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Rossville trustees takes no action on naming TIF consultant

ROSSVILLE—A request from Mayor Terry Prillaman to name a new Tax Increment Financing consultant got no action at Monday's village board meeting.

Prillaman told the board that a new consultant needs to be hired because the previous consultant, Robert Vancil, has had no communication with the village. He suggested hiring Beth Ruyle of Ehlers & Associates of Lisle but the cost was a stumbling block for some board members.

In a proposal to the village, the firm quoted \$25,000 as the cost. However, Prillaman said, much of the work in the proposal is already done and he urged the board to consider instead the \$175 per hour fee - with a maximum of \$2,000 per necessary report - instead. A consultant will be needed for things like agreements between the village and property owners and with builders.

"I can't see paying these prices," said trustee Mark Catron. "I think we need to find Mr. Vancil."

Prillaman said Vancil's contract expired last August, causing Trustee Robert Merritt to ask whether the board could put off a decision.

"It could be tabled but there are things that need to be acted upon," Prillaman answered.

Police News



Joseph R. Nunez, 22 of 805 Franklin, Danville was arrested at 9 a.m. Monday at Young and Rt. 1. He was charged with driving on suspension and operating an uninsured vehicle.

Nunez was released on \$200 cash bond.

A **19-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that while he was walking his dog, someone broke an outside light bulb, scratched his car and knocked over his mailbox.

After failing to get a motion, Prillaman moved on to other business, saying he will ask Ruyle her fee as individual issues arise. "We'll take it one report at a time," he said.

In unrelated business, trustees discussed new regulations for arsenic levels in drinking water. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the current standard of 50 parts per billion (ppb) must be reduced to 10 ppb by Jan. 1, 2006.

Rossville water has a rate of about 23 ppb and Trustee Mike Clutter said water has tested as low as 19 ppb. "We're better than half of what it used to be," he said.

To reach the new level, the village would have to install an iron removing system, which might or might not solve the problem. "We could spend close to half a million dollars to find out it doesn't work," Prillaman said.

Village officials do not expect to meet the Jan. 1 deadline and they hope the federal government will pay for the new mandate. "I think there'll be federal dollars available," Prillaman said. "There has to be. Otherwise, we can't do it."

In unrelated action, trustees:

- approved the final plat of the Thomas' First Addition and amended the Masengale Addition to allow for 10 foot front easements for AmerenCIPS to install electric service. AmerenCIPS will also charge to run power to each lot. The cost must be paid by the developer - in this case, the village - and will be equal to the total cost divided by the number of lots. The fee will be refunded as lots are developed. If all lots are developed within five years, the total cost will be refunded.
- approved Crowder CPA's bid of \$6,450-\$6,500 for the annual audit.
- heard a request from Mike Bray to eliminate

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Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: Just the Facts does not normally print anonymous letters to the editor. However, the following, written by a parent of a student in an area school, is timely. The parent requested anonymity to avoid repercussions to the student.

School Daze

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be back in school? Ever wished you could go back? Think again! Schools are totally out of control. Children now rule. What happened?

Here is a day in the life of a child going to school. Usually it starts off with being called (names questioning one's sexual orientation). If that doesn't get you going, how about I just shove you. Now if you can take this and just go on your way, maybe they will leave you alone. Or maybe you follow the handbook and report it. First of all, if a teacher didn't hear it or see it, it didn't happen. Whatever happened to honesty? It doesn't exist today unless, of course, you are confessing. Unfortunately, the ones who confess are the ones being picked on.

So now you have reported the incidents to the teacher and other appropriate channels. The abuse continues. Most parents don't want their children to fight but they also don't want them abused, either. Finally, you just can't take it anymore and when they call you names, shove you, you finally hit back. Now guess what happens?

Unfortunately, the bully is pretty sneaky. He knows if he isn't seen doing it, "therefore it didn't happen."

So who gets caught? The victim does because he doesn't look to see if anyone is watching. The victim tells the truth, gets suspended and it's put on his record. The bully doesn't admit to anything since they made sure the teacher didn't see it happen. Pretty smart for such losers.

If bullies get suspended, it's like a vacation. Ever see those kids across the street while school is going on and as soon as school gets out, here they come on the school grounds? Of course no one sees this happen, therefore, it didn't happen.

Did you see the news recently? Danville middle school students are bring weapons to school. There was a long cafeteria table filled with guns and knives, the kind you usually see on television. They admitted not much can be done to these juveniles. That scared me to death. Just today on the news, children are being evacuated because an explosion went off in a locker. They found another one that hadn't gone off and are searching for more explosive devices. These are very scary times.

Since the law says every child has to go to school, who is going to protect them?

Who knows better than the children what is going on at school? Please listen to them, believe them and try to change things for the better. Please don't pretend to not know or see what's going on. This is more than just a job, it is teaching children to be honest, caring human beings. It's up to the teachers and staff to be alert at all times if something is not right, to take care of the situations as they occur and not turn their heads the other way.

We have to send our children to school. The school must protect our children's safety so they can survive and return safely home after a day at school.

Our children's lives are in your hands.

School "daze": to confuse, bewilder. The state

New Books at the Library



VHS Movies & DVDs

Hoopeston at Mid Century - VHS

Vol.1 Introduction and L&M

Vol.2 Agriculture

Obituaries

SWANSON - Frances C. Swanson, 95, formerly of Hoopeston died at 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005 at Asta Care Center, Paxton. Arrangements are pending at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 34. Tonight, increasing clouds. Low 19. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 34, low 24.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopes-

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