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By Kevin Haas

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Voters in the small eastern Boone County town voted 57-46 to dissolve its incorporation shortly before its second birthday.

Village President Paul Curtis said he was disappointed officials weren't given more time to prove the incorporation's value.

The village incorporated two years ago after interest arose when Chemtool, a lubricant manufacturer, proposed building its headquarters and manufacturing facility on what would have been village property. The outcry over the proposed development, then on unincorporated Boone County land, sparked interest in more local control.

The Boone County Board had voted to approve the company's location to Garden Prairie. The company eventually opted to set up shop in Rockton.

Still, the village was incorporated by a 62-44 vote on Feb. 5, 2008.

Village officials will meet at least one more time, at 7 p.m. today at Garden Prairie United Church of Christ, 10990 U.S. 20, to talk about the details of disbanding. The village has to transfer its remaining funds to the Belvidere School District and determine how to pay outstanding debts. State law says a dissolved village may collect taxes in order to pay off its debts.

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“If the only issue is attorney’s fees, then that’s something we will need to look at a little bit closer,” said village attorney Charlotte LeClerq. “I certainly don’t want to encourage them to tax all their citizens to pay our bill. We’ll see what they can pay and may decide to write off the rest.”

The last time an Illinois municipality voted to dissolve was April 7, 2009, when the village of

Birds in Lawrence County ended its incorporation, according to records from the Secretary of State Department of Index. Birds had a population of 51 during the 2000 census.

Staff writer Kevin Haas can be reached at khaas@rrstar.com or 815-987-1354.



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