

**RANTOUL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR STUDY SESSION
JUNE 1, 2010**

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.

Roll Call

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

President Neal Williams and Trustees Roger Jones, Tony Brown, 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; Kenneth Beth, Attorney; Scot Brandon, Comptroller; William Clayton, Aviation; Ken Waters, Fire Chief; Pete Passarelli, Assistant Public Works Director; Mike Loschen, Community Development; Dan Culkin, Inspection; and Village Clerk Jeremy Reale.

Presentation: Hardy's Reindeer Ranch

Ms. Julie Hardy addressed the Board to thank Village officials for their continued assistance and support of the programs and activities at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch and to update them on some of the ways in which her business actively promotes Rantoul and its businesses and attractions through various tour groups and events.

Items from the Administrator

(A) Mr. Sandahl reported that he had been representing Village interests at the meetings of several area organizations, including the Chanute Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), the Champaign County Economic Development Commission (CCEDC), the Regional Planning Commission, and the Chanute Redevelopment Commission. Village officials had also conducted tours of available properties with representatives from the CCEDC as well as new commercial prospects.

(B) Mr. Sandahl also reported that he continued to review applications for the vacant Human Resources Manager position. Although he still had some telephone interviews to conduct, he noted that very few applicants had appeared to be reasonably qualified for the position. He stressed the importance of hiring an individual with the requisite amount of experience in human resources functions necessary to manage what is essentially a department of one person. As such, it was likely that the position would be re-advertised in search of a more qualified pool of applicants.

(C) Mr. Sandahl stated that he had received notification that Jeld-Wen would be celebrating its 50-year anniversary and that the company had issued a directive that all employees must donate 50 hours of community service during the upcoming summer months. Representatives from the Jeld-Wen plant in Rantoul were seeking input from Village officials as to an appropriate humanitarian activity or service agency that could benefit from such assistance in the community. Mr. Sandahl also noted that the Jeld-Wen facility in Rantoul had received an Energy Star award for 2010.

Monthly Department Reports

1) Police

Chief Farber reported that the department would be hosting a new intern from Western Illinois University during the month of June. He also acknowledged Pastor and Mrs. Kelly, residents of Rantoul who participated in the Citizens Police Academy through the University of Illinois Police Training Institute. Finally, he announced that Officer Rick Hedrick had retired from the department due to a duty-related injury and publicly thanked Officer Hedrick for nineteen years of service to the department and the Village of Rantoul.

2) Comptroller

Mr. Brandon presented the Annual Treasurer's Report of the Police Pension Fund, as mandated by state law. In discussing the highlights of the report, he noted that the fund had increased in value by approximately 14 percent during the previous fiscal year after experiencing significant losses in 2008-2009. If this positive trend continued, it would be expected to have a positive impact on the tax levy requirement of the Police Pension Fund, which had significantly increased in previous years due to increased salaries and lower investment returns. Mr. Brandon also discussed the benefits of the Village's involvement in the LIHEAP program, which offers assistance to low income households in the payment of energy-related bills. In 2007-2008, the program had assisted 302 Rantoul households in the payment of approximately \$112,000.00 in utility service payments due to the Village. Participation had significantly increased by 2009-2010, when 905 households received assistance for \$299,000.00 in utility payments. He noted that these funds might otherwise have been lost in bad debts due to the fact that many of these customers would have been unable to pay Village utility bills without LIHEAP assistance.

3) Inspection

Mr. Culkin reported that the Village-sponsored community cleanup days would be held on June 12 and June 19 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. He also noted that the demolition of the building located at 521 Hartigan Avenue (P-16) was underway and his department continued to work with several building and structural improvement projects, including: improvements to the Head Start facility, the installation of a new awning at the FS fuel station, and the renovations of the former Caddyshack property in preparation for the opening of the migrant Head Start facility. Mr. Culkin also stated that the registration period for rental and owner-occupied housing units had concluded, with any cases of unregistered properties being turned over to the attorney for further action.

4) Community Development

Mr. Loschen reported that the department had completed its HUD environmental review process and would be conducting a public comment period on its environmental review record between June 2 and June 18. He also stated that bids had been received for the demolition of several dilapidated buildings, sheds, and garages, with Accurate Site Demolition Specialists of Bloomington providing the apparent low bid. The Village had also submitted to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for authorization a list of additional houses and structures that had been identified for potential demolition. Finally, he stated that the Village was awaiting the finalized plans for the installation of new ADA-compliant doors at the Rantoul Business Center.

5) Public Works

Mr. Passarelli reminded residents that street crews would be conducting brush collection during the current week. He also informed the Board that the section of abandoned railroad crossing at Sheldon Avenue was scheduled to be removed during the next week, which would lead to the temporary closure of that roadway near its intersection with Clark Street. He reported that the resurfacing of Flessner Avenue had been completed and crews had finished the installation of three new vents at the former landfill site. One of the next major projects would be the installation of a new water main along Wabash Avenue, which was currently being advertised for bids. Bids for this project were due by June 23 and should be brought forward for consideration by the Board in July.

6) Recreation

In the absence of Mr. Thomas, Mr. Sandahl delivered the monthly report for the Recreation Department. He reported that the Hap Parker Family Aquatic Center had opened during the previous weekend, with solid attendance figures of approximately 1,150 customers on Saturday and Sunday. Youth baseball and softball programs were also well underway. Finally, he noted that interviews for the position of Youth Center/Forum Fitness Center supervisor had been completed. Mr. Thomas had reported several excellent candidates were considered for the position and a primary selection was expected to be announced within the coming week.

7) Fire

Chief Waters reported a total of twelve fire calls during the month of May, including one call for carbon monoxide detection. Of the calls to which the department responded, the most significant had been a kitchen fire at a house on Bel Aire Drive which resulted in approximately \$15,000.00 in damages. He also reported that Engine 2352 was back from repairs after being out of service for approximately three months.

8) Aviation

Mr. Clayton reported that he continued to work with representatives from Burns & McDonnell and Champaign Signal & Lighting to address the malfunctioning of the L-880 PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator) system. A new power control unit and circuit board were on order and would be installed to correct the problem. He also reported that the FBO hangar had hosted a Big Band Hangar Dance on May 15, which raised \$740.00 for the Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum. Mr. Clayton told the trustees that he continued to work with representatives from the American Street Rod Association on event management details for its upcoming hot rod car show. He also distributed copies of a flier that was being given to pilots at the airport to aid in the search of a missing University of Illinois student. Finally, he mentioned that year-to-date fuel sales at the airport were significantly higher for 2010, with 7,806 gallons sold compared to 5,476 gallons sold during the same period in 2009.

Items from Public Works

(A) Mr. Passarelli presented a request for approval of a modification to the Village's agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the resurfacing of Flessner and Pacesetter Avenues. The modified agreement would reflect the final construction and engineering costs associated with the project, thus allowing the remaining \$40,741.00 in federal funds tied to the project to be "de-obligated" from the Rantoul project and utilized on other projects in the state. The original allocation for the Rantoul project through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) had been \$390,741.00, with an engineering project estimate of \$411,000.00 and an anticipated Village contribution of \$40,259.00. The final costs associated with the

resurfacing totaled \$350,000.00, with no financial contribution required by the Village. Mr. Passarelli added that IDOT officials had not been receptive to Village requests to expand the scope of the project to utilize the remaining funds for roadway improvements within Rantoul. 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) Mr. Brandon presented a request for authorization of the renewal of a liability policy with Cincinnati Insurance to cover the Village gas and electric systems. As this coverage is specifically excluded from the Village's insurance policy with the Illinois Municipal League, bids for the additional coverage had been advertised. Cincinnati Insurance Co., through Insurance Providers Group, had submitted the only bid with a premium amount of \$42,285.00. He noted that the premium amount for the previous year had been \$44,715.00. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from Inspection

(A) Mr. Culkin presented a request for approval of a change order with Midwest Construction Services, LLC, for additional asbestos abatement work associated with the demolition of the building located at 521 Hartigan Avenue (Building P-16). He noted that the Board had previously authorized a contingency amount of \$10,000.00 for the removal of any unidentified asbestos, as the original contract had been based upon the known verified amounts of asbestos materials to be removed. These original verified amounts had in turn been based on documentation and records provided by the U.S. Air Force in its Pickering Reports. During the course of the project, the contractor had discovered additional hidden asbestos materials that had not been included in the Pickering Reports. These additional materials were photographed and, upon determining that it was indeed asbestos, Mr. Culkin had authorized the removal of this additional material so as to prevent further delay of the demolition of the condemned structure. The change order for this additional work totaled \$21,500.00 and was to be paid using TIF funds.

Trustee Smith asked if the Village might be better served to include undisclosed asbestos bidding as part of the original quote to prevent similar change orders for any future building demolitions. Mr. Culkin responded that it would be difficult to get an accurate idea of the actual amounts of asbestos in a given building without sealing off the building and performing the type of work that the asbestos contractor generally performs. This could not likely be done without incurring significant additional costs. Mr. Sandahl agreed that the Village needed to put into place a system to address these issues, particularly in light of the fact that several additional buildings on the former base would become the responsibility of the Village after upcoming property transfers. The Village had traditionally used the environmental assessments provided by the Air Force in determining the amounts of asbestos in those buildings; however, those reports had proven to be very inaccurate. 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 for the award of a bid for the demolition of six dilapidated structures utilizing federal "stimulus" funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As the demolition of substandard buildings had been identified as a "high priority" activity in the Village Consolidated Plan, HUD had awarded the Village \$88,767.00 in stimulus funds to be applied toward building demolition costs. Bids had been solicited for the demolition of six such structures

located throughout the community, with Accurate Site Demolition Specialists providing the lowest bid in the amount of \$30,500.00. Mr. Loschen added that additional dilapidated structures had been identified for possible demolition since the original bid letting and requested that staff be authorized to negotiate with the contractor to remove these additional structures. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

(B) Mr. Loschen then presented a request for the approval of a \$5,400.00 contract with Accurate Site Demolition Specialists for the demolition of four garages through the "Shed-a-Way" program. As \$10,000.00 had been budgeted for the program, he also requested that staff be authorized to negotiate with the contractor to remove any additional dilapidated garages or sheds that might be identified before the demolition period ends. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to place this item upon the formal agenda for its regular meeting.

Items from the Police Department

(A) Chief Farber introduced Dr. Janet Koroscik, Superintendent of Rantoul Township High School, to discuss the proposed intergovernmental agreement between the Village and RTHS for a school resource officer (SRO). Dr. Koroscik noted that the long-term negotiations for the creation of an SRO had been a collaborative effort between RTHS administrators and representatives from the Rantoul Police Department, with additional feedback solicited from members of the community. She stated that both parties felt that it was important for any agreement between the Village and the district to represent a "win-win" situation for everyone involved. In crafting the intergovernmental agreement, officials had used the agreement between the Village and the Rantoul City Schools as a baseline upon which a new contract was tailored to suit the specific needs of RTHS. Dr. Koroscik also noted that the agreement now before the Village Board had been approved by the RTHS Board of Education.

Trustees Stubblefield and Bolser expressed support for the concept of placing an SRO at RTHS; however, each expressed reservations about moving forward with the proposed agreement without having any goals or objectives in place for the SRO. Dr. Koroscik stated that the agreement specified the duties of the SRO position and the district would be collecting data and monitoring the progress of the position once implemented. As this was a new position, it would be difficult to know from the outset exactly what types of data would be collected and how to articulate any goals in terms of concrete numbers. It was noted that the SRO program would be evaluated on a year-to-year basis, thus making it easier to formulate objectives and adjust duties accordingly for future years of the program. Dr. Koroscik also stressed that the RTHS Board felt comfortable with the agreement as prepared.

Trustee Bolser also inquired about the possibility of splitting the duties of one SRO between RCS and RTHS rather than having two full-time SROs. Dr. Koroscik responded that each district needed an SRO on a full-time basis to build relationships with the faculties and student populations and to quickly address any issues that might arise at unexpected times during the school day.

While the majority of the Board signaled support for the SRO position, some of the trustees remained concerned about a lack of any specific goals related to the position being included in the agreement. Dr. Koroscik noted that any changes to the agreement would require ratification by the RTHS Board and further delays in the process of formulating an agreement would make it difficult to get an SRO hired, trained, and on site by the beginning of the school year. Trustee Jones suggested that the Board could proceed with the current agreement, with the understanding that the situation would be monitored during the first year of the agreement to develop a set of

goals and objectives at a later date. 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 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 7:37 P.M.

Jeremy A. Reale
Village Clerk

APPROVED JULY 13, 2010

Neal Williams
Village President

ATTEST:

Jeremy A. Reale
Village Clerk

I, Jeremy A. Reale, Village Clerk of the Village of Rantoul, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Regular Study Session of the Board of Trustees held June 1, 2010, as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

Jeremy A. Reale
Village Clerk