

RANTOUL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR STUDY SESSION
JUNE 3, 2008

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

A Regular Study Session 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 proceeding to order at 6:16 P.M.

Roll Call

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

President Neal Williams; and Trustees Herman Fogal, Clifford White, and Jim Stubblefield – 4.

The following members were found to be absent:

Trustees Margurette Carter, Joe Bolser, and Charles Smith – 3.

The following representatives of Village departments were also present:

Paul Farber, Police Chief; Robert Bruce, Economic Development; Kenneth Beth, Attorney; William Clayton, Aviation; Ken Waters, Fire Chief; Rich Thomas, Recreation; Greg Hazel, Public Works Director; Mike Loschen, Community Development; Dan Culkin, Inspection; and Village Clerk Jeremy Reale.

Items from the Mayor

(A) In the absence of Mr. Brandon, President Williams presented a proposed budget amendment that would provide for an additional expenditure of \$114,586 to cover the Village's portion of general insurance claims exceeding the threshold of the IMLRMA Min/Max policy. In calendar year 2006, the Village had exceeded its threshold due to a large workers compensation claim in the Police Department and the collapse of the roof at the water treatment plant. This expenditure was to be divided across the insurance expense accounts in multiple funds. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Monthly Department Reports

1) Economic Development

Mr. Bruce reported that his department had been working to address a series of maintenance issues at several Village properties on the former base in anticipation of being able to better market those properties for prospective commercial clients. He also informed the trustees that the Village had received three new manufacturing-related business inquiries during the previous month, including two from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Staff would be following up on these inquiries in the coming weeks.

2) Police

Chief Farber reported that testing for the annual police department hiring list had been completed, yielding thirty-three (33) strong candidates. He acknowledged the efforts of the Fire and Police Commission members in conducting over thirty

candidate interviews over a three-night period. With respect to the 800 MHz radio system upgrade project, Chief Farber stated that the Motorola had temporarily slowed the manufacturing process, thus delaying the receipt of the radio hardware. Now that the hardware had been delivered, Mr. Beth would be working with officials from Metcad to finalize a contract for Board approval next week. Finally, he told the Board that he would be meeting with Mr. Beth to finalize the details of the proposed amendment to the vehicle seizure and impoundment ordinance. A final draft should be made available for Board consideration in July.

3) Aviation

Mr. Clayton reported that aviation staff had been working with representatives from Burns & McDonnell on the upcoming airport runway lighting project. Slated to begin on August 18, 2008, the project would require the temporary closure of Runway No. 927. He also noted that the Village needed to address the issue of tall grass in and around the airport property, as well as some outstanding issues from the World Free Fall Convention. He informed the Board that the community bicycle recycling event had resulted in a total of eighty (80) bicycles being given to area children. Finally, he announced that the Airport, in conjunction with Precision Aviation and the Economic Development Department, would be hosting the RACC Business After Hours on June 26, 2008 at the airport.

4) Fire

Chief Waters reported that the Fire Department had responded to a total of thirty-three (33) calls during the month of May, including an apartment fire and five mutual aid calls.

5) Recreation

Mr. Thomas reported that the Hap Parker Aquatic Center had officially opened for the summer season during Memorial Day weekend, although early attendance figures had been relatively low. The department had also been busy with seasonal mowing of Village properties, as well as assisting in the cleanup of various properties on the former base. The summer baseball and softball programs were underway, with a total of seventy-five (75) teams participating. Finally, he informed the public that the Maplewood retention pond was now opened for fishing.

6) Public Works

Mr. Hazel reported that the Street Department was performing seasonal brush collection during this week. He noted for the public that the improvements at the waste water treatment plant were underway and local residents might have to contend with the temporary inconvenience of odor during the project. With respect to the water treatment plant reconstruction, Mr. Hazel anticipated that the east plant would be operational by the end of June. Finally, he reported that the sanitary and water main extension projects along South Evans Road were nearing completion, with the expectation that the lines should be active within the next few days.

7) Community Development

Mr. Loschen reported that representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development had completed their on-site monitoring, with the Village still awaiting a report of their findings. The department had completed and submitted its required environmental review report to HUD and would be finalizing its annual year-end review report for submittal to HUD in July.

8) *Inspection*

Mr. Culkin reported that annual rental property registration was completed, with penalties to be issued for all incompliant properties. He reminded the public that annual community cleanup days were scheduled for June 7 and June 14. Once again, the number of code enforcement violation notices issued had increased during the previous month as staff had begun a serious crackdown on offenders. He also stated that the Village had issued all legal notices to begin the process of condemnation of the awning structure at the former Kerr-McGee station on U.S. Route 136. In response to an inquiry from President Williams, Mr. Culkin provided an update on the status of the Steffler rental units (commonly referred to as “the pit”). He reported that the sheriff’s auction on the property had been delayed due to an insurance claim following the recent fire at the property.

Items from the Plan Commission

(A) On behalf of the Plan Commission, Mr. Culkin presented a series of requests for plat approvals that had been recommended by the Commission. The first request involved a two-lot subdivision along the west side of South Murray Road and presently outside of the corporate limits of the Village. The property in question was owned by United Developers and was intended for eventual commercial development in the proposed TIF Redevelopment Plan under consideration by the Board. The second request involved a re-plat of United Developers Subdivision Lot 1, which included the property proposed for residential development east of South Murray Road. At this time, no improvements would be made to the property in question; however the plat would need to be approved and recorded with Champaign County before it would become eligible for inclusion within any TIF redevelopment area. Mr. Beth noted that a Special Board Meeting would be called for June 26, 2008 to approve an annexation, subdivision and pre-development agreement, as well as three additional ordinances necessary to formally establish a TIF district for the areas included within these two plats. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place these items upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

(B) Mr. Culkin also presented a request for approval of a plat for a 1.8 acre tract east of Rantoul along U.S. Route 136. The tract, owned by Briggs and Peters, presently included an existing farmhouse, well, and septic system. He added that the owners had expressed an intention to have the property annexed to the Village if and when it was to become contiguous to the corporate limits. Mr. Culkin reported that the Plan Commission had recommended approval of the plat for the Briggs & Peters Subdivision. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from the Comptroller

(A) In the absence of Mr. Brandon, President Williams presented the Board with copies of the Annual Treasurer’s Report for the Police Pension Fund. He urged the trustees to review the document and contact the Comptroller’s Office or the Police Department with any questions.

Items from Public Works

(A) Mr. Hazel presented two budget amendment requests involving Public Works funds. The first request would provide for an additional \$28,520 to be rolled over from the previous budget to cover engineering expenses related to the long-range water distribution study being conducted by Donohue & Associates. The second amendment would adjust the budget for the Water infrastructure account to include an additional \$563,136 that had been budgeted in FY 07-08 for the water main extension between Interstate 57 and South Evans Road. These funds had not been encumbered prior to the end of the previous fiscal year. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place these items upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from Counsel

(A) Mr. Beth reminded the Board that the Village was required by state law to approve its annual prevailing wage ordinance during the month of June. As such, he told the trustees that he would have an ordinance prepared for their consideration prior to the regular meeting. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Williams declared the proceeding adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy A. Reale
Clerk of the Village of Rantoul

APPROVED JULY 8, 2008

Neal Williams
Village President

ATTEST:

Jeremy A. Reale
Village Clerk