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Engineering firm may have cost village water plant funding

ROSSVILLE—A difference in timelines between the state, village and the village's engineering firm may have cost Rossville a chance at a \$350,000 grant.

Mayor Terry Prillaman said he received word that is "unofficial but probably true" that the village will not receive the grant to build a new water treatment plant.

The village needs a new plant to lower the amount of arsenic in its water from 50 ppb (parts per billion) to 10 to meet Environmental Protection Agency standards set when Bill Clinton was president.

Prillaman said the village had two strikes against it. First, while officials have applied for an Illinois EPA

loan, it has not yet been agreed upon. Second, Sodemann & Associates engineering firm did not have the treatment plant design ready for the application.

While officials figured on the former, the latter came as a surprise, Prillaman said, adding Sodemann representatives told the village that a "cookie-cutter" plan of another plant would be included with the application.

"We paid them all this money and they dropped the ball," Trustee Tom Gregory asked.

"That's my understanding, but that's not what (Sodemann & Associates) is saying," Prillaman answered.

The village paid the engineering firm about \$12,000 to assist officials with the grant application.

The grant not awarded was more than half the cost of the project, estimated at \$684,000.

Officials now have two options: proceed with the plant without a grant or wait and reapply next year.

In other business, two actions passed by the previous village board have been vetoed by the mayor.

Prillaman said he vetoed action that would have required 30 days advance notice of all ordinance changes and one that mandated using credit scores to determine

See ROSSVILLE on other side

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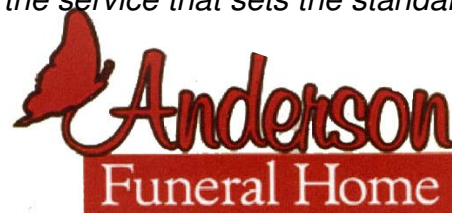
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Fun and Sun

Rossville continued from other side

deposits for new customers of village-supplied natural gas.

Prillaman said the lengthy notice on ordinances was “too restrictive” and difficult to manage and that state law requires 10 days’ notice only in some instances.

Regarding gas deposits, he said credit scores are tools to use but do not always reflect the accuracy of a customer’s credit worthiness. By using a total credit report, village Clerk Chris Pearson will be able to make a better judgment on the amount of deposit needed.

Former trustee Mark Catron, who said he had a hand in drafting the gas resolution, said “there was nothing on the books as a procedure” for gas deposits. “We thought it was a starting point to build on,” he said.

Trustees may, at the June 18 meeting, override Prillaman’s veto by a two-thirds vote.

However, Catron, citing the trustee handbook, said the vote must be only of trustees who were on the board when the original resolution was passed. Only three trustees remain of those who passed the ordinance. They are Gregory, Bunny Tweedy and Dick Queen.

The board also includes three new trustees, Mary Beth Rhodes, elected in April, Charles Cornell, who previously served on the board, and Nancy Null.

In unrelated action, the board:

- Approved a bid from Doc Wallace for a rubber roof at the sewer treatment plant. The bid is for \$3,750 for roofing materials and labor or \$4,650 if the roof needs to be redecked.

- Approved seeking bids on a total patcher to be used for road repairs. The machine is expected to save money on waste for repairs of potholes and cracks in village streets.

- Heard from Linda VanBurk of Rossville Community Organization about a planned informational meeting about methamphetamine and other street drugs. A date for the meeting has not been set.

- Heard from resident Lori Cornelius concerning dog fines. At \$150 for a first offense, Cornelius said Rossville’s fee is the highest in the county.

- Approved a request from the American Legion for a parade at 11 a.m. July 4 and also approved donating

\$300 towards fireworks.

- Legion Auxiliary members will sell poppies at the intersection of Rt. 1 and Attica from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Police News

Andrew W. McKelvey, 20, of 710 E. Wyman was arrested at 12:37 a.m. Tuesday in the 700 block of East Wyman. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 24-year-old Hoopeston woman.

McKelvey was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Matthew J. Baker, 28, of 710 E. Wyman was arrested after an incident at 10:49 p.m. Monday. A 24-

year-old man alleged Baker battered him.

Baker was charged with aggravated battery for that incident and then charged at 11:30 p.m. Monday with resisting arrest, aggravated battery and intimidation.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

Obituaries

DECKER—Randal L. Decker, 53, of Allen, Tex., formerly of Milford, died at noon, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at home. Memorial service was at 10:30 a.m. May 19 at Christ Church in Plano, Tex.

Weather

Partly cloudy today and tonight. High 89, low 63. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 83, low 56.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

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Classifieds

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203 Benton, Rossville. Sat., 8-4. Christmas items, medical equipment, furniture, misc. Multi-family

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