

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., March 19, 2012, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, 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 Lawson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 5, 2012. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$28,809.16, Recycle Collections-\$1,880.48, Water O&M-\$7,608.48, Sewer O&M-\$7,268.22, Sewer Cap. Impr.-\$2,149.93, Motor Fuel Tax-\$1,589.32, and Fines-\$243.99. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Deb Ford, Director of Main Street Orion, asked the village to include MSO in its FY2013 budget in the amount of \$10,000. She said the contribution would be less than 1% of the village's total budget but 18% of MSO's budget. Ford urged the village to continue the successful partnership in order that important programs can continue to serve the community. Listed were the CIBP, gift certificates, quality of life events, business events, the façade improvement program, Shop Orion First, participation in the purchase of security cameras for Central Park, and a proposed fundraiser for band shell repairs. Ford also told the board MSO received a tourism grant, which paid for printing thousands of rack cards to be distributed throughout northwestern Illinois advertising Orion's attributes. Ford asked that board members consider the positive influence MSO has had on the community.

Mr. Tim Stout, manager at Orion Tool, Die & Machine Co., told the board a few parking problems cropped up on the first day of high school baseball season. Attendees were parking where they should not have been, and Mr. Stout asked the board to consider the installation of additional posts and a cable to guide vehicles to appropriate parking areas. Some vehicles were sticking out into the street, blocking access. Trustee Peterson, Trustee Lawson, and Park Superintendent Arnie Sandberg will meet with Mr. Stout to review the situation. Police officers will also patrol the area during baseball games and warn drivers about parking infractions.

Trustee Newman said he tweaked the plan to install security cameras in Central Park and now plans to eliminate the camera that would focus on the exterior of the restrooms. Also planned for elimination is the wireless bridge; however, that elimination created

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other expense for trenching the wiring. Trustee Newman will proceed with the plan since donations received and/or committed are sufficient to cover costs.

Trustee Newman recommended accepting an offer of volunteer help to recondition the stage floor of the band shell and construct/repair extensions that will not promote rot and can be easily moved with wheels attached. He decided against any permanent extension of the stage floor due to the historic nature of the structure. In addition, he proposed washing the band shell and repainting. Also, Trustee Newman said he would like to construct a separate storage building on the side of the band shell opposite from the restrooms. This would be less expensive than and in lieu of digging out the basement of the band shell. Benches, chairs, and band shell extensions could be stored in the building. Trustee Newman got an estimate of \$25,000 for a block building similar to the restrooms. Engineering fees could be an additional \$3,500. Trustee Newman said he planned to request funding from the Coulter Trust but asked that a portion of the \$65,000 BNSF money be reserved as a contingency. Board members varied in their opinions on an appropriate storage area, such as an inexpensive garage and a trailer that could be moved out of the park after its use. Trustee Lawson was opposed to adding more buildings to Central Park, and Trustee Drucker said he planned to ask the board for its vote to use the \$65,000 for the water tower rehab project. Construction of a building will be decided at a later date.

Trustee Drucker said all budget requests had been submitted and the Finance Committee plans to discuss the requests at a meeting on March 28th at 4 p.m. President Cooper commended the board for being fiscally conservative.

Trustee Peterson thanked Pat Martens for volunteering to assist with digging post holes in Love Park. He also thanked village employees for their participation in the project to designate parking and no parking areas.

MSO Director Ford asked the board for permission to move forward with the Love Locks fundraiser in Central Park. Participants would buy a padlock and lock it on the backstop as a sign of everlasting love. Funds derived from the event would be donated toward the band shell rehab. It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Drucker to allow Main Street Orion to proceed with the Love Locks program. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee O'Leary said the IEPA permit has been received for the sewer relief main project. Village attorney John Ames said the board could borrow funds from BankORION for the sewer project but in order to avoid using another financial vehicle such as debt certificates or bonds, the loan would be limited to 10 years. The Orion

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Sanitary District was willing to provide some funding during the life of the loan but would not commit to an annual dollar amount. Trustee O'Leary said the project cost has increased from \$350,000 to \$400,000 and he will be applying to the Coulter Trust for partial funding. Additionally, a Missman engineer is reviewing the pumping capacity at the plant in the event another pump will be required for additional flow after installation of the relief main.

Trustee O'Leary said a letter from Senator Mike Jacobs seemed to imply that Capital funding might still be available and if it is, Orion might be in line to receive funds for the sewer project. President Cooper said Senator Jacobs declined to meet with the board due to scheduling conflicts but indicated he was searching for an avenue for funding the project. He noted that Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity staff had approached the village about CDAP funding, yet the village had declined that avenue. President Cooper said the CDAP route would require Orion meet 51% LMI guidelines, and Orion is currently at 23.2%. Trustee Stiles said he understood that staff would come to Orion and perform a more extensive survey, free of charge, which could raise the LMI level to meet the requirement. President Cooper and others were skeptical that the outcome would be such a drastic difference but asked Trustee Stiles to gather more information about the specialized survey and report back at the next meeting. Trustee Drucker pointed out, even if the village qualified based on a new survey, this would only put Orion in the pool with many other qualifiers and not guarantee funding.

Mr. Mike McCaw from Missman, Inc. addressed the board on the issue of the proposed streetscape. He said new policies requiring a cross slope of not more than 5% have forced costs to increase considerably. This is in relation to crossing from one side of 11th Avenue to the other at the intersection near 5th Street. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that a swath of street be lowered to allow adequate crossing at crosswalks. An attempt to delete that portion from the streetscape plan was met with an unclear answer. Crosswalks at other intersections also required revisions to meet ADA regulations. To date, the village has spent around \$25,000 on engineering fees for the streetscape project. The ITEP grant award is \$174,840 and the village's share of funding, due to new and expanding requirements, has risen from \$90,000 to \$160,255. Mr. McCaw said ITEP grants have sometimes become more trouble for municipalities than they are worth and have increased expenses to a dollar for dollar match in what began as part 80-20 and part 50-50 match. The board will discuss the issue at the Finance Committee meeting.

Trustee Drucker asked the board to allocate the \$65,000 in BNSF revenue for rehab of the east water tower. He said \$193,000 is available in water department funding and the use of BNSF funds would allow the project to be completed without a water rate increase.

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If started soon, the rehab could be completed by October of this year. Trustee Drucker said, if granted the BNSF funds, he would cease asking the Coulter Trust for funds, thereby potentially freeing up money for other municipal requests. In light of the fact that the village will have to secure a loan for the sewer relief main, Trustee Drucker said he didn't want to add an increase in the water rate at the same time. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Stiles to allocate \$65,000 in BNSF revenue to the east water tower rehab project. Prior to a vote, Trustee Lawson objected to giving what he saw as street funds to the water department. He said he might favor giving a portion but not all of the funds and went on to say the sewer project was more important than rehabbing the tower. Trustee O'Leary had no objections to the funding solution, but Trustee Newman asked the water department to better prepare for the next large project by saving funds in advance. Trustee Drucker assured the board that money is reserved annually but sometimes emergencies reduce set aside funds. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: Lawson. Absent: None.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Stiles to adopt Ordinance #2012-1, approving a franchise contract with MCC Illinois LLC (Mediacom). Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

The board set dates to open the landscape waste site of March 24 & 31, April 14 & 28, May 5 & 19, from 8-10 a.m., and April 2 & 16 and May 7 & 21, from 1-3 p.m. A request to be open additional days was denied due to the fact the village is depending on volunteers to man the site. If rain cancels an excessive amount of the open dates, the board may consider adding more dates.

President Cooper said he had requests to ban landscape waste burning in Orion. The suggestion drew criticism from the board; however, they did remind residents that no burning of grass is allowed. In the case of an infraction, police should be notified.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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