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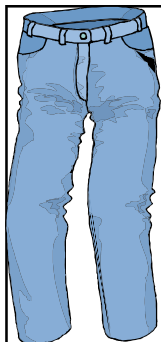


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Joint Board of Review shoots down Rossville TIF plan

ROSSVILLE—Citing not enough information, a joint review board for a proposed tax increment financing (TIF) district voted to disapprove of the village's plan at a meeting Monday.

Dennis Price, review board member and president of the Rossville-Alvin School Board, made three motions: that the review board disapprove of the proposed

redevelopment area's listing as blighted and a conservation area because the village failed to demonstrate the eligibility of the area for those designations; that the review board disapprove the plan because it failed to include in sufficient detail or at all, items required by the TIF Act; and that the review board submit its report to the village by Dec. 12.

Each motion passed 8-1, with Mayor Terry Prillaman the sole dissenting vote.

Throughout the meeting, which included a presentation by TIF consultant Robert Vancil, Price questioned the information Vancil presented and where it came from, including the age of buildings in the village and the condition of village streets, sidewalks and other features, such as utilities. Vancil talked in percentages, which Price also questioned.

"If you're talking in percentages, we need supporting documentation," he said. "This is our watch. This is very important and you want us to sign our name to it."

Price said school district attorneys listed 12 points that need clarification or further information before he could agree to the TIF plan. "Anything that's going to satisfy our attorneys is going to satisfy me," he said.

During discussion and as he made his motions, Price stressed that the school district is not trying to stop the village from having a TIF district. "All we're looking for is clarification and supporting documentation," he said. "Our role is to make sure this meets the qualifications and is not about how any of us feel about it."

After the second vote, Prillaman asked whether Price thought "there will be at ime when everyone will be satisfied and have enough documentation," to which Price answered "yes."

The proposed plan would make the entire village - except Hubbard Trail Country Club - part of the TIF

See TIF on other side



Photo contributed

Helping kids

Theta Lee, Hoopeston Education Association treasurer, presents Jaycee Dean Grimes with a \$500 check from the Association. The donation was made in honor of National Education Week and the Association's commitment to helping and working with the community. The money will be used for underprivileged children's Christmas programs.

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Police News



A **representative** of Great Plains Location, Decatur, reported Monday that someone took a sub/site receiver from a vehicle parked in the 700 block of East Honeywell. The tool is valued at \$750.

John K. Burt, 17, of 702 E. Penn, was arrested at 1 p.m. Monday at Hoopeston Area High School.

He was charged with aggravated battery on a complaint from a 16-year-old Hoopeston youth who alleged Burt struck him and fractured his jaw.

Burt was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await a hearing.

Travis J. Miles, 17, of 318 N. Ninth Ave., was arrested at 11:05 p.m. Monday in the 300 block of North Ninth Ave.

He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after police said officers say him driving over the

speed limit and performed a traffic stop.

Miles was released on \$100 cash bond.

Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called to a house fire at 12:14 a.m. Tuesday at 515 W. Orange. Police also responded

TIF continued from other side

district, which also caused concern for some review board members.

Ross Township Supervisor Tom Beckner said the equalized assessed valuation of property in the district has increased while farmland has decreased and that including the entire village in the TIF district would hurt the township.

Vancil questioned whether the increase in EAV of village property represented real growth but another review board member, Lloyd Smith of the fire district, said real or not, the growth and accompanying revenue is important. "It's what we're living on," Smith said.

The joint review board is made up of representatives from taxing bodies that would be affected by a TIF district, such as township, school and library districts. The board reviews the plan and votes whether it meets the standards necessary to implement a TIF district.

The review board serves in an advisory capacity and their vote does not mean the TIF will not eventually be passed by the village board.

In previous meetings, Prillaman has said TIF is a way to provide long-term help to the village and school district by focusing on residential development and attracting more people to Rossville, which would result in more sales tax for the village and state aid for the schools.

On the flip side, taxing bodies would, for the 23-year life of the TIF, receive the same amount of property tax money as they do in the base year. Subsequent increases due to development would go into a special fund to repay eligible TIF-related development costs.

Special payments could be made from the TIF fund to other taxing bodies to offset some of the lost tax money.

A public hearing on the TIF will be held at 5:45 p.m. Monday in the Rossville-Alvin High School gym.

Obituaries

QUAKENBUSH - Robert W. Quakenbush, 75, of Hoopeston died at 3:08 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 2003 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Private burial will be in the VA National Cemetery, Danville. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Moline Evangelical Church, Moline.

Weather



Occasional rain or snow today, changing to flurries tonight. High 42, low 20. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 28, low 16.

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