

**RANTOUL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR STUDY SESSION
JULY 1, 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 6:15 P.M.

Roll Call

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

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

The following member was found to be absent:

Trustee Clifford White – 1.

The following representatives of Village departments were also present:

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

Public Participation

Rev. Troy Burks, Champaign-Urbana Ministerial Alliance, addressed the Board to voice concerns over the proposed ordinance that would provide for the seizure and impoundment of vehicles found to have exhibited loud music. Rev. Burks requested that the Board consider easing the proposed penalties with respect to the music violations as well as the offenses of driving on a suspended or revoked license. His organization was concerned that these provisions could open the door to the possibility of police profiling.

Special Presentation

Mr. Nelson Cuevas, Cultivadores Community Center, addressed the Board to discuss the community garden and mural project being undertaken by his organization. Over the course of the three-year project, the group would be renovating their facility on South Maplewood Drive to include a playground, garden for community planting, a pavilion, and a series of colorful murals. The total cost for the project was estimated at \$82,000, with \$25,000 having been donated by Lowe's for the garden and an additional \$10,000 provided by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the mural project. Mr. Cuevas also reported that Gov. Blagojevich's office had given an initiative to permit twenty local children to work on the project during the summer of 2008. With two phases left to be completed, he anticipated that the project would be completed in 2010.

Items from Trustees

(A) Echoing the concerns she had raised during the July regular meeting, Trustee Carter reported that she had worked with Mr. Beth to draft an ordinance that would address the issue of items being brought forward for Board action at regular meetings without having first been discussed at a study session or other meeting. She distributed to the trustees a copy of the draft ordinance, which provided that no item could be brought forward for final action without having been presented first at a prior meeting or presented in a written memorandum to the Board not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. In other instances, the Board could retain an item on the agenda not meeting these qualifications if approved by a majority vote of the members. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

(B) Trustee Smith reported that he had received a number of calls from citizens complaining about the odor emanating from the wastewater treatment plant on the Village's east side. Mr. Hazel explained that the odor was the result of the sludge being pumped out of the plant digester as part of the plant improvement projects. Given the recent wet weather, the process of drying the sludge had been delayed and thus created the problem. Mr. Hazel stated that the Village was limited in its options available to address the issue and that it would likely be late summer before the odor could be significantly abated.

(C) Trustee Fogal noted that the new home building incentive program had expired in June and suggested that the Board consider renewing the program for another year. While the Village's commitments would remain the same, he would contact local businesses to ascertain their interest in participating in the program. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from the Clerk

(A) The Clerk reported that the Village was required by state law to review its closed session records every six months to determine which records, if any, may be appropriate for public disclosure. He suggested that it would be most appropriate for the Board to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of reviewing all closed session records and approving the minutes of any closed sessions held since the previous semi-annual review in January. The consensus of the Board was to adjourn to closed session to review these records at the conclusion of the regular study session.

Monthly Department Reports

1) Inspection

Mr. Culkin reported on a couple of ongoing rental property inspection issues. The first involved Parkview Apartments, which was currently behind in inspections and necessary repairs. Some of the units had been declared unfit for occupancy. The other issue involved complaints received from area residents regarding activities at the R & R Rentals property on Doolittle Boulevard. Mr. Culkin reported that the police department was cooperating with his staff in conducting surveillance of the property and that the owner was looking into the possibility of evicting problem tenants from the premises. Finally, he informed the Board that plans were being finalized for the relocation of the house located on the Flessner property (710 W. Champaign Ave.). At this point no date had been set, as the State was still awaiting more information before granting permits to move the structure across U.S. Route 136.

2) *Community Development*

Mr. Loschen reported that staff had completed the environmental reviews and that the assessments had received tentative approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Presently, the Village was awaiting the final grant agreement from HUD. Finally, he noted that the department had received the resignation of Code Enforcement Officer John Todd, who had accepted an offer of employment from a private firm.

3) *Public Works*

Mr. Hazel reported that the Street Division had completed its sidewalk and curb work at the downtown park site. The improvements at the wastewater treatment plant were progressing, with all of the sludge having been pumped from the digester so that improvements to the digester can begin. He also told the Board that the Electric Division would be undergoing its annual IMEA testing.

4) *Recreation*

Mr. Thomas reported that the department had been busy preparing for the Fourth of July activities as well as the upcoming University of Illinois football camp in August. On the subject of the camp, he noted that this year the Big Ten Network would be chronicling the season of the Illinois football team, including their stay in Rantoul. This could provide the community with an opportunity to generate positive publicity. He also reported that the summer baseball program would be finishing up within the next two weeks. Finally, he reminded the public to take advantage of the excellent fishing at the Maplewood retention pond.

5) *Fire*

Chief Waters reported a total of 22 calls received during the month of June. He also informed the Board that the Village had hosted a driving class offered by the Illinois State Fire Marshal on June 25 and 28. Finally, he noted that the department would be on hand at the Hope for the Children community picnic on July 3 and would be assisting in the fireworks show on July 4.

6) *Aviation*

Mr. Clayton reported that two agricultural chemical (crop dusting) containment facilities had established a base of operations out of the airport. He also apprised the Board of the ongoing energy use reduction efforts being undertaken at the Grissom Hall property. As part of these efforts, he reported that the office of the airport manager would be moved from Grissom Hall into the FBO facility. With respect to the Runway 927 lighting project, he announced that Champaign Signal & Lighting Company had responded with the lowest bid and that work would commence on August 18. During this project, the east-west runway would be temporarily closed for approximately 52 days.

7) *Police*

Chief Farber reported that the department had received the resignation of Sandra Henderson as Police Records Clerk, effective June 18. As part of the Principal Scholars Program, two Rantoul Township High School students interested in law enforcement careers would begin working at the department this summer. He also reported that the Fire & Police Commission had met on July 1 to finalize the annual hiring list. Finally, he informed the trustees that the department would be participating in the Hope for the Children picnic on July 3 as part of their community policing efforts.

8) *Economic Development*

Mr. Bruce reported that the Village had received three new business inquiries during the month of June. The department was also working with Public Works and the Information Technology department to gather information and photograph various buildings as part of an effort to market Village properties on the Internet. Additionally, the IT department was developing a virtual tour program to showcase the Rantoul Business Center. Finally, Mr. Bruce thanked the Recreation Department for its assistance in mowing and weeding the area between Hangar No. 1 and the truck park.

9) *Comptroller*

Mr. Brandon reported that staff had met with the insurance adjuster regarding the claim for the water treatment plant collapse, adding that he was hopeful that an agreement could be reached within the next month. Noting that the Village had applied for a federal grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as part of the Military Airport Program in February, he informed the Board that the FAA had notified Village officials that the grant would not be awarded to Rantoul. He added that the Village would likely apply for the program grant again during the following year. He reported that the 2008 storm tax bills would be sent out to residents in July, and that the Village was preparing to file liens against those properties with unpaid bills for the previous cycle. Finally, he announced that the Village had received a payment in the amount of \$100,000 from the State of Illinois to be applied toward the outstanding loan with the Rantoul Public Library.

Items from Economic Development

(A) Mr. Bruce reported that the Village had received three quotes for the exterior signage at the Rantoul Business Center. The project was to include the installation of a 3' x 30' illuminated sign on the western face of the building. Because the lowest bidder had not complied with the proposal package, staff had recommended approval of the quote from American Dowell for the amount of \$10,750.00. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from the Police

(A) Chief Farber presented a request for the amendment of Chapter 18 to provide for an expansion of offenses for which the Village would have the authority to seize and impound the vehicles of the offenders. The list of offenses would include: use of motor vehicle in the possession or delivery of controlled substances; use of motor vehicle in the commission of a weapons offense; driving under the influence; driving on a suspended or revoked license; or use of a vehicle sound amplification system on the public way if the sound can be heard from a distance of seventy-five (75) feet or more.

Noting that the proposal had generated citizen concerns, Chief Farber stated that the department had extensively researched the issue to determine possible solutions to the ongoing problem of disruptive music and noise from motor vehicles. In examining other communities that had adopted comparable ordinances (Danville and Peoria), he told the Board that officials from both cities had reported no problems with the implementation and enforcement of the law. He also sought to reassure the public by clarifying that the ordinance had been motivated by a need to improve the quality of life in Rantoul rather than any intention of using the law as a tool to generate revenue. Since people don't seem to respond to small fines, a strong deterrent was needed to modify these behaviors.

Trustee Carter agreed that the issue needed to be addressed; however, she was concerned that the \$500.00 administrative fee associated with recovering an impounded vehicle could present a hardship to some residents. For comparison purposes, she noted that criminal possession of a controlled substance would net a \$500.00 fine. She suggested that a graduated fine structure could be put into place to address the early offenses for noise violations before impounding the vehicles. Mr. Beth responded that such a scenario would require that loud noise be established as an ordinance violation. Chief Farber suggested that the Village could adopt the approach used by the City of Peoria, issuing fines for the first and second offenses before impounding the vehicle for the third and subsequent offenses.

After discussing the issue, the consensus of the Board was to authorize a \$150.00 fine for the first sound amplification system offense, a \$250.00 fine for the second offense; and impoundment without fine for any subsequent offense. For the other categories of offenses covered by the draft ordinance, the Board recommended that the police be authorized to impound the vehicle for the first offense. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

(B) Chief Farber reported that the Village had received a grant to cover a portion of the expenses related to the purchase of an automatic finger printing system. However, the \$11,000.00 grant would not entirely cover the \$15,400.00 price for the recommended Live Scan system. As the bid process for the equipment was built into the grant, he requested that the Board waive the bidding procedures and approve the purchase. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from Public Works

(A) Mr. Hazel presented a request for approval of Change Order No. 21 with Leander Construction for the water treatment plant reconstruction project. This item was designed to address a modification to the installation of handrails at the plant in order to meet compliance with OSHA standards. Additionally, the change order would provide for the repair of curling roof patches on the west plant roof. The total value of work associated with the change order was \$13,839.14. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

(B) Mr. Hazel presented a request for approval of an agreement with Gorski Reifsteck for the design and construction observation costs for the repair and replacement at the Power Plant facility. The southwest and northwest areas of the building were in the poorest condition of the eight different roof levels. The proposed agreement would include: the design of a replacement roof and necessary decking for the south end of the building; the design of a replacement roof and the development of internal drains for the west end; the investigation and design for remediation of a damaged wood truss; and construction observation. The total cost associated with the agreement was not to exceed \$23,100.00. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

(C) Mr. Hazel presented a request for approval of an engineering agreement with Donohue and Associates for the design and construction oversight of a new sanitary sewer line from North Murray Road to the northwest pump station. He noted that this project had been identified in the long-range study as a means to relieve the existing gravity sanitary line that had periodically exceeded the sewers' capacity, resulting in surcharging of manholes and sanitary back-ups. The total cost associated with the agreement was not to exceed \$145,510.00. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from Community Development

(A) Mr. Loschen presented a request to authorize the replacement of the now-vacant Code Enforcement Specialist position. He noted that both the Code Enforcement Specialist and Community Development Compliance Officer had resigned their positions within the last four months, thus leaving Mr. Loschen as the lone member of the department responsible for the duties of housing rehabilitation, grant management, social service programming, and property acquisition/demolition. Without the assistance of additional staff, it was unlikely that Mr. Loschen could complete all of the projects for which the department was responsible in order to maintain grant compliance. In the alternative, the Village could hire a construction management firm to oversee the housing rehabilitation programs while Mr. Loschen maintained responsibility for the other departmental programs. As an additional option, the Village could simply eliminate the rehabilitation program and spend its CD funds on a smaller number of large projects. He added that it was imperative that the Village spend its total allocation of HUD funds to avoid further cuts to funding levels in future years.

In discussing the issue, the consensus of the Board was that Mr. Loschen should initiate the formal process necessary to amend the budget such that the funds budgeted for the Compliance Officer salary could be used for other projects. With respect to the Code Enforcement Specialist, Trustee Stubblefield suggested that Mr. Loschen prepare cost estimates for the various options and report back to the Board in August. The consensus of the Board was to defer this item to the August study session, pending a full report from Mr. Loschen.

Items from the Comptroller

(A) Mr. Brandon reported that Nextel Partners, the Village's cellular phone service provider, was now a state bid contractor and able to provide governmental accounts discounts of up to twenty-five percent. While the current contract has not expired, the Village would be eligible for this discount as well as an increase in the number of monthly minutes in its basic package. As such, he recommended that the Board authorize the Mayor to sign a new, two-year contract with Nextel in order to take advantage of the savings. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

(B) Mr. Brandon presented a request to authorize the award of bid to Advanced Wayne Cain for the replacement of the gymnasium roof at the Forum Fitness Center, for the amount of \$106,800.00. The project had been included in the TIF Fund budget. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

(C) Mr. Brandon presented a proposed budget amendment in the general fund to provide for the receipt of a state grant in the amount of \$11,075.00 for the live scan fingerprinting machine. As the total cost of the equipment would be \$15,400.00, the Village would be required to fund the remainder of the cost. This project had been eliminated from the original budget request submitted by the Police Department due to budget constraints. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from Counsel

(A) Mr. Beth presented a proposed annexation agreement regarding the Briggs & Peters subdivision, east of Rantoul. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Closed Session

Trustee Bolser moved to enter into Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) 21, for the purpose of discussion of minutes of meeting lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for the purpose of approval of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes are

mandated by Section 2.06; and pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) 5, for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. Trustee Fogal seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

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

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: White – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

The Board entered into Closed Session at 8:04 P.M. By the authority of the Board, the following individuals were permitted to remain present: Kenneth Beth, Dan Culkin, and Jeremy Reale.

Trustee Fogal moved to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene in open session. Trustee Carter seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

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

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: White – 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:31 P.M.

Adjournment

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy A. Reale
Clerk of the Village of Rantoul

APPROVED AUGUST 12, 2008

Neal Williams
Village President

ATTEST:

Jeremy A. Reale
Village Clerk