

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., December 2, 2013, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Lawson. Absent: Drucker.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted Trustee Drucker was absent due to an illness.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 18, 2013. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

President Cooper thanked Mr. Ron Thompson for getting a Christmas tree for the band shell in Central Park. He thanked all who helped erect and decorate the tree and also village employees who put out Christmas decorations in the park, on light poles, and at the welcome signs near Rt. 150.

Trustee O'Leary said sewer repairs planned between 7th and 8th Streets in the 1400 block will be delayed until next year. MidAmerican Energy contends the village would have to pay to move utility poles placed directly over the sewer main, since the poles are on a private easement in lieu of a public right-of-way. The cost to move only two poles is estimated at \$15,000. The board objected to the cost and asked village attorney John Ames to have additional conversation with the MAE official in charge. The board discussed moving forward with obtaining permanent easements in the block but decided to wait until Attorney Ames talked with MAE and the Finance Committee could provide input.

Trustee O'Leary said the sewer plant generator is scheduled for repair December 9th.

President Cooper reported drums of liquid were removed from 1st Street near the 11th Avenue intersection by Golars, the company investigating the gas vapor issue. Golars is also processing a request by the village to pay for electric utility bills and fans used to vent the sewer mains.

Landscape waste deposited by residents was burned down, as reported by Trustee Lawson. The landscape waste site is now closed for the winter season.

Street Supt. Neil Dahl told the board he would have to haul broken concrete to Colona in the future, since the disposal site formerly used by the village is no longer available.

At Trustee Drucker's request, President Cooper asked the board to reconsider the requirement for public works employees to attend board meetings. Discussion ensued,

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but despite Drucker's wish to suspend the requirement, unless an urgent topic demanded their attendance, board members agreed employees should be required to attend the first meeting of each month. Trustee Newman was opposed to required attendance, referring to it as a waste of money. Employees are being paid overtime to attend.

Trustee Mitton said a defective basement window was replaced at Village Hall. He thanked President Cooper and Trustee Peterson for helping with the Christmas tree project in Central Park.

Trustee Newman said the police department had been informed about speeding drivers in the two problem areas previously discussed. He also noted tires for the squad car were purchased in Orion.

An attorney for the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board has taken issue with the way the village hires and pays part-time police officers. An ordinance pertaining to part-time officers was adopted two years ago, but the attorney said the ordinance was not sufficient. President Cooper and Clerk Sampson both talked with the attorney about the issue without satisfaction. Attorney Ames will contact the ILETSB attorney and try to resolve the issue.

One of the full-time deputies had his work schedule changed in order to provide more coverage on Saturdays, according to Trustee Newman. Discussion was held about the double yellow lines on 4th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues. Clerk Sampson reminded the board that Deputy Joe Femali learned that driving across the lines to park on the opposite side is not illegal.

The Finance Committee meeting was set for 4 p.m., December 11th at Village Hall. It was noted that the tax levy hearing would be held at 7 p.m., December 16th.

Mr. Don Goembel addressed the board about loose dogs in his neighborhood. He said one dog broke its chain and chased his wife into the house on April 1st. Mr. Goembel showed the board photos of the dog and claimed the dog's owners failed to abide by village regulations. He suggested the board not concentrate on legislating the number of animals owned by residents - referring to the board's proposed animal control amendments - but instead focus on making sure owners control their animals. Mr. Goembel said he and his wife have had a contentious relationship with their neighbors as a result of their dogs. President Cooper encouraged people to report all dog incidents to the police and be willing to sign a complaint. Mrs. Mary Johnson was present and asked the board to reconsider a requirement to have all dogs leashed, fenced, or otherwise confined while on its owner's property. Currently, the ordinance is only violated if the

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dog is unleashed or uncontrolled while off its owner's property. The board hesitated to require leashing dogs on an owner's property if the owner was present. Clerk Sampson questioned the ticketing procedure outlined in the proposed amendment and also the suggestion that dog bites be reported to someone (the clerk and animal control office) other than the police. President Cooper said he needed to meet with Attorney Ames to discuss those issues. The board urged Attorney Ames to have the ordinance ready for adoption at the next meeting.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Mitton to adopt Ordinance #2013-11, eliminating the 2-hour parking regulation on the east side of 4th Street in the 1000 block. Prior to a vote it was noted that emphasis should be placed on vehicles violating the street storage regulations. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Mitton to enter executive session at 8:42 p.m. to discuss applications for the position of building inspector and employee Christmas bonuses. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:58 p.m.

It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Mitton to set the annual salary for the building inspector at \$4,000 and offer the position to Mr. Bill Pettifer. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to provide Christmas bonuses in the amount of \$1,250 for four full-time employees; \$500 for the deputy clerk/treasurer; Main Street Orion gift certificates in the amounts of \$100 for inspectors and the meter reader, \$50 for full-time deputies, \$20 for part-time deputies; and Factory Restaurant gift certificates in the amount of \$50 for the president, board, and attorney. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

A Christmas dinner will be held at The Factory Restaurant for village employees and board members. President Cooper will check on available dates.

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

Lori A. Sampson, Village Clerk

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