

**RANTOUL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2008**

LOUIS B. SCHELLING MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM
RANTOUL MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 333 S. TANNER, RANTOUL, IL

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rantoul was held at 6:15 P.M., President Neal Williams presiding. President Williams called the meeting to order.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Ken Crawford, First Baptist Church, opened the meeting with a prayer. Following the invocation, Trustee Margurette Carter led the audience in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The Clerk called the roll, finding the following members physically present:

President Neal Williams; and Trustees Clifford White, Margurette Carter, Joe Bolser, Charles Smith, and Jim Stubblefield – 6.

The following member was found to be absent:

Trustee Herman Fogal – 1.

The following representatives of Village departments were also present:

David Johnston, Administrator; Paul Farber, Police Chief; Robert Bruce, Economic Development; Kenneth Beth, Attorney; Scot Brandon, Comptroller; Janet Gray, Executive Assistant; William Clayton, Aviation; Ken Waters, Fire Chief; Rich Thomas, Recreation; Larry Madalon, Human Resources; Greg Hazel, Public Works Director; Pete Passarelli, Assistant Public Works Director; Mike Loschen, Community Development; Dan Culkin, Inspection; and Village Clerk Jeremy Reale.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee White moved to approve the agenda for the meeting, as presented. Trustee Carter seconded the motion. Motion carried, all present voting “aye”.

Public Participation

Ms. Margo Cotman addressed the Board to remark on the apparent lack of diversity among the employees of the Village police force. She expressed a desire to see the Police Department make a greater effort to attract a diverse pool of candidates for future openings. Chief Farber responded that the department had been taking steps to address this issue, including attending numerous college job fairs, advertising in publications aimed at minority candidates, and participating in a testing process through Western Illinois University to try to attract minority officers. At the present time, the police force employs two minority officers. Chief Farber added that very few minority candidates had applied to test for officer positions with the Village of Rantoul in the past. He assured Ms. Cotman that the department would continue to work toward developing a more diverse police force to address the needs of this diverse community.

Special Presentation

Trustee Carter, on behalf of the Dollars for Scholars Committee, presented scholarship certificates to Parkland College students Jennifer Gardner and Danice Roberts. Melissa Chevez, who was unable to attend the meeting, was also recognized as a Parkland scholarship recipient.

Administrator Report

Mr. Johnston reported that staff had met today with representatives from the office of Congressman Tim Johnson to discuss the Village's application to the military airport program administered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Approval of Bills

Following a review of the monthly bills, Trustee Bolser moved to authorize payment of the bills. Trustee White seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Bolser, Smith, Stubblefield, White, and Carter – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Fogal – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

A. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Records

The Clerk reported that the Village Board had met in closed session on January 2, 2008 to conduct the semi-annual review of its closed session records, as mandated by Illinois law. Following that review, counsel had recommended releasing the records for a portion of a closed session held on August 8, 2006 in which the acquisition of certain real estate was discussed. At this time, all other closed session records are recommended to remain confidential.

Trustee White then moved to authorize the release of a portion of records of a closed session meeting of the Village Board held on August 8, 2006 as related to the discussion of acquisition of real estate. Trustee Bolser seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: White, Carter, Bolser, Smith, and Stubblefield – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Fogal – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

B. Consent Agenda

Approval of Consent Agenda Items by Omnibus Vote

- A. Approval of Minutes, Regular Study Session, December 4, 2007
- B. Approval of Minutes, Regular Board Meeting, December 11, 2007
- C. Approval of Minutes, Special Board Meeting, December 6, 2007

Trustee White moved to approve the Consent Agenda items by omnibus vote. Trustee Smith seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: White, Carter, Bolser, Smith, and Stubblefield – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Fogal – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Items A through C, as outlined on the Consent Agenda, were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

C. Consideration of Ordinances & Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2124

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN ANNEXATION AGREEMENT
(Alliance Resources, L.L.C. Parcel)**

Trustee Carter moved to pass Ordinance No. 2124. Trustee Smith seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Carter, Bolser, Smith, Stubblefield, and White – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Fogal – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

Ordinance No. 2125

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE
(106 – 108 S. Garrard Street)**

Trustee White moved to pass Ordinance No. 2125. Trustee Carter seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: White, Bolser, Smith, Stubblefield, and Carter – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Fogal – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 01-08-1054

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF CLOSED SESSION TAPES

Trustee White moved to pass Resolution No. 01-08-1054. Trustee Carter seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: White, Carter, Bolser, Smith, and Stubblefield – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Fogal – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 1-08-1055

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING TEMPORARY CLOSING OF STATE RIGHT-OF-WAY
FOR ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Trustee White moved to pass Resolution No. 1-08-1055. Trustee Carter seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: White, Carter, Bolser, Smith, and Stubblefield – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Fogal – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

MFT Resolution No. 1-08-1056

**A RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE OF STREETS AND HIGHWAYS BY
MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE**

Trustee Bolser moved to pass MFT Resolution No. 1-08-1056. Trustee White seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Bolser, Smith, Stubblefield, White, and Carter – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Fogal – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

D. New Business

Trustee Carter noted that the recent heavy rains had once again created serious flooding issues in and around the intersection of Briarcliff and Morningside Drives. As this area has presented numerous problems in the past, she asked Mr. Hazel if there was anything that could be done to alleviate some of the chronic flooding issues. Mr. Hazel stated that there had been a handful of areas throughout Rantoul that experienced standing water after the recent storms; however, significant improvements had also been noted in areas that had already undergone storm drainage projects to address past flooding issues. With respect to the Briarcliff area, he told the Board that staff would use its camera equipment to investigate the current drainage system serving that area and determine whether or not any physical problems exist that could be addressed through upsizing.

Trustee Carter also noted that the zoning issue surrounding the Flessner property (710 W. Champaign Avenue) and its neighboring properties was still without resolution after nearly four months. The Village Board had passed Resolution 10-07-1045 in October 2007, requesting that the Plan Commission review the zoning of the affected properties as included in the Comprehensive Plan and return a recommendation to the Village Board no later than December 4, 2007. Trustee Carter mentioned that, to date, no recommendation had been given by the Plan Commission. She inquired as to what options would be available to the Board at this point. Mr. Beth responded that the Plan Commission had delayed making any recommendation regarding the zoning along West Champaign Avenue because of potential changes to the zoning classifications included within the proposed zoning text revisions. At the present time, a public hearing would still be required before any action could be taken with respect to changing the zoning of the Flessner property from residential to neighborhood commercial. However, Mr. Beth informed the Board that it would have the authority to bypass the Plan Commission and conduct its own public hearing on this matter, should that option be more palatable to the trustees.

Trustee Carter inquired as to whether or not the Board would be required to formally approve any request for change in employee classification from “essential” to “non-essential” for residency purposes. Mr. Beth responded that the Board would need to approve any such request. Mr. Johnston added that such changes could be addressed during the adoption of the annual budget and salary plan. In response to the point raised by Mr. Johnston, Trustee Carter emphasized that the Board should be made fully aware of any such changes that might be included within the proposed budget prior to any final vote on passage of the budget. Mr. Johnston assured the trustees that staff would disclose any proposed salary or employee classification changes during the budget process.

Trustee Smith thanked Mr. Hazel and the Public Works department for addressing the timing issues of the traffic signal at U.S. Route 136 and Lon Drive. He reported that the signal was once again functioning properly.

E. Announcements

President Williams announced that a series of special joint meetings between the Village Board and the Plan Commission were to be called for the first three Mondays of February to discuss the proposed revisions of the zoning text. Three separate meetings are planned to discuss zoning changes and proposed design standards for residential, commercial, and industrial areas, respectively. All meetings are to be held in the Louis B. Schelling Memorial Board Room at 7:30 P.M.

F. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee White moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Carter seconded the motion. Motion carried viva voce vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy A. Reale,
Clerk of the Village of Rantoul