

**RANTOUL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR STUDY SESSION
February 7, 2023**

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 at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Smith called the proceeding to order.

Roll Call

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

Mayor Smith, and Trustees Crider, Wilkerson, Hall, Robertson, and Johnson – 6

The following representatives of Village departments were also present:

Scott Eisenhauer, Administrator; Jolene Gensler, Comptroller; Debbie Sage, Human Resources; Tony Brown, Police Chief; Chad Smith, Fire Chief; Jake McCoy, Assistant Public Works Director; Chris Milliken, Zoning and Planning; Luke Humphrey, Recreation Department; David Wesner, Attorney and Janet Gray, Village Clerk.

Amendment

- A. The Mayor stated there was an addition to the agenda, Item 15C from the Recreation Department.; a request for the purchase of a new engine for the Case Model 621 end loader.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Hall moved to approve the agenda as amended. Trustee Crider seconded the motion. On a roll call vote:

AYES: Hall, Robertson, Johnson, Crider and Wilkerson – 5.

NAYS: None – 0.

ABSENT: Weathersby – 1.

The motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation

Terry Workman decided not to address the board.

Reginald Robinson addressed the racial issues he has had in Rantoul. He said he was driven out of his home and was being harassed and followed.

Wendell Golston addressed the Board. He said he was going to get involved with Mr. Robinson and his issues.

The Mayor stated that the Village would not be making any statement or announcement on the recent Police incident until the State Police had completed their review.

Items from Trustees

Trustee Hall

- Invited the public to attend the annual Autism walk in Savoy on April 15.
- Extended his prayers to those involved in the shooting incident on Monday night.
- Would like the Mayor to share what the priorities are for the upcoming year.

Trustee Johnson

- Asked if anyone checked the lighting in the neighborhoods and the city parking lots. The Administrator said a complete overhaul is needed that would include lighting. Director Jack McCoy said a lineman goes out every morning to evaluate the existing light. The department is aware of the need for more lighting.
- Asked about the progress on the Theater downtown. The owner has provided plans for the building. Permits have been submitted for the roof and the façade.
- Asked why the drive-up window isn't open. The public would like to use the window and get a receipt. The Administrator said that decision was made because of staffing and the public using other means to pay their bills.

Trustee Robinson

- Would like to go back to a vote last month and change his vote on the audit to a No vote. The Administrator said the vote cannot be changed but a note would be made in the minutes.
- Expressed condolences to the Lee family.
- Asked about the six employees that did not live in Rantoul. The Administrator said all have moved into the Village except one who is still on probation.

Trustee Crider

- Read a statement from a citizen thanking the Board for the \$300 utility credit.
- Expressed condolences to the Lee family and to the Police Department.
- Asked if the utility department is fully staffed with three people. She recently saw an ad for a utility clerk. The Administrator said the ad was to look at possibly adding a fourth person to the department. The closure of the drive-up window was done in March 2020 as a response to COVID.

Trustee Wilkerson

- Would like to see the drive-up window opened up.
- Would like to see the litter picked up around the Village including trash along the roads. He suggested staff could pick up trash and would like to see other organizations volunteer as well.

Items from Mayor

The Mayor introduced Michael Genin and Sean McCarthy from IMEA who gave a presentation. IMEA is made up of 32 communities and is a not-for-profit wholesale power agency. Rantoul has the ability to generate electricity and receive credits for the power it produces. IMEA has a mutual aid assistance program and has a solar farm in southeast Rantoul.

Items from Clerk

- A. Minutes of January 3, 2023 Regular Study Session
- B. Minutes of January 10, 2023 Board Meeting

These minutes will go to the Board for approval.

Items from Administrator

- A. Fashion Nails is requesting a \$64,280.00 Micro Loan to make improvements to the property they recently purchased at 109 S. Maplewood Dr. The Village would have a second mortgage on the property and the equipment. The Micro Loan Committee recommended the approval of this application to the Village Board.
- B. The Village has been asked to reconsider establishing an "Adult-Use Cannabis Craft Grower" license. This would allow for the cultivation, drying, curing and packaging of cannabis for sale at a dispensing organization or use at a processing organization. Dispensing would not be allowed as a part of the amendment. The staff recommends the approve of Ordinance No. 2732 amending Chapter 20 pertaining to prohibited cannabis business establishments. Trustee Wilkerson and Trustee Johnson requested that this Ordinance not go forward. Trustee Robertson would like to remove all restrictions on cannabis. Blake Schlib and Dane Ehler addressed the Board regarding their request.
- C. The Administrator reviewed the lift assist calls the Fire Department has received in the past year. These calls are non-medical calls which are usually helping a person move from one place to another, or someone who has fallen. These calls are taxing Village resources and will require additional employee training and equipment if the Village continues to respond to them. The purpose of the discussion is to identify the direction to Board wishes to pursue with these types of calls. There are options: 1) continue to provide the service without requesting a fee at a cost to the Village of \$100,000.00 annually 2) provide lift assistance and pass an Ordinance that the Village would bill any Senior Assisted Living Facility for a response and possibly bill individual residents, and 3) say it is not the responsibility of the Village and discontinue providing lift assistance. He requested the Board's approval to draft an Ordinance to bill the facilities that by nature should be providing this service, and bring it to the Board in March.

The Mayor called for a break at 8:12 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:22 pm.

- D. The Administrator asked the Board to share items they would like to see considered for inclusion in the new 2023-2024 budget. The budget will formally be presented in March with approval prior to the end of April.

Items A and B will go to the Board for approval.

Items from Human Resources

- A. The January 2023 Village Applicant Demographics Report is in the Board Packet.

Items from Police Department

- A. The department requested approval to purchase two 2023 Ford Utility Squad cars from Morrow Brothers Ford for \$87,300.00. In June 2022 the Board approved the purchase of two 2022 Ford Utility squad cars for \$78,650.00 however Ford cut those cars from production. Shields was unable to make a bid on these vehicles.

This item will go to the Board for approval.

Items from Fire Department

No items to report.

Items from Comptroller

No items to report.

Items from Building & Environment Safety

No items to report.

Items from Community Development

- A. The department requested the approval of the purchase of a new Whelen R4 Vortex Storm Warning Siren and required accessories to be placed at 503 N. Maplewood Drive at a cost of \$27,489.32. This would replace an existing siren which was installed in 2000. Staff is studying relocating the existing siren to another location on a short-term basis. Funding would come from Community Development Block Grant funds.
- B. The department requested the approval of Resolution No. 02-23-1381 authorizing the application to USDA for a Rural Development Business Grant. The Chamber of Commerce brought this grant to the attention of the Village. Funds can be used for items such as the streetscaping and utility infrastructure improvements downtown.

These items will go to the Board for approval.

Items from the Recreation

- A. The department requested the approval of a Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Notice of State Award in regards to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Heritage Lake Boat Access Area Development Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00.
- B. The department requested the approval to declare several vehicles as Surplus property. None of the vehicles are valued at more than \$5,000.00 and are no further use to the Village. The vehicles will be listed on Public Surplus auction website for sale. <https://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/rantoul,il/browse/home>
- C. The department requested approval for the purchase and installation of a new engine for the Case Model 621 end loader from Birkey's in the amount of \$24,263.79. Funds will come from Fleet Maintenance Repair. The cost to rent an end loader is \$600.00 per day.

Items A and C will go to the Board for approval.

Items from Public Works

- A. The department requested the approval of Ordinance No. 2731 authorizing a loan agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Phase One from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program. The plant has crucial equipment approaching the end of its reliable service life that needs upgrading. The implementation of these improvements is divided into three phases. The request is for up to \$11,500,000.00 for construction and installation and includes engineering, legal, financial and other related expenses. The annual payment would be \$612,000.00 at .09%.
 - B. The department requested the approval of an Engineering Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Plant and Systems, Phase One – Final Design with Donohue & Associates in the amount of \$436,030.00. The engineering fees will be funded by the Board allocated ARPA funds.
 - C. The department requested the approval of the purchase of an Altec Transmission Bucket Truck for the Electric Division from Global Rental Co. in the amount of \$315,930.00. This vehicle will replace the bucket truck that was damaged last year in an accident. Funds will come from the reserve account.
 - D. The department provided information on the proposed Prospect Substation upgrade. A second transformer, which has already been purchased is needed to meet the growth of Rantoul Foods. The updated estimated cost of the project as \$3,828,209.28.
 - E. The department provided information on the Power Plant Substation upgrade. A new metal switchgear building is needed and could be placed west of the power plant. The first phase of the downtown infrastructural upgrades is estimated at \$2,737,722.49.
 - F. The department requested the approval to purchase a new Ram 2500 4x4 Truck Chassis with a Knapheidi Service Body for the Electric Division from Shields Auto Center in the amount of \$66,045.00. This will replace a 1997 truck with 90,000 plus miles. The funds will come from a reserve account.
 - G. The department requested the approval of a Resolution authorizing Road Closings for Parade Routes and Community Celebrations. This is an annual Resolution for events such as the 4th of July Parade, RTHS Homecoming Parade and the Christmas Parade.
 - H. The department requested the approve of a Resolution for the Annual Street Maintenance Allocation from the Motor Fuel Tax Funds in the amount of \$225,000.00. This is an annual IDOT Motor Fuel Tax Resolution.
- Items A, B, C, F, G and H will go to the Board for approval.

Items from Counsel

No items to report.

Meeting Adjourned

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:34.

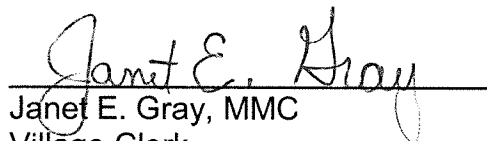
Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Gray, MMC
Village Clerk

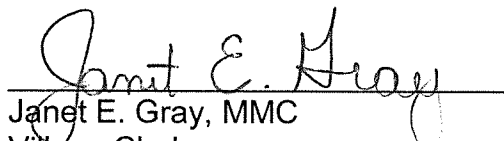
Approved


Charles Smith
Village President

ATTEST:


Janet E. Gray, MMC
Village Clerk

I, Janet E. Gray, 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 February 7, 2023 as the same appears on the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.


Janet E. Gray, MMC
Village Clerk