

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., April 15, 2019 at Village Hall, 1202 4th 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 Peterson to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 1, 2019. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$28,851.89, Recycle-\$1,710.33, Water O&M-\$1,621.57, Water Cap. Impr.-\$2,837.34, Sewer O&M-\$4,353.30, Sewer Depr.-\$1,348.00, Sewer Surplus-\$40.00, Band Shell Preserv.-\$260.00, and Fines-\$190.55. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve the FY 2020 meeting dates of May 6 & 20, 2019, June 3 & 17, 2019, July 1 & 15, 2019, August 5 & 19, 2019, September 4* & 16, 2019, October 7 & 21, 2019, November 4 & 18, 2019, December 2 & 16, 2019, January 6 & 20, 2020, February 3 & 17, 2020, March 2 & 16, 2020, and April 6 & 20, 2020. *Wednesday. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Street Supt. Neil Dahl looked at a used street sweeper in St. Louis, MO and determined it to be mechanically sound. A replacement is needed for the village's existing sweeper. It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to approve the purchase of the used street sweeper at a cost of \$10,800, including transportation of the equipment from its current location to Orion. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Street Supt. Dahl said curb was installed on 13th Avenue, near 1st Street. Sidewalk repairs were also made and some streets have been swept.

Trustee Hancock reported March limits had been met at the sewer plant. The sewer superintendent met again with Tri-City Electric about solar energy. Another meeting will be scheduled in May.

In regard to the anticipated change in reducing contamination in the soil at the Golars investigation site, President Cooper contacted Bruce Anderson about use of his family's lot adjacent to Orion Mart. The lot would be used to place a generator. In exchange for use of the

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property President Cooper offered that the village might take care of mowing the lot. The Anderson family is considering the request.

Trustee Drucker said the Water Department is running smoothly and there are no signs of water main breaks.

The Love Park shelter floor will be removed and replaced with new concrete. The project should be completed this week, according to Trustee Peterson.

Trustee Lawson thought the village board had previously agreed to pay for the cost of siding on the crow's nest in Love Park. The cost is \$1,754.76. He recommended the village pay the bill. It was noted the contractor donated his labor and gave a 50% discount on materials. It was moved by Lawson to pay Iside Construction, Inc., of Bettendorf, IA, \$1,754.76 for siding the crow's nest. The motion died for lack of a second.

Further discussion ensued on siding for the crow's nest. Trustee Mitton objected to being presented with a bill and expecting payment without prior approval. Trustee Drucker said someone other than a village official made a commitment obligating the village for work done in its park. Trustee Lawson said if the bill wasn't paid no one would volunteer services again. It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Hancock to pay one-half the cost of the \$1,754.76 bill presented to the village, but Trustee Drucker argued that the customer listed on the invoice was someone other than the village. President Cooper said he was instrumental in seeing that the crow's nest was completed, and most of the funds were donated by the Smolenski family and others. He urged the board to pay the bill. Trustee Mitton said other sports clubs involved with the school have had to pay for parts of their supplies and equipment and this should be no different. He also noted a fundraising benefit just raised thousands of dollars and Orion High School baseball could certainly afford to pay for part of the siding improvement. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Newman, Mitton, and Hancock. Noes: Peterson, Lawson, and Drucker. There being a tie, President Cooper voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Trustee Newman asked runners, walkers, and bicyclists to use caution when using the roadway.

Flashing crosswalk signs for school zones were briefly discussed. The school board will be asked to share in the cost of two signs.

President Cooper has noticed teens driving while talking on cellphones, which is especially apparent when school lets out. Police should be cognizant of the violation.

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Trustee Mitton said his department will need an additional \$400-\$600 in the FY 2020 budget for floor painting in the band shell. Additionally, he discussed with the board the possibility of purchasing the former Peterson Frame & Alignment building to use as a village hall. He said there were some items that would require inspection. Trustee Mitton will contact Mr. Tom Peterson to arrange a tour for the board.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Lawson to approve a Proclamation recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Municipal Clerk's Week, May 5-11, 2019. President Cooper thanked the clerk for her 43 years of service to the community.

The Finance Committee set the next meeting date for May 15, 2019 at 4 p.m. at the village hall. Trustee Drucker asked that any recommendations for changes to the FY 2020 Proposed Budget be done via motions, one line-item at a time. It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Newman to add \$500 to the Band Shell Preservation Fund building maintenance line item. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Pastor Dave Schultz, a Main Street Orion board member, asked that full funding of \$10,000 for the organization be kept in the village's FY 2020 budget. He played a video of events involving MSO. Trustee Drucker thanked Executive Director Candice Schultz for putting together an informative packet of information for the board. Trustee Mitton said MSO has the village board's support and he felt the executive director deserved to be paid, but a letter in the packet given to the board was in poor taste and offensive. He noted MSO should become self-supporting. There was discussion about MSO's cash balance at the end of its calendar year and the fact the organization got by with less than full funding from the village in prior years. Trustee Mitton objected to giving full funding if the group ended the year with a surplus. ED Schultz said funds left at the end of the year were committed to MSO's façade program and not a surplus. She also said the group carries a contingency in the event funding runs short, just as the village does. There was further discussion about other organizations in Orion that don't ask for funds, however, those organizations are charitable. MSO, on the other hand, works to better the community by providing events, improving the downtown, and promoting businesses. It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Lawson to reduce Main Street Orion funding from \$10,000 to \$6,000 in the FY 2020 budget. Prior to a vote Trustee Lawson complained about receiving only four sets of MSO board minutes and income and expense reports for 2018. ED Schultz said due to the lack of a quorum – an issue beyond her control - a reduced number of official meetings were able to be held, and due to health issues of a board member, financial reports were slim. However, it was pointed out that a year-end revenue/expenditure report was included in village board packets supplied by MSO. Mrs. Mary Bizarri, an MSO business member, asked the board to fully fund the group. She said funding should really be \$20,000, not \$10,000. She expressed

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surprise by the anger and negativity displayed by Trustees Lawson and Mitton. Trustee Lawson said he was looking out for the village's tax dollars and expected monthly financial reports from MSO. Trustee Drucker said the board had abrogated its responsibility by not requiring participation on the MSO board. He blamed himself as well as the rest of the board. The MSO board was always meant to consist of at least one village board member. In this way, information can be communicated from one group to the other. Village board interest fell by the wayside after a number of years. Mrs. Janet Marshall, a member of MSO since its inception 20 years ago, said the group has always followed the rules and its sponsored events are well attended and appreciated by the community. During a back-and-forth exchange between Trustee Lawson, ED Schultz, and the audience of MSO supporters, Trustee Lawson, at 7:45 p.m., left the building under threat of quitting the village board. Discussion continued. Pastor Schultz told the board that MSO cash accounts look flush at the beginning of the year since that is when most membership dues are received, including the village's contribution of \$10,000. He also repeated that money is on hold and will soon be distributed for several business façade grants. Pastor Schultz addressed the differences between MSO and the charitable missions of Orion Lions Club and Orion Fall Festival. He said it is against the law to hire an employee, then require that person to volunteer an extra 20 hours, though he noted the ED does put in many volunteer hours upon her own volition. Pastor Schultz said it is his fourth year attending the village meeting where funds are requested and each year the requirements for information changes. Last year, MSO was asked to provide an annual financial report and when that was provided the request changed to monthly reports. Pastor Schultz also addressed the myth that MSO was to become self-supporting after three years. He said the village was required to commit to the first three years of funding in order to be accepted into the Illinois Main Street program. Thereafter, the village was to consider one-year commitments. The board was reminded funding was set at \$10,000 when the program began 20 years ago and with inflation should be at \$15,000 today. Alluding to the importance of MSO, Pastor Schultz noted it heads five Orion Fall Festival events in addition to many other annual events. He also noted MSO doesn't want to compete with other organizations for the same money, as businesses and residents have limited dollars and are hard-pressed to fund everything. Pastor Schultz said ED Schultz was pushed to her limit by some in opposition of MSO's funding. Mrs. Jean Combites said she wished her children would have had the benefit of an MSO program while growing up in the community in the 1980s. She said the program deserves respect. Trustee Mitton said he now had a better understanding of MSO and amended his motion to provide full funding of Main Street Orion at \$10,000 in the FY 2020 budget. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to adopt the FY 2020 budget in the amount of \$1,775,362. Prior to the vote Mrs. Bizzari asked if the village board could vote to keep the

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funding level for MSO at \$10,000 annually. President Cooper said it couldn't, due to possible future budget constraints. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk