

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 7:00 p.m., February 4, 2019 at Village Hall, 1202 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, 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 Hancock to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 21, 2019. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to approve a Pre-Annexation Agreement with Cadorath Realty Illinois, LLC, 1600 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Orion, annexing 8.78 acres of land to be zoned Industrial. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Mitton to approve a Petition for Annexation and Ordinance #2019-1, annexing 8.78 acres of land zoned Industrial, subject to certification of the title and an assigned plat. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Pastor Dave Schultz, Main Street Orion board member, presented a request for \$10,000 in funding from the village's FY 2020 budget. He provided the past year's revenue and expenditures along with a current budget, events held, and how the organization has continued beautification efforts in the community and supported local businesses. Upon request, Pastor Schultz provided balance sheet numbers. The gift certificate program and reduced-interest loan program continue. Trustee Drucker requested numbers for business, family, and individual memberships for the current year as compared to the prior year. He noted those living outside village limits participate in MSO events and should be encouraged to become members. Trustee Lawson questioned costs of office rent, supplies, the annual meeting, and director's salary. He also pressed for financial statements to be available on MSO's website along with minutes. Trustee Mitton felt the director's salary was high at \$16,000 for 1,040 hours per year, but Trustee Drucker disagreed. Discussion ensued about MSO's membership with the National Main Street program. Illinois Main Street membership was voted down by MSO's board due to a required fee of \$2,000, the same as all other Illinois communities no matter the population. The village board lauded MSO for that decision. A question arose about whether or not National Main Street requires financial participation by the local government. The board will review MSO's request for inclusion in its upcoming budget at a later date.

President Cooper told Mr. Andy Wilton, who was present for the Cadorath (Uniflyte) annexation, that a Henry County group of municipalities, including Orion, was successful in

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The minutes of February 4, 2019 continued:

gaining an Enterprise Zone. The EZ allows for tax incentives that might be applicable to future expansion of the Uniflyte facility.

President Cooper said the public works department did a great job keeping streets clean during the heavy winter storms and record-setting cold weather. Others in attendance in the audience agreed.

Trustee Hancock said a representative of Moxie Solar will attend the next board meeting to provide money-saving options for the sewer plant's energy needs. Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg will be in attendance as well.

Though severe cold weather can present issues at the sewer plant, the plant was noted to have withstood the extreme temperatures last month.

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, increased pumping of water was recorded at the pump house. This indicated a leak. The leak turned out to be from a water lateral feeding C. R. Hanna Grade School. The leak was repaired last Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Water Supt. Arnie Sandberg is monitoring heat levels in water buildings.

The water supt.'s pickup truck was repaired, but the repairs were not covered under the warranty.

President Cooper traveled to Springfield in poor weather conditions to present Orion's request for an OSLAD grant. Any municipality eligible but not sending a representative was dismissed from a chance at receiving a grant, no matter the weather conditions statewide. A letter was received today announcing Orion's success at being approved for a \$34,300 grant. The funds will be used to help purchase land adjacent to Love Park. The purchase will allow for more parking, the continuation of a youth football practice field, and the extension of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue into the park. President Cooper said the village could not have completed the grant application without the assistance of Bi-State Regional Commission employees.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve funding for Orion After Prom in the amount of \$250, of which \$125 will be provided in cash and the remainder in five \$25 Main Street Orion gift certificates. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

The Finance Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 4 p.m. at Village Hall.

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Trustee Newman noted a few weather-related accidents had occurred, but police issues had otherwise been minimal.

President Cooper asked Trustee Mitton to participate in the development of land to be purchased adjacent to Love Park, upon the upcoming retirement of Trustee Peterson from the board.

President Cooper discussed with the board the outcome of the village's case against Patti Hardi. He addressed negative comments made by Mr. Mike Larson about him after the hearing and the editorial in The Dispatch newspaper. President Cooper objected to the personal attacks and said he doesn't have a vote, only the board can vote to proceed with action. He also objected to problems Mr. Larson said the village should attend to such as theft and sewer issues. An incident of theft from several vehicles in December was solved by surrounding police departments, and no sewer issues exist. President Cooper said the board was trying to enforce its ordinance by making Ms. Hardi comply with the regulation of keeping no more than three cats. He also objected to a statement attributed to him that implied he wanted all cats picked up by Hardi, the village's former animal control officer, to be euthanized within five days. President Cooper said animals were to be removed from the village within five days and taken to Henry County Animal Control in Cambridge. Village attorney John Ames offered to appeal the loss of the village's case against Hardi and Larson pro-bono.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to enter executive session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss probable litigation. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:23 p.m.

It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Lawson to give Ames Law the authority and direction to appeal the Henry County Circuit Court's decision in favor of Ms. Patti Hardi and Mr. Mike Larson. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

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

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk