

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., January 20, 2014, 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.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 6, 2014. Ayes: Peterson, O’Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$30,623.19, Debt Retirement-\$33,883.65, Recycle-\$2,093.00, Water O&M-\$5,153.28, Water Deprec.-\$4,940.74, Sewer O&M-\$9,035.42, Sewer Cap. Impr.-\$1,225.00, Motor Fuel Tax-\$1,364.30, and Cops & Kids-\$3,259.01. Ayes: Peterson, O’Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper apologized for not handling heated discussion at the last meeting in a better manner. He asked board members to refrain from personal attacks and to restrain themselves when he asks for order.

Trustee O’Leary said a letter was received from MidAmerican Energy confirming the company would pay for moving two utility poles to allow for sewer main repair. The letter also addressed overhanging easements, which Trustee O’Leary asked village attorney John Ames to discuss with MAE. Trustee Newman felt the overhanging easement covered services attached to poles that might temporarily overhang another’s property while the poles are being moved. It was felt the request for overhanging easements was premature since the project had not yet been mapped out. The easement sizes were discussed along with MAE’s wish to move the poles back once the project is completed. Trustee O’Leary advised against asking MAE to move all poles within the block, since the company had only agreed to pay to move two poles. However, he recommended the village obtain easements from all property owners in the 1400 block of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Streets so future village boards would not have to struggle with the issue. The estimated cost to purchase easements was tallied at \$20,000. The board discussed the fact that many affected property owners have storage buildings and trees/shrubs on the proposed easement area, but it was noted those items would most likely be allowed to remain in place, or be ‘grandfathered’. It was moved by O’Leary, seconded by Drucker to obtain easements from property owners in the 1400 block of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Streets at an estimated cost of \$20,000. Ayes: Peterson, O’Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

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The minutes of January 20, 2014 continued:

The village received from the Illinois EPA a copy of a letter sent to Orion Standard Service regarding the gas vapor investigation. The letter indicated approval of a remediation plan with certain modifications. However, no indication was given as to what the plan entailed, when it would take place, or if the village would be reimbursed for expenses incurred. Further, the letter did not indicate if remediation would fully resolve the problem. Attorney Ames will check into the matter.

Trustee Drucker said the water superintendent had to repeat some water samples as the originals were misrouted by the delivery company.

President Cooper reported an incident where village employees lent a helping hand to get a resident's water lateral thawed following extremely cold weather.

The board agreed to participate in sidewalk repair at the east end of the parking area across from C. R. Hanna Grade School. The walk will be repaired at the same time the school district does other concrete work.

It was noted that neither the batting cage nor the damaged backstop had been repaired. Village insurance covered the damages, and contractors who submitted bids were asked to perform the work, however, it was not completed. Park Superintendent Arnie Sandberg will be asked to follow up.

Trustee Mitton said he will order no smoking signs for the parks in the near future.

Trustee Newman will ask officers to remind those parking on snow routes that they must move their vehicles during snow events.

Trustee Drucker said budget request forms would be available by Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and must be completed by March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Finance Committee will put together a proposed budget on March 26<sup>th</sup> and submit it to the board on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The board should be prepared to approve the budget on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

President Cooper asked the board to consider Eagle Scout projects for Evan Gustas, a junior at Orion High School. He wants to complete the project in June or July.

President Cooper wished Trustee Drucker well and a quick recovery after an upcoming scheduled surgery.

President Cooper told the board Henry County Administrator, Colleen Gillaspie, sent him a letter informing him the Henry County Animal Control Officer would not respond to

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Orion animal complaints. She referenced a lengthy discussion on the matter, but failed to say with whom the discussion took place. The board puzzled over the fact that a community within the boundaries of Henry County, whose residents pay a Henry County tax, do not have access to the Henry County ACO. President Cooper had spoken with a representative of the Henry County ACO prior to the village board eliminating Orion's ACO position and was assured Henry County would respond to animal calls. After the village eliminated its ACO position, a notification letter was sent to the Henry County ACO along with the village's newly adopted animal control regulations. President Cooper reminded the board that the Henry Co. ACO took charge of a serious dog bite issue a few years ago, involving a village employee. The Henry County ACO impounded the dog and saw the issue to its eventual resolution. The board will investigate services provided to other Henry County communities, and President Cooper will ask Ms. Gillaspie who she conversed with about the issue and to be placed on the county board's next agenda.

There being no further business to come before the board, 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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