

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 18, 2019 at Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Absent: Mitton.

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

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 4, 2019. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Mitton.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$32,038.93, Recycle-\$2,052.80, Water O&M-\$4,650.47, Sewer O&M-\$7,860.72, and Sewer Depr.-\$415.00. Prior to a vote Trustee Drucker questioned a bill for repair of the 2018 sewer truck. Trustee Hancock said it was an accident between village vehicles that scratched the hood of the truck. It was repaired at Ward's Body Shop. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Mitton.

The budget for overtime and the availability of road salt were discussed. Salt is in short supply due to the amount of snowfall and cold weather this winter. Street Supt. Neil Dahl purchased an alternative product while waiting for an order of salt that should have been delivered a week ago.

Trustee Hancock discussed recent flow at the sewer plant, then introduced Mr. Julian Vandervelde, Market President of the Quad Cities for Moxie Solar. Mr. Vandervelde said the company is one of the largest installers of solar arrays in the Midwest. He said Illinois has the best incentives in the nation, drawing solar companies far and wide. Mr. Vandervelde touted Moxie Solar's Midwest roots and its quality work. Three proposals were offered: A solar array purchase, a 15-year solar power purchase agreement, and a 30-year solar lease. The first option would allow the village to purchase the equipment and reap the highest savings. In the second option an investor would purchase the solar equipment, sharing the energy savings with the village at a reduced amount, and with the third option an investor would still be involved but for a longer period of time, reducing the energy savings for the village even further than with option two. Option three's 30-year lease would allow for the equipment to be gifted to the village at the end of the lease and the village would incur no out-of-pocket expense. Moxie Solar would be involved in finding investors for any option except the outright purchase of the solar array. In that option the village would purchase the equipment for a cost of about \$565,000 but get rebates of \$415,000 from the state and save approximately \$35,000 per year in energy costs. The payback period was estimated at six years. The sewer plant is currently billed about \$36,000 by MidAmerican Energy on an annual basis.

Trustee Mitton arrived at 7:18 p.m.

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The minutes of February 18, 2019 continued:

Discussion continued on the solar energy proposal. Solar equipment is tied into the electric grid and any power generated would be used first to power the sewer plant, with leftover energy sold to MAE. The village could then pull from its MAE bank when the plant needs more power than it's producing. Mr. Vandervelde said Moxie Solar installs and maintains the solar equipment and sometimes invests. The company has crews in North Liberty, Iowa and Dixon, Illinois. President Cooper said it would take some conversation among the village board before a decision is made.

Trustee Drucker reminded residents to complete and return the Cross-Connection Control survey sent directly to each property owner earlier in the month. The Illinois EPA will make a visit next month and expects 100% compliance.

Budgets are due to the village clerk by March 15th. Trustee Newman reported FY 2019 third quarter revenue and expenditure reports looked good.

Trustee Newman said police activity has been relatively quiet. Officers have responded to weather-related accidents as necessary.

President Cooper reiterated his distaste for the editorial in the Dispatch newspaper regarding the Hardi/Larson cat issue. He said break-ins to automobiles had been solved and sewer backup issues were resolved once relief mains were installed.

Trustee Mitton said he, Clerk Sampson, and the building inspector, Bart Sampson, looked at the building at 1000 4th Street, owned by Mr. Tom Peterson, as another option for a village hall.

President Cooper said the Orion Fall Festival will add ten new events this year and some will require the closure of certain streets. To be added are a three-point shooting contest, food trucks, and a bags tournament among others. The bags tournament is planned to be held on 12th Avenue between 4th & 5th Streets and require a one-day liquor license. Street closings and liquor licenses will be requested at a later date.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk