and sales agreement with a determined pricing structure with Aqua Illinois and Lake County for water service to the subdivision of Forest Lake, located in unincorporated Lake County; and

WHEREAS, just two weeks after that transaction, the Village of Hawthorn Woods was notified of a proposed rate increase request submitted to the Illinois Commerce Commission by Aqua Illinois on April 6, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bulk Rate increase would go from $2.43 to $3.87 per 1,000 gallons, representing a 59.2% increase, resulting in a County Retail Water Rate increase for the Glennshire Subdivision from $5.43 per 1,000 gallons to $7.10 per 1,000 gallons, representing a 30% increase ; and

WHEREAS, the Aqua customers in the Village, excluding the Glennshire Subdivision, would see a 70% increase in their average monthly water bill and a 45% increase in the average monthly wastewater bill; and

WHEREAS, the average monthly bill for both water and wastewater for Aqua customers not in the Glennshire Subdivision would increase by $764.40 per year; and

WHEREAS, the total increase to Aqua Illinois per year for just one subdivision, the Hawthorn Woods Country Club, would be $305,760.00; and

WHEREAS, the proposed bulk meter charge would increase from $15.00 to $806.00 per month, a 5,274% increase; and

WHEREAS, the Hawthorn Woods customers of Aqua Illinois already experienced a 35% rate increase in 2008, thus making another substantial rate increase unaffordable for most consumers, especially those living on fixed incomes or those who have been negatively impacted by the downturn in the economy or the threat of foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, the Hawthorn Woods customers should not be responsible for the financial debt incurred by Aqua Illinois for expanding their private utility system statewide, as the Hawthorn Woods customers already paid infrastructure premiums for their local system; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the interest of the residents, the Village of Hawthorn Woods has requested an audit of the 2011 financial records from Aqua Illinois to conduct an independent analysis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees, on behalf of the residents of Hawthorn Woods, do hereby object wholeheartedly to the requested rate increase by Aqua Illinois pending before the Illinois Commerce Commission, as any such increase will negatively impact the financial well-being of the residents of this community as well as inhibit economic growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this 17th day of January that the Village Clerk is hereby instructed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Illinois Commerce Commission requesting their denial of the proposed rate increases.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, on January 17, 2012.

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Joseph Mancino, Mayor Donna Lobaito, Village Clerk