

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., August 19, 2013, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th 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.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 5, 2013. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$57,897.02, Debt Retirement-\$2,179.68, Recycle-\$1,957.75, Water O&M-\$8,497.32, Sewer O&M-\$10,959.68, Sewer Cap. Impr.-\$163,663.92, Motor Fuel Tax-\$800, Band Shell Preservation-\$10,775.98, and Fines-\$49.99. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Courtney Wiedenmann addressed the board about signs to be erected on Rt. 150 and in front of the Orion Middle School. She is in discussion with the Illinois Department of Transportation about the exact design and location. Once IDOT approves the location, the village will purchase and erect the signs, which will direct drivers to the schools and parks. Ms. Wiedenmann will contact President Cooper with the final sign design. The signs were estimated at \$29 each with three to be ordered.

Mr. Jerry Sheldon, Orion Fire District board member, said he would make a formal request at a later date about utilizing some vacant village property for extra parking for the fire department. He said the department's plan is to core out the soil, add fabric and rock, and use for overflow parking. President Cooper asked that documentation be provided to the board in advance of the formal request.

Mr. John Vezzetti from Bernardi Securities said bond interest rates had doubled since discussion began in May to refinance the village's IEPA sewer debt. He recommended the board still adopt the refinancing ordinance in the event rates drop. In that way, there would be no time delay in purchasing the bonds if rates became more attractive. The ordinance would remain in effect for two years from its adoption. It was moved by Newman, seconded by O'Leary to adopt Ordinance #2013-7, authorizing the issuance of: General Obligation Sewerage Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2013, of the Village of Orion, Henry County, Illinois, providing the details of such bonds and for applicable alternate revenue sources and the levy of direct annual taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds, and related matters. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

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Trustee Newman asked Trustees Lawson and Drucker, who were absent at the last board meeting, to review the proposed confidentiality policy and be prepared to discuss it at a later meeting. The policy is necessary due to the addition of security cameras in Central Park.

Trustee Peterson said the Love Park shelter roof has been completed. The concession stand roof will be done next. He also said the water superintendent was working to get the drinking fountain in Central Park repaired prior to the Orion Fall Fest.

President Cooper told the board the juveniles involved in park restroom vandalism were being processed through the juvenile court system. President Cooper recommended to the court that the individuals be required to perform public service, banned from the parks for one year, and pay restitution for damages.

Trustee O'Leary said the decision to lock park restrooms at all times was made hastily and he regretted agreeing to the suggestion. He felt the village had invested considerable money in nice restrooms, which people can no longer use. Trustee O'Leary objected to mothers with young children not being able to use the facilities. Also, he said locked restrooms could lead to more public urination, creating unwanted smells. In addition, he said it wasn't right to require those who use the park for family reunions or other events to be punished by the requirement to clean the bathrooms afterward. Trustee O'Leary said village employees could clean the bathrooms. He also said the actions of a couple of punks should not affect the benefits afforded to the rest of the community. Trustee Drucker agreed that the restrooms should be reopened for daily use. Trustee Peterson, who has cleaned the vandalism and graffiti several times, objected to the opening. He said he would finish cleaning and painting the Love Park restroom but thereafter would no longer assist with the cleaning, if the board decided to reopen the restrooms. Trustee Lawson pointed out the daily use the parks get, including 100 pre-teen girls who practice cheerleading on Sundays in Central Park for a few hours at a time. He and the rest of the board, with the exception of Trustee Peterson, agreed the Central Park restroom should be open for use. The Love Park restroom will be up for discussion after Trustee Peterson finishes cleaning and painting it. The board and President Cooper expressed their thanks to Trustee Peterson for his work maintaining the restrooms. They also told him he was not expected to do the work and he had gone above and beyond his duties as a village trustee.

Trustee O'Leary said antifreeze was found in the oil in the sewer plant's generator in larger quantities than in the past. Cost to repair the generator is estimated at \$5,000. Since the cost was not budgeted, Trustee O'Leary recommended using money generated by processing leachate from Millennium Waste to pay for the repairs. It was moved by

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O'Leary, seconded by Drucker to approve repairs to the generator at an estimated cost of \$5,000. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee O'Leary said the majority of the sewer relief main project had been completed. Most of the construction areas have been graded and seeded and those that haven't are expected to be completed this week. Residents will be notified to water the grass seed, and they will be compensated for water used for that task. President Cooper thanked Trustee O'Leary for his efforts to communicate with residents and dealing with other issues that arose during the course of the project. President Cooper said some extra work was done by the village to satisfy residents along the relief main route.

Trustee Lawson said 14th Avenue B was nearly finished and will await oiling by the Henry County Highway Dept. Fifteenth Avenue will be addressed next. Trustee Lawson said the street department is considering oiling 12th Avenue from 5th Street to Rt. 150 to keep it from deteriorating further. He admitted the oiling from 5th Street to 8th Street on 12th Avenue did not turn out the best but went on to say some type of maintenance needs to be performed on the street. Those oiling the street will try to avoid the washboard effect that occurred on the other stretch of 12th Avenue. Trustee Lawson was unsure if the work planned at the 12th Avenue and 13th Street intersection would fit in the current year's timetable. Oiling will not be scheduled until after Labor Day.

Mr. Dan Myers, Orion Fire District Chief, asked the board to reconsider its decision to allow the Boy Scout's soap box derby to be held on 11th Avenue west of the fire station. He said he wants a safe way from the fire station to Rt. 150 in the event of a fire call during the derby. The scouts' derby event is held Labor Day weekend and starts at the top of the 11th Avenue hill near 4th Street and ends in front of the fire station. Chief Myers asked that the derby start instead at the top of the hill in the opposite direction, near 7th Street. Chief Myers said his department is responsible for protecting 6,000 people in a 100 sq. mile area. President Cooper reminded Chief Myers that scout leaders ran a mock drill last year and were able to clear the area within a minute. He said fire district volunteers would be hard pressed to traverse the village and get to the fire station in that amount of time. Also, the school district offered to allow fire trucks to be parked at any of the three schools the day of the derby. Chief Myers said he preferred to use the fire station as it is intended. He also asked to be consulted in the future about events that impact the fire department. When asked why parades are allowed to pass by the fire department, Chief Myers said he felt the fire trucks, which participate in the parade, could turn right or left at any intersection to leave for an emergency; however, Trustee Lawson said there would be traffic and people congestion at a parade as well. He said the fire department could use 5th Street to 10th Avenue to Rt. 150 in the event of an emergency on the day of the scout event. Trustee Lawson said the board had looked at all angles and

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given consideration to the concerns of the fire department prior to making its decision. President Cooper said the approved location of the derby affords it the opportunity to be closely associated with other Fall Festival events taking place in the area. He assured Chief Myers there would be no disruption to the fire department's activities and the area could be cleared before fire department volunteers responded to a call. Mr. Jerry Sheldon, fire board member, thanked the board for the opportunity to voice concerns and asked that the department be included in next year's discussion about the derby event. He also claimed the scouts would prefer to move the location to the east on 11th Avenue. President Cooper promised to include the fire department in discussions with the Orion Fall Festival board and village board.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to hire Barry Willett to fill the position of meter reader upon the resignation of current meter reader, Don Carr. Prior to a vote Trustee Drucker said Mr. Willett will be expected to accompany Mr. Carr in September in order to familiarize himself with the route. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Mitton said signs will be erected at Love Park asking smokers to be courteous and refrain from smoking in the bleacher area. Also, Trustee Mitton will meet with Trustee Newman to discuss the bids received for pest control at the band shell.

President Cooper said Tony Hamilton, from the Orion Community Band, wrote a note of thanks for the village's purchase of chairs and carts for use by the band when performing in the band shell.

President Cooper said signs will be requested from the Illinois Department of Transportation for placement on Rt. 150 in recognition of Alyssa Gustus, 2013 FFA State Champion, Agriscience Research – Animal Systems.

The village board is still working to amend its animal ordinance but has been slowed by other projects that required attention.

Deb Ford, Main Street Orion director, thanked those who attended the Central Park Band Shell's 100th birthday celebration on August 10th. She said it was a great day and she appreciated the volunteers and the fire department for providing protection during the fireworks display. She said the band shell would be recognized in the Congressional record by U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos. The village board in turn thanked Director Ford for spearheading the celebration and making Orion look good. A lot of positive feedback was received about the event.

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There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Drucker, 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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