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Trustees discuss redevelopment agreement wording change

ROSSVILLE—Old buildings in the village, both getting repaired and abandoned, were discussed by the Rossville Village Board Monday night.

The board is considering a change in its redevelopment agreements for downtown buildings. The existing

agreement states that buildings not remodeled within 12 months may revert back to the village.

Bob Ray, whose wife, Mary Jo, purchased such a building, said potential buyers of other buildings may

See TRUSTEES on other side



Photo by Carl Ankenbrand

Holiday preparations

Maple kindergarten students Alisyn Watson, Olivia Simonton and Alex Whiteman get in the holiday spirit by making ornaments that will be displayed on a Christmas tree at McDonald's. The students are taught by Carl Ankenbrand.

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Trustees continued from other side

have difficulty getting financing since wording in the agreement gives the village top priority over banks.

After consulting with the village attorney and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) consultant, Mayor Terry Prillaman told the board the village has three options to amend the agreement: declare the clause null and void if remodeling is nearly complete after 12 months; delete the paragraph; or execute a declaration that the village would be subordinate to a bank.

During discussion, board members agreed that the third option would be best and are now awaiting wording for the amendment before finalizing it.

Prillaman also told the board that an exterior doorway at 116 E. Attica, which is village-owned, has been blocked off, but that carpet and paneling should be removed before the structure is put up for sale. "I've worked the last three Saturdays and I'm not making much of a dent," he told trustees, asking them to think about the problem and contact him with possible solutions.

Prillaman also talked about options for dilapidated buildings, including a former ice cream parlor across the street from village-owned buildings. Prillaman said he has had no luck tracking down the current owner and that 2006 taxes on the building were sold and 2007 taxes remain unpaid.

Under statute, the village can repair the building, then place a lien against it and hope the money will be recouped. "Eventually, it comes right back down on the city's shoulders," he said. "This is a problem. I'm just telling you about it."

In unrelated action, the board unanimously approved a five-year contract with ERH Enterprises to manage the village wastewater treatment plant at a cost of \$72,000 per year.

Bunny Tweedy, water/sewer committee chairwoman, said that while the amount sounds high, ERH pays for power at the plant and lift station, purchases and maintains equipment and supplies and makes sure the plant meets Environmental Protection Agency requirements, along with paying employee salaries at the plant.

Nancy Null, finance committee chairman, said an ERH representative told her one reason the fee was kept at \$72,000 for the entire five years is because he is aware that the village is facing "substantial" infrastruc-

ture work, including work on one of the lift stations.

In other discussion, the board took no action on a suggestion from Trustee Dick Queen that the village enact an ordinance require dog owners to clean up after their pets.

Trustee Tom Gregory said it doesn't make sense for people to clean up biodegradable matter with plastic bags, which are non-biodegradable and that citing violators "would be a complete waste of police time and energy."

Queen admitted Gregory's argument made sense and withdrew the suggestion.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Tweedy that ConAgra expects to have a collection system to treat waste with oil in it within the next 30 to 43 days. Village officials have complained that oil from the plant causes problems with the treatment system.
- Approved a "Red Flag" identity theft ordinance that is mandated for all municipalities providing utility service.
- Approved amending the golf cart ordinance to include gasoline-powered carts.
- Approved a resolution for the annual Rossville Community Organization Christmas parade.
- Heard from Prillaman after the meeting that petitions are available at the village office for candidates for the April election. Tweedy, Queen and Gregory's seats are

Police News



Alan L. Bogard, 34, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 9:19 p.m. Monday in the 400 block of East Honeywell. He was charged with disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 29-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged Bogard blocked her vehicle as she tried to leave a parking lot, then yelled obscenities at her while two children were with her.

Bogard was released on a notice to appear.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 45. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 28. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 39, low 21.

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

up for reelection, as the mayor and clerk positions. Petitions will be filed in January 2009.

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