

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF HENRY)
VILLAGE OF ORION)

The regular meeting of the President and Board of Trustees was held at 7:30 p.m., November 18, 2013, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Absent: None.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 4, 2013. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$49,809.57, Recycle Collections-\$1,957.75, Water O&M-\$15,542.37, Water Depr.-\$1,914.65, Sewer O&M-\$27,112.64, Motor Fuel Tax-\$1,986.62, and Fines-\$70.80. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Tom Engelmann was present to discuss the FY2013 audit he prepared for the village. He said the only caution in his letter to the board concerned a lack of segregation of duties for administrative employees. Mr. Engelmann said the issue is a constant one for communities with a small workforce and appropriate oversight must be maintained by the board. He complimented the board on its conservative nature and ability to accumulate adequate reserve funds for emergencies. President Cooper thanked Clerk Sampson and the Finance Committee for their efforts to keep costs under control. He also thanked Mr. Engelmann for his services.

The board was reminded that a Christmas tree will be erected in the Central Park Band Shell at 2 p.m., Sunday, November 24th. Volunteers are needed.

Trustee O'Leary said MidAmerican Energy Co. changed its opinion on who would be responsible for costs related to moving utility poles in order for sewer repairs to be performed. The poles are placed directly above the sewer main in need of repair and despite previous assurances that MAE would foot the bill to move the poles, the village has learned it will have to withstand the cost. The sewer department will get together with village attorney John Ames and Trustee Newman and call MAE to settle the matter.

Street Supt. Neil Dahl said signs directing visitors to the schools were erected last week. Additionally, he performed work on the street sweeper and was readying the plows and trucks for winter use. A storm drain on 11th Avenue will be repaired as soon as it can be coordinated with the phone company, since fiber optics is laid in the same area. Supt. Dahl had also been assisting with maintenance at the sewer plant.

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Trustee Mitton asked that the band shell stage extensions be moved this week and stored inside for the winter.

Trustee Peterson reported bathrooms were winterized and closed for the season.

A basement window will be installed soon at Village Hall and the generator was serviced.

Trustee Newman said the annual Cops & Kids program is December 2nd. He noted considerable savings had been seen in the police budget since eliminating one full-time position months ago. A new budget has been received from the Henry County Sheriff's Dept. and will take effect December 1st.

Complaints were heard about speeding on 12th Avenue east of 13th Street and near the intersection of 13th Street and 14th Avenue A.

President Cooper related the importance of the village spending its money within the village limits, if at all possible. The remark was made after Trustee Drucker asked if new tires for the squad car were purchased in Orion.

The tax levy hearing was set for 7 p.m., December 16, 2013 and the amount to be requested is \$193,155. The requested amount is the same as the past two years.

Trustee Drucker said the Finance Committee was asked to prioritize applications made to the Coulter Trust. Committee members chose to list assistance with paying down the relief main sewer debt as the first priority. Trustee O'Leary said the recent sewer relief main project was expected to come in at only 2% over budget.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to donate \$500 to Main Street Orion for its Saturday with Santa event. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to adopt Ordinance #2013-9, approving a five-year contract with Eagle Enterprises Recycling at a rate of \$3.25 per eligible household per month. It was noted by President Cooper that residents eligible for Henry County's senior property tax freeze are not required to pay the recycle fee. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Eagle Enterprises Recycling will begin delivery of totes this week to all eligible households not currently using the service. Anyone wishing to have the tote removed can

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contact the recycling company. Trustee Drucker encouraged residents to use the program and praised its ease of use as compared to other communities.

President Cooper, Trustee Drucker, and Water Supt. Arnie Sandberg met with the veterinarians seeking to construct a new clinic in order to inform them they could run laterals to the existing water and sewer mains, since they intend to purchase the entire five-acre parcel. The doctors are waiting for an estimate of cost to install those services.

It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Lawson to adopt Ordinance #2013-10, amending Chapter XII of the Municipal Code entitled Animals, which allows large animals to be kept within the village in connection with the operation of a legally established veterinarian facility and further allows for a veterinarian to operate a kennel without obtaining or paying for a kennel license. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was announced that no one applied for the building inspector position. President Cooper said he would talk with a gentleman who picked up an application but failed to submit it.

President Cooper said many residents had used the landscape waste site this fall and were thankful the site was open.

President Cooper talked with an Illinois EPA representative regarding burying ashes left from burning landscape waste. The IEPA rep confirmed ashes could not be buried, as had been reported at the prior board meeting by Street Supt. Neil Dahl.

President Cooper said Golars agreed to remove the barrels they left on 1st Street at the intersection of 11th Avenue. The barrels must be removed by December 2nd.

The board reviewed animal ordinance changes proposed by President Cooper and Trustees Drucker and Mitton. Mrs. Mary Johnson was present at the meeting and objected to allowing dogs to roam free on an owner's property. She said they could run from the property and attack someone. Trustee Mitton said requiring a dog to be leashed on its own property would be too stringent. Other disagreed. It was pointed out that penalties for infractions had been increased and the amendment includes cats, which had never before been regulated. The proposed ordinance limits cats and dogs to two each, though Trustee Drucker thought the review group had agreed upon three each. Trustee Drucker objected to the last sentence in Section 13B, tagging dogs previously kept for fighting as vicious. The board was asked to review the proposal further and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

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Clerk Sampson said she had been trying since September 2012 to get the Henry County Administrator to ask the Henry County Board to reappoint Orion Sanitary District board members. At that time, two members' terms had expired; now, all members' terms have expired. The administrator refused to take action because she could not find any evidence of the taxing body being legitimately created, even though village minutes had record of the referendum vote and the district provided minutes of its meetings, beginning in 1958. The district sold bonds in 1958 to help finance the village sewer system and levied taxes for 20 years to repay the bond issue. Despite Clerk Sampson's efforts to convince the administrator, she said she could not recommend that the board make appointments until a creation record was found. Since the village is the sole beneficiary of the sanitary district's funds, Attorney Ames was asked to pursue the issue.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to adjourn. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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