

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

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted Trustee Newman was absent due to work responsibilities.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 21, 2013. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Newman.

Dr. Stacia Belda and Dr. Becky Polage addressed the board about proposed plans to purchase five acres of land south of the car wash for a haul-in veterinarian facility. The facility would add service for large farm animals such as horses, cattle, and swine. Now, the animals must be cared for in unsanitary field conditions. Dr. Polage said they would need an outdoor catch pen and small corral, but the animals would be housed indoors while being treated. Animals would be delivered in large trailers, necessitating adequate room for the vehicles to maneuver. The doctors also plan to add grooming and boarding services in the future. Belda and Polage serve clients in western Henry County and Mercer and Rock Island counties. The two doctors plan to add grooming and boarding services in the future. Dr. Polage said expansion plans would require changing two part-time positions to full-time and possibly adding another part-time employee or two. Trustees felt the proposed plan would benefit Orion and vowed to work with the doctors to get affordable water and sewer services to the parcel. A rough estimate by the village engineering firm totaled nearly \$100,000. That figure included extension of services to and across the parcel. Belda and Polage are currently leasing the building in which they practice but would like to be in a new facility by spring 2014. They recently purchased the veterinary business from Dr. Gary Kampmann. Several clients of the doctors were present expressing their desire for the business to remain in the community. The board agreed to investigate all water and sewer connection options, including seeking grant funds, and ensure zoning is appropriate for the use. Kathleen Repass, Henry County Economic Development Director, said she would make contacts on Orion's behalf and also told the doctors about the Rural Revolving Loan Fund available to businesses in Henry County.

Ms. Repass told the board she needs to identify 75-80 businesses willing to do interviews with her in order to fulfill grant obligations. The interviews are a three-year process and Ms. Repass is interested in manufacturing and agri-business. She asked that Orion officials provide suggestions of those who might participate. She is also working to promote entrepreneurship in high schools. The program requires participating students to

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write a business plan and start a business. Ms. Repass needs 25 businesses to pledge \$1,000 per year for three years to fund the program.

Trustee O'Leary met with MidAmerican Energy Co. about moving power poles to allow for sewer main repairs west of 8th Street between 14th & 15th Avenues. He was not certain the project would be completed this year. In other sewer business, the board learned the punch list for the sewer relief main project has not been completed. Only a couple of minor issues remain and Trustee O'Leary hoped they would be rectified by winter.

Trustee O'Leary said an issue of rock in the yard at the southeast corner of 6th Street A and 14th Avenue should be rectified next year after the street is improved. President Cooper said he met with two of the parties involved in the illegal sewer connections on 13th Street and will talk to the third party about compliance. It was noted that no communication had been received from the IEPA or Golars about the status of the sewer gasoline vapor investigation. Full drums continue to sit behind Orion Mart on 1st Street near 11th Avenue.

Street Superintendent Neil Dahl said 220 street signs had arrived and would be installed. He noted the old signs would be given to the Henry County Highway Dept. Supt. Dahl also reviewed a few other items requiring attention.

President Cooper asked that Christmas decorations be erected during nice weather and prior to Thanksgiving.

Trustee Drucker said water main flushing was ongoing and all else was going well in the water department.

Trustee Peterson said a tree was planted in Love Park to replace one previously removed.

Trustee Mitton will order no smoking signs for Love Park and the park supt. will put away band shell extensions for the winter. It was noted a new window for the village hall basement should be installed soon.

Trustee Mitton thanked President Cooper and Trustee Newman for their assistance with sealing the underside of the band shell in Central Park. Items stored under the structure were removed in order to perform the work but soon will be put back by village employees.

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President Cooper said village and Main Street Orion representatives met on-site in Central Park to consider the addition of a storage building.

President Cooper said the village hasn't seen any negative impact from the reduction of three full-time deputies to two. He said Trustee Newman had done a good job of seeing that coverage was still provided through the increased use of part-time deputies.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m., Wednesday, November 13th at Village Hall. The tax levy will be discussed and a recommendation will be forwarded to the board.

Street Supt. Dahl told the board he was unable to bury ashes left over from burning at the landscape waste site. He contacted the Illinois EPA and was told it was in violation of regulations. President Cooper asked for the IEPA's contact name and phone number.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to advise and consent to President Cooper's appointment of Ron Saunders to the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Newman.

President Cooper read a thank you note from village attorney John Ames expressing his gratitude to all who recognized him for his service to the community.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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