

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., October 21, 2013, at the Village Hall, 1202 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Absent: None.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked Trustee Drucker for conducting the October 7th meeting in his absence.

It was moved by Lawson seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 7, 2013. Prior to the vote Trustee Newman thanked President Cooper and Trustee Peterson for their work on the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Ms. Stephanie Ames awarded her father and village attorney, John Ames, with a plaque on behalf of her and her siblings. Shirly Ames, Attorney Ames' wife, presented her husband with a card and flower and in addition, President Cooper awarded Attorney Ames with a plaque for his dedication and service to the village board and the Orion community over the past 50 years. President Cooper said the board would be forever grateful for Ames' leadership. Attorney Ames said he was fortunate that past and present mayors and board members treated each other with respect and avoided the animosity plaguing so many other communities. He said the village operated in the way a true democratic organization should. Attorney Ames also thanked past and current staff, some of whom were present.

Kathleen Repass from the Henry County Economic Development Partnership was unable to attend the meeting and will reschedule.

President Cooper said Destiny Carnahan informed the village clerk that she was not going to disconnect her illegal sewer connection due to the loss of her job and limited financial resources. She further said she was putting her house up for sale and would provide funds from the sale of the home to the new owner so they could follow through with the sewer connection mandate. Yet, when Ms. Carnahan later told the village clerk she could not attend the board meeting, her reason for not attending was because she had to work. When questioned about the prior statement that she lost her job she admitted her hours had only been reduced. President Cooper said all three parties were given a final deadline of November 1, 2013 after previously being granted several extensions. None of the parties have rectified their illegal connections as of yet. President Cooper asked the board's permission to take legal action against the parties. Trustee Lawson wanted to wait and hear the reasoning of those involved before proceeding. Trustee Drucker objected to waiting since extensions had already been granted and the party who sold the home to Ms. Carnahan gave her financial consideration due to the sewer issue. Trustee

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O'Leary agreed the board should move forward. President Cooper reminded the board the village had paid for an easement and legal fees to allow two parties access to the sewer main. The village went out of its way to assist in the matter. Attorney Ames said legal action could be taken in order to force the parties to comply. It was also suggested that the Carnahan sewer might benefit from running the lateral south instead of north under the street. An additional easement would need to be obtained but the option would most likely be a better financial outcome for all parties. The board agreed to allow Attorney Ames to check into obtaining an additional easement and the legal procedure to force compliance.

Mr. Ron Thompson said a Christmas tree will be erected and decorated in the Central Park Band Shell at 2:00 p.m., November 24<sup>th</sup>. He asked that volunteers be on hand to assist.

Trustee O'Leary told the board he hoped the sewer main repair between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets would be completed this construction season. Missman, Inc. will need to mark easements before MidAmerican Energy Co. will move utility poles.

There has been no word on the progress of the punch list for the sewer relief main, but Trustee O'Leary said there should only be a couple of items left to address. He also noted there had been an issue over the weekend with steam rising from the open manhole on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The sewer main, which has been vented with a fan for almost three years due to gasoline vapor, had a blockage. The main was jetted to clear the blockage and alleviate sewer smell. In regard to the gasoline vapor issue at the same location, additional charges for fan purchases and electrical use will be forwarded to the Illinois EPA for reimbursement. Metal barrels left behind the Orion Mart building at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue by Golars, the environmental company investigating the gasoline vapor issue, should be removed. President Cooper will contact Golars.

Trustee Lawson said the street supt. burned the mountain of landscape debris accumulated from the June 24<sup>th</sup> windstorm. The site is now ready to open for fall waste collection. Open hours will be held each Saturday and on select Mondays.

Landscape waste discussion ensued. Questions arose about the length of time it took employees to burn waste. It was noted that the employees were told to rectify the problem on several occasions before it was finally done. Residents suffered as a result by not having a place to take their debris. Trustee Lawson said the village board would have to be more concise about directions in the future. Trustee Mitton said employees should be made aware there are certain jobs that all departments should share. Trustee Drucker said if the board continued to reward certain behavior it would continue to get the same

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behavior. President Cooper suggested employees be required to attend board meetings. After discussing the benefit the board agreed employees should attend meetings. A minimum of one hour's time will be paid; employee committees will be listed first on the agenda; and employees will be required to contact the President or any trustee to gain an excused absence. Trustee Newman said the alternative to those requirements would be to hire a part-time village administrator to oversee employees. President Cooper agreed that a part-time administrator would have its advantages, but for the immediate future employees will be required to attend board meetings beginning with the first meeting in November.

After discussion about what to do with the ashes left from burning the landscape waste, it was decided the street supt. should bury them on village property in lieu of paying a landfill to dispose of them.

Hydrant flushing is continuing, according to Trustee Drucker.

Trustee Newman announced the tax levy schedule and also said a collection service had been approved for past due utility accounts. The collection service will charge a 50% rate, which is the going rate for an account of such a small nature. The State of Illinois' Local Debt Recovery Program will also be pursued.

Trustee Drucker told the board of the Orion Veterinary Clinic owners' desire to purchase a parcel of land to build a new clinic. Besides the veterinary services, the clinic would house a boarding facility for dogs and a building for large farm animals in the event one would need to be kept overnight for observation or treatment. An outdoor corral would also be necessary for loading and unloading animals. The owners are looking at the parcel south of the car wash along Rt. 150. Water and sewer extensions could be costly, but since the property is in the TIF district some financial consideration could be considered for the owners. Trustee Drucker said he would hate to lose two responsible veterinarians who are a good asset to the community. The building currently being used for the business is now for sale. A new, larger facility would generate property taxes and more employees. Attorney Ames will check into zoning requirements and TIF incentives.

A basement window for the village hall has been ordered and will be installed upon arrival, according to Trustee Mitton. Also, sealing of the underside of the band shell floor will take place when weather is warmer. Pest control for the band shell is being considered. Trustee Mitton said the bid from Iowa-Illinois included more thorough treatment than the alternate bid, though it was also more expensive.

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Trustee Newman said two people, who are also deputies in Colona, have been hired for part-time police coverage in Orion.

Trustee Peterson said a new drinking fountain will be installed in Love Park. A portion of the funds reimbursed to the village by Central Park vandals will be used to purchase the materials.

The board considered the pros and cons of giving builders in the TIF district incentives. Suggested by President Cooper was the incentive of waiving water/sewer connection fees and building permit fees, which would total around \$2,000. Attorney Ames said the value returned in property taxes, based on a structure valued at \$180,000, would be \$2,064 for the first year the property was taxed. In addition, the village would gain more population and more water/sewer-paying customers. President Cooper urged the board to agree to the incentive to spur more activity before the life of the TIF expires. Trustee O'Leary was totally opposed to any incentive. Trustee Lawson was opposed unless the incentive was offered throughout the village. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to waive building permit and water and sewer connection fees for new construction within the current TIF district for a period of five years. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Noes: O'Leary and Lawson. Absent: None.

It was agreed that the village should advertise for a building inspector. The current inspector has agreed to stay in the position until a new person is hired. A salary for the part-time position is yet to be determined.

Trustee Mitton requested that the proposed animal ordinance be wrapped up in the near future. He said the board had been waiting for a draft of the ordinance for quite some time.

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

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk



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