

**RANTOUL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MARCH 17, 2009**

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

A Special 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 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, Margurette Carter, Joe Bolser, Charles Smith, and Jim Stubblefield – 7.

The following representatives of Village departments were also present:

Bruce W. Sandahl, Administrator; Paul Farber, Police Chief; Robert Bruce, Economic Development; Kenneth Beth, Attorney; Scot Brandon, Comptroller; William Clayton, Aviation; Ken Waters, Fire Chief; Rich Thomas, Recreation; David Coffey, Human Resources; Greg Hazel, Public Works Director; Pete Passarelli, Asst. Public Works Director; Mike Loschen, Community Development; Dan Culkin, Inspection; Don Early, Budget Analyst; and Village Clerk Jeremy Reale.

A. Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Ordinance No. 2178

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TABLE OF PERMITTED USES BY DISTRICT IN
THE RANTOUL ZONING ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE USE OF A CHILD DAY
CARE FACILITY WITHIN THE CR-2 AVIATION SUPPORT DISTRICT**

Trustee Fogal moved to pass Ordinance No. 2178. Trustee Carter seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

The Board recognized Ms. Martha Gonzales, executive director for Multicultural Community Center (Migrant Head Start), who provided background information on the migrant head start program. Migrant Head Start operates from July through October and is federally-funded to provide services such as day care, health and disability services, and transportation. If the amendment was approved, the center intended to lease space in the former Caddyshack building on Country Club Lane to house eight classrooms for Head Start, a year-round day care facility, and a medical clinic to serve migrant families. Initially, the program planned to employ eight teachers and eight assistants and was funded for 95 enrollees. Ms. Gonzales stressed that the center was designed to benefit not only Hispanic families, but to provide a benefit to the entire community by providing services that addressed an important need in improving the quality of life for these residents. She added that the program could possibly expand to include after-school services for the general population on a year-round basis.

Mr. Mike Daugherty, Chairman of the Plan Commission, noted that the Commission had rejected both the request for a change in the permitted uses for the CR-2 zoning district as well as a request for a special use for the facility. In describing the action of the Commission, he told the Board that many members felt that questions regarding the operation of the day care and medical clinic had not been fully addressed during the hearing. He added that safety had been a primary concern for some of the Commission members, as allowing for a day care in that particular zoning district could feasibly put children in dangerous proximity to facilities such as the steam

plant and the airfield. Addressing the issue of safety, Trustee Bolser asked if all legal requirements and codes were satisfied with the building in question.

Mr. Culkin responded that the facility must meet the requirements set by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the State of Illinois, and local building codes. The building must comply with all of the various requirements and would be appropriately cited for any areas in which it did not comply. He stressed, however, that this was a separate building issue and was not related to the zoning text change presently before the Board. Ms. Gonzales added that representatives from DCFS, the state fire marshal, and a plumber from the Department of Public Health had all inspected the building prior to lease negotiations and none had expressed any concerns about the safety of the building or its location.

Trustees Smith and White expressed concerns about the potential economic impact of increased numbers of migrant families in the Rantoul area, as well as the perceived strain that would be placed upon local schools and social services. Trustee Smith also stressed that the Village Board should abide by the recommendation of the Plan Commission. Trustee Carter opined that the center would have a positive impact on the community, including the possibility of increased revenues for Village facilities such as the Youth Center and the aquatic center.

Following discussion, the Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Fogal and Carter – 2.

NAYS: White, Bolser, Smith, and Stubblefield – 4.

ABSENT: None – 0.

The motion failed by roll call vote.

Ordinance No. 2179

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 7 OF TITLE VI IN CONNECTION WITH REQUIRED BUFFER AND LANDSCAPE AREAS

Trustee Bolser moved to pass Ordinance No. 2179. Trustee Smith seconded the motion.

The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Bolser, Smith, Stubblefield, Fogal, White, and Carter – 6.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: None – 0.

The motion carried by roll call vote.

B. Annual Budget Presentation

Before the presentation of the budget proposal for FY 2009-2010, Mr. Sandahl first commended Village staff for recognizing and respecting the difficult financial situation and economic conditions, and working to address these concerns within the budget for the current fiscal year. During the budget development process, all parties had exhibited an understanding of the need to plan ahead for the possibility of even worse economic conditions in the future. Through the efforts of staff, a lean budget could be presented to the Board without any expected disruptions in the quality or quantity of services offered to the citizens of Rantoul.

After a brief review of the budget preparation process, Mr. Brandon outlined the revenue trends and key itemized expenditures for the various funds within the proposed \$34,221,068.00 budget.

Corporate Fund

Mr. Brandon noted that staff had undertaken a series of measures designed to reduce expenditures in the Corporate Fund to offset an expected 3% reduction in revenues for the upcoming fiscal year. These measures had included: reducing fund transfers to Public Works by \$240,000.00; reducing part-time salaries in the Recreation Division by \$60,000.00; reducing fixed capital by \$89,000.00; and leaving vacant positions unfilled (\$122,000.00). He stressed that the Corporate Fund continued to be hamstrung by rising health insurance and Police pension costs, increases in energy costs, and flat or declining levels of revenue.

He told the trustees that staff had considered several options as a means of trying to improve the financial situation in the Corporate Fund through either increasing the revenue stream or further reducing expenditures. Among the options discussed were: raising taxes and rates; further cutting key projects; reducing service levels and personnel; delaying the maintenance and replacement of assets; and increasing transfers-in from other funds. He noted that full-time personnel counts had been reduced through attrition from 139 in FY 2007-08 to 127 for FY 2009-10. Traditionally, the Village had also employed the method of transfers-in to improve the Corporate Fund balance and such transfers were proposed to slightly increase for the next fiscal year to a total of \$1,048,689.00.

911 Surcharge Fund

Mr. Brandon noted that the major expenses in the 911 Fund would be the T-1 Circuit leads and 911 trunk (\$38,500.00) and the 800 mhz radio upgrade for the police and fire departments (\$25,000.00). The fund balance is depleted due to continued declining revenues.

Restricted Reserve Fund

The estimated fund balance at the end of the current fiscal year was projected to be \$1,500,000.00. The lone project scheduled to utilize restricted reserve funds for FY 2009-10 was the anticipated upgrade to the “welcome” signage at the major highway entrances to the Village.

Public Works Reorganization

Mr. Passarelli offered highlights of the proposed reorganization of the divisions under Public Works for the next fiscal year. As part of this process, there would be a partial combination of the Streets and Systems Maintenance Divisions, with the new division being responsible for maintaining streets, water mains, and storm sewers. This would entail moving three positions from the current Systems Maintenance crew into the new combined division. A Pump Station and Sanitary Division would be created using three employees from Systems Maintenance and one position from Wastewater. “Utility locates” would be moved to the Gas Division, meter readers would be moved to a Meter Reading crew, and the underground specialist position would be moved to the Engineering Information Division to assist with mapping and GPS. As the result of this reorganization: the general fund transfer to the PW Admin Fund would be reduced by \$240,977.00; utility budgets would be balanced; organizational efficiency would be improved and employee development enhanced; and staff levels can be significantly reduced without reducing the level of services provided.

Storm Water Drainage Fund

Mr. Brandon noted that revenues are projected to increase by 5% to \$525,000, as the result of an increase in the residential rate to approximately \$39.00. It was noted that, to date, \$3,164,000.00 had been spent in storm water drainage funds on various system improvements throughout the community (including Maplewood detention pond, Sangamon/Wabash improvements, Prairieview improvements, and Eater Drive upgrade). Within the Five-Year Plan for the fund, the major project included in FY 2009-10 was the improvement of storm water drainage in the Gleason/Carolina/Harper Drives area. This project was estimated to cost \$315,000.00, with additional costs saved by preparing much of the engineering design work in-house.

Airport Fund

Mr. Sandahl briefly provided the Board with an update on the status of the Fixed-Base Operator (FBO) issue. Although the budget presentation assumed the ultimate takeover of the FBO operations, he reported that the Village was continuing negotiations to keep the FBO as a separate business rather than placing it under the control of the Village. He noted that the Village would not subsidize the FBO under any arrangement with a private firm.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to bring the proposed budget forward for public hearing on April 7, 2009, with official Board action to be taken on April 14, 2009.

Trustee Smith inquired about the possibility of selling advertising space on the Village's website as a means of increasing revenue. Mr. Sandahl responded that staff would investigate the issue.

President Williams thanked Mr. Brandon and Mr. Early for their efforts in preparing the budget presentation.

Adjournment

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy A. Reale
Clerk of the Village of Rantoul

APPROVED APRIL 14, 2009

Neal Williams
Village President

ATTEST:

Jeremy A. Reale
Village Clerk