

VILLAGE OF RANTOUL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD STUDY SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022

LOUIS B. SCHELLING MEMORIAL BOARD ROOM
RANTOUL VILLAGE HALL, 333 S. TANNER STREET, RANTOUL, IL 61866

A Study Session of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rantoul, Illinois was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022. President Charles Smith called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

Roll Call

Upon Roll Call, the following members present:

Mayor Charles Smith, Trustee Regina Crider, Trustee Mark Wilkerson, Trustee Sam Hall, Trustee Donald Robertson, Trustee Irene Weathersby, and Trustee Sherry Johnson

The following representatives of Village departments were also present:

Scott Eisenhauer, Administrator; Deborah Sage, Human Resources Manager; Tony Brown, Chief of Police; Ken Waters, Chief of Fire; Chad Smith, Fire Captain; Luke Humphrey, Recreation Director; Jake McCoy, Interim Public Works Director; Chris Milliken, Urban Planning Manager; David Wesner, Village Attorney; and Tana Ward, Deputy Village Clerk

Mayor's Presentation

Mayor Smith presented Officer Bradley Saltsgaver with a plaque in recognition of 28 years of service to the Village of Rantoul Police Department.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Eisenhauer presented an amendment to the agenda. This amendment would include an addition to the agenda to approve the purchase of AnalyticsNow report writing software upgrade, and to remove the Closed Session item - 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) 1. Trustee Weathersby moved to approve the amended agenda as presented. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion.

On a Roll Call vote:

 AYE: Weathersby, Johnson, Crider, Wilkerson, Hall, Robertson

 NAY: None

The motion carried 6 – 0

Public Participation

Mayor Smith opened the public comment portion of the meeting per the Open Meetings Act, with individuals given three minutes for comments.

Terry Workman

Mr. Workman stated that the Village does not need a cannabis dispensary within Rantoul since there are already multiple dispensaries within a few miles of the

community. He also stated that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding should not be used towards utility bills, adding that vacant lots with utility service are a waste of tax funds. He added that board members with multiple residencies and lots with utilities should consider it a serious conflict of interest to vote on this item. Mr. Workman shared that there are multiple sources of assistance for citizens in need of help with their utility bills, with many already having their utilities paid for an extended period of time with programs within the Village, County, and the State. He stated that utilizing 25% of the stimulus funds for an item that produces no return is not good management of ARPA funds. He proposed that there are a number of other projects that the Village could use \$2 Million to support.

Loise Haines

Ms. Haines expressed her apologies to Trustee Crider for misinformation that she had previously shared regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information included on the Village website. Ms. Haines shared her concern over the Non-Highway Vehicle Ordinance being proposed. Her concerns included the age requirement excluding drivers under age 18-years-old. She also stated that Handicapped applicants should not have a requirement to include a doctor's approval. She stated that this requirement was discriminatory if these individuals already hold an Illinois driver's license.

Janet Brotherton

Ms. Brotherton shared suggestions regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. She stated that as the Village Board, they have the opportunity to impact the community over a long period of time with the decisions that are made, or they can make decisions to spend the funds with a short-term impact, or no impact at all. She shared that during her 34 years as an educator with Rantoul City Schools, the largest educational impact for students was the addition of the media centers in all of the buildings. These media centers provided a resource to every single student as a space for extended reading opportunities, and it gave every single student a chance to improve their skills, and embrace all kinds of literature, thoughts, and ideas. This is the type of impact that ARPA funds can make in our community. She shared that the one project that can make this happen is funding the improvement and enhancement of the Youth Center, which would be a lighthouse to the community regardless of cultural, physical, or mental differences. She added that the Youth Center should be constantly reinventing itself with technology, equipment, and curriculum.

Items from the Board

Mayor

Mayor Smith thanked individuals for masking up during the Board Study Session. He shared that Champaign County is currently in the High level for COVID-19 transmission rate according the Champaign County Public Health Department.

Mayor Smith requested affirmation of the appointment of Hank Gamel to the Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Storm Drainage Committee for a term expiration of 2026;

he requested affirmation of the reappointment of Craig Rogers to the Citizen's Advisory Committee for a term expiration of 2026; and he requested affirmation of the reappointment of Herman Fogal and Denny Long to the Micro Loan Committee and the Revolving Loan Committee for a term expiration of 2025. These appointments and reappointments will move forward to the Board Meeting for final approval.

Trustees

Trustee Sherry Johnson

Trustee Johnson shared that she enjoyed the fireworks displays all over town. She also thanked Attorney Wesner for sharing the update on the Village loans.

Trustee Donald Robertson

Trustee Robertson addressed Mr. Workman's comment. Trustee Robertson shared that he does have vacant lots within the Village, and none of those lots currently receive electricity from the Village.

Clerk

The Deputy Village Clerk presented the Minutes of June 7, 2022 Study Session and the Minutes of June 14, 2022 Board Meeting. The Minutes will move forward to the Board Meeting for approval as presented.

Items from Village Departments

Human Resources

The June 2022 Village Applicant Demographics Report was presented with no questions or further comments.

Police Department

No items presented or reported.

Fire Department

No items presented or reported.

Building Safety Department

No items presented or reported.

Community Development Department

No items presented or reported.

Office of Comptroller

No items presented or reported.

Parks and Recreation Department

The Recreation Department requested approval for a contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. and Waters Electric Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$39,905.15 for upgrades to the Fire Alarm system at the Forum Fitness Center. Mr. Humphrey expanded on the

request stating that Johnson Controls, Inc. would reuse the existing control panel and cellular radio installed during the 2021 Village Fire Communication upgrade. As a part of this contract, Johnson Controls, Inc. will provide all new smoke detectors, heat detectors, pull stations at both the entry and exit doors, and horn strobes in the required locations. Waters Electric Contracting, Inc. provided the lowest quote, and they will pull all cables and mount the hardware per the scope of work outlined in the Board packet. This item is a budgeted item for fiscal year 2022-2023. Trustee Johnson questioned the Waters Electric Contracting, Inc. proposal being received on February 21, 2022, and being good for only 20-days. Trustee Weathersby provided kudos to the work that Waters Electric Contracting, Inc. provided previously while she was on the Black Chamber of Commerce Board.

The Recreation Department requested approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Rantoul Township High School (RTHS) for Grounds Maintenance and Management in the amount of \$34,000.00 annually for a three-year agreement. Mr. Humphrey stated that there has been a long-standing "handshake" agreement with RTHS for ground maintenance in exchange for use of the property for youth programming. With those programs being relocated to the Rantoul Family Sports Complex, a need for an agreement is prudent. Trustee Crider questioned if the supplies would be provided by the Village and then invoiced at a later date. Trustee Wilkerson questioned if the cost was appropriate with it only equaling up to approximately 900 hours of service. He also questioned if RTHS was in favor of the \$34,000.00.

The Recreation Department is requesting the approval of a five-year lease agreement with Johnson Health Tech North American for cardio equipment at the Forum Fitness Center for a total of \$139,246.00. Mr. Humphrey stated that with the recent construction, the cardio room is both electrically and technologically equipped to accept the upgraded equipment. The lease is included in Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget. Trustee Crider questioned if a maintenance contract is included with the lease, and she also inquired about membership. Forum Manager, Jennifer Redden shared an update on membership. Trustee Johnson questioned the rate of the quote since it was dated for May 5, 2022. Trustee Weathersby questioned the process for upcoming membership drives. Trustee Hall questioned what will happen to the equipment being replaced.

These items will move forward to the Board Meeting for approval.

Public Works Department

The Public Works Department request approval of a Construction Engineering Agreement with Hutchison Engineering, Inc. for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Prograde (ITEP) for the Maplewood Shared Use Path Project in the amount of \$60,043.00. Mr. McCoy shared that the total project cost is over \$550,000.00, with only the \$60,043.00 portion being covered by the Village. The project will have an anticipated start date within the next two weeks. Trustee Crider requested a map of the proposed addition. Trustee Hall questioned if benches and porta potties could be added to the ten-foot path.

The Public Works Department request approval of a contract with BH Electric LLC for the Rantoul Foods Electric Upgrade Phase III Project in the amount of \$91,240.20. Mr. McCoy stated that Village staff has completed all aspects that they are able to complete, and a crane would be required for the final portion of this phase. Trustee Crider questioned if the total was included with the original project presentation.

The Public Works Department request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Rantoul City Schools #137 (RCS) for the Illinois Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Grant for Pleasant Acres School in the amount of \$450,000.00. Mr. McCoy stated that RCS will reimburse up to \$100,000.00 for the project. Trustee Crider questioned if a specific house on Harper Drive would be demolished as a part of the project. Trustee Wilkerson questioned if the Village would purchase the property needed for the construction, and if the homeowners were notified in advance.

The Public Works Department also request approval of an Engineering Agreement with ESI Consultants for the Illinois Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Project for Pleasant Acres School Phase I and Phase II in the amount of \$74,743.00.

These items will move forward to the Board Meeting for approval.

Office of the Administrator

An Ordinance was presented by Mr. Eisenhauer at the request of a Village Trustee to amend Chapter 20, Article XII to allow adult-use cannabis dispensing organizations within the corporate limits of the Village. Trustee Johnson questioned where a cannabis facility would be allowed within the Village. She also shared stats of THC percentages from the 1970's to what the current levels are, and the medical complications and death rates associated with use. She added that there are dispensaries in Champaign, Urbana, and Savoy that can service the Village. Trustee Hall requested clarification on the license requirements and process from the State of Illinois. He also inquired about the Craft Grower business license requested by Dane Ehler and Blake Schilb in October 2021. Trustee Wilkerson stated that the Board should listen to the voice of the community, and those who have shared during public comment at previous meetings. Trustee Robertson stated that church and state should not be mixed, and he added that the item should move forward for a vote. Trustee Johnson stated that the state receives most of the funding from cannabis dispensaries, not the Village. She added stats from overdosing in Colorado. Trustee Weathersby stated that more research is needed from Champaign and Urbana on the end user, and the medical benefits of use.

Mr. Eisenhauer presented the proposed Redistrict Map due to the decline in population on the decennial Census of 2020 as required under State Statute. He shared that three public gatherings were held for proposed changes, and six maps were drawn by Mr. Milliken for consideration based on feedback received. The proposed map will affect 203 residents, moving them from District Five to District Three. Trustee Hall questioned the District Five boundaries, and he provided kudos to Mr. Milliken for his work putting the maps together.

Mr. Eisenhower presented a binder of projects that have been proposed for utilizing the over \$8 Million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to date, along with the details and specifics of each proposed project. Items include the following:

- \$350 Utility Credit to Every Village Resident
- Up to \$1 Million for Youth Social Services
- Up To \$1 Million For Tuskegee Airmen Park
- Flooding Issues
- Broadband for Everyone
- Rantoul 4 U Programming
- Water and Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades
- Resolve Electric Department Issues
- Construct A Program / Building Similar to The Boys and Girls Club
- Homeless Shelter
- Transportation for Seniors
- Infrastructure in The Downtown
- CrimeStoppers Contribution
- Small Business Grants and Loans, Mentorship Program
- Renovation of The Youth Center
- Provide Home Security Cameras to Each Residence
- Relieve Debt of Library
- Provide Each Residential Electric Customer One Month Free
- Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program
- Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements

At the request of a Village Trustee, Mr. Eisenhower proposed utilizing \$1,990,950.00 to provide each current residential utility customer a \$350.00 credit towards their account. Three different amounts had been proposed during previous Board meetings. The total funding required for each level are as follows:

- \$100 Credit - \$580,950
- \$150 Credit - \$862,950
- \$200 Credit - \$1,144,950
- \$250 Credit - \$1,426,950
- \$300 Credit - \$1,708,950
- \$350 Credit - \$1,990,950

Trustee Johnson stated that this amount of funding would go a long way in upgrading the Village infrastructure that would benefit all residents. She added that landlords that own multiple units would also receive the credit for each of their properties. Trustee Robertson stated that he is a landlord, and all of his tenants pay their own utility accounts. He added that every resident deserves a “kick-back” of what they have contributed, and he suggested that every resident receive a \$350 check to save on administrative fees. Mr. Eisenhower stated that issuing a check would actually increase the required amount substantially with the required postage needed. Trustee Robertson questioned how the proposed projects would get completed if the Village had not received the ARPA funding. Trustee Hall stated that the Village receiving these funds should be impactful ten, fifteen, and twenty years from now. He stated that a \$350 utility credit equaling 25% of the award, is a short-term benefit, and it would simply be a

“Band-Aid.” Trustee Wilkerson stated that the inflation that the country is experiencing is due in part to the ARPA funds being disbursed. He added suggestions on how the credit could be disbursed, and how residents can use the additional funds to help others in need. He stated that the \$350 per resident is too high, but the original amount of \$100 that he had suggested should be doable. Trustee Crider questioned if the software upgrade would have other capabilities outside of this credit. Mr. Eisenhower stated that the only use for the upgrade is providing mass credits.

Mayor Smith addressed the Board and citizens regarding the ARPA funds received. He provided history dating back to the 1993 closing of the Chanute Air Force Base, and the depression that the Village has experienced since. He also shared that this is a 30-day “Band-Aid” as Trustee Hall had stated, and he stated that the financial literacy education that Trustee Weathersby had suggested previously is needed. He stated that the Board needs to seize the moment and make a difference with Village infrastructure.

Trustee Robertson stated that the Village has seen years of neglect, and prior Board members need to take responsibility for this decline. Trustee Johnson stated that residents have been provided with multiple funds in the past year. Trustee Wilkerson added that this utility credit could be decreased to allow more funding for infrastructure. Trustee Weathersby stated that she works with Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) with Champaign County, and that individuals are receiving these funds for up to two months of their utility bill. Mr. Eisenhower shared that LIHEAP assisted Rantoul households from June 1, 2021 through May 30, 2022 at a total of \$1,040,000.00, with an additional \$198,500.00 received under the Utility Disconnection Avoidance Program (UDAP). The Village has also received federal ARPA funding of \$400,000.00, and supplemental funding of \$140,000.00, towards utility and rent assistance funding. Trustee Crider shared that the median income in Champaign County is \$45,000.00. She added that the individuals receiving LIHEAP are not the ones receiving the median income, and the “middle-class” people are the ones who would benefit from this credit.

An Ordinance was presented by Mr. Eisenhower to amend Chapter 38, adding Article XIII for the use of “non-highway” vehicles on Village roadways. Attorney Wesner shared specifics of State requirements, and he addressed some of the concerns discussed during public commentary. Trustee Johnson compared the proposed addition to Ordinance 2532 regarding Low-speed Bicycles, and she expressed concerns for the handicapped applicant restrictions. Trustee Crider stated that the Ordinance as proposed was thorough, and she added that handicapped individuals should be able to operate these vehicles under the state mandated Driver’s License requirements. Trustee Wilkerson questioned if there was a large demand for this Ordinance. Trustee Hall questioned where individuals were able to cross the State Highways.

Mayor Smith recessed the meeting at 8:15pm for a brief break, and the Study Session resumed session at 8:26pm.

An Ordinance was presented by Mr. Eisenhauer to amend Chapter 34, Article VI to increase the Hotel/Motel Tax from 5.5% to 7.0%. This increase would follow suit with Champaign, Urbana, and other municipalities with similar tourist amenities. The Hotel/Motel Tax is not paid by the local establishment, but rather the Tax is paid by the renter of the room. This rate change would go into effect January 1, 2023. Trustee Wilkerson questioned the additional revenue that the Village would receive.

Mr. Eisenhauer proposed accepting the first two-year option to extend the contract with GFL Environmental for Waste Collection. The original contract was with Area Disposal Service, Inc, which has been since been purchased by GFL Environmental. Trustee Crider expressed concerns about service issues. GFL Environmental representatives were present, and they shared resources for remedying concerns.

Mr. Eisenhauer presented the Microloan Application for Schitts and Giggles Boutique for the purpose of expanding their space to add Café Schitte at total cost of \$96,900.00. Trustee Johnson questioned if the requirements that the Microloan Committee had suggested during the committee meeting were added to the agreement. Mr. Eisenhauer shared that the requirement was that the loan would be in both the owner of the building and the owner of the business equally. Trustee Robertson questioned if this was the only application received for the Microloan program. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that there were four total applicants, and this was the only application received that met all of the requirements and that still had interest in moving forward with the process.

Mr. Eisenhauer presented additional vacant lots at 1308 Sunset Drive, 1620 Lowry Drive, and 1521 Eater Drive to be added to the original Vacant Lot Program, Resolution 02-19-1277. Trustee Johnson questioned if there were parties interested in these vacant lots being offered. Trustee Wilkerson questioned which neighbors would qualify to purchase these lots. Mr. Eisenhauer shared that there is a 30-day initial period that adjacent property owners can purchase the lots at a rate of \$100.00, plus \$51.00 recording fee. After the initial period, the lots are opened up to any Village resident at a rate of \$250.00, plus the \$51.00 recording fee.

Mr. Eisenhauer proposed the purchase of AnalyticsNow report writing software on behalf of the Accounting Department. This system will allow for greater report writing, and reports that have been recently requested by Village Trustees and Auditors. Trustee Hall questioned the experience that the staff currently has with the software, and if training was available.

These items will move forward to the Board Meeting for approval.

Items from Counsel

Mr. Wesner provided details of collection cases currently being handled by his office, including outstanding Microloan debt, and accidents involving damage to Village properties. Trustee Robertson questioned if Mr. Wesner had tried to recover funds via the individual tax returns. Mr. Wesner stated that there is a State program which would allow for that, but he was uncertain if the Village currently participated in that program.

Closed Session

Trustee Crider moved to enter into closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) 21, for the purpose of discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, for the purposes of approval by the body of the minutes, and a semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Trustee Hall seconded the motion.

On a Roll Call vote:

AYE: Crider, Wilkerson, Hall, Robertson, Weathersby, Johnson

NAY: None

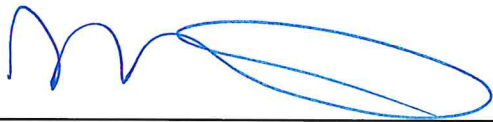
The motion carried 6 – 0

The Board entered into Closed Session at 9:04pm, and the Board returned to Open Session at 9:08pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tana Ward
Deputy Village Clerk

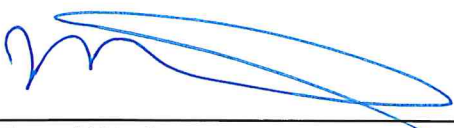
APPROVED:



Mayor Charles Smith
Village President

ATTEST:

I, Tana Ward, Deputy Village Clerk of the Village of Rantoul, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Study Session of the Board of Trustees held on July 5, 2022 as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.



Tana Ward
Deputy Village Clerk