

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., March 18, 2013, at the Village Hall, 1202 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, 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 March 4, 2013. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$34,571.05, Recycle-\$1,957.76, Water O&M-\$5,039.19, Water Deprec.-\$1,768.75, Sewer O&M-\$10,678.40, Sewer Cap. Impr.-\$125.00, Motor Fuel Tax-\$1,482.70, and Fines-\$204.30. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Deb Ford, MSO Director, said she and MSO President, Kevin Roberts, met with Governor Pat Quinn, Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, and State Senator Darin LaHood at Main Street Day at the Capitol in Springfield. She said MSO is trying to keep Orion in the forefront of the legislators' minds.

Director Ford presented the board with information requested of her at the March 4th meeting, noting her salary is only 34.55% of MSO's revenue as compared to a 51.21% statewide average. Her wage covers 80 hours per month and she volunteers an additional 40 hours per month. Director Ford noted other nonprofit groups have salaried personnel. Provided to the board was a list of 63 MSO business members who pay membership fees of \$50 and up. BankORION contributes \$2,000, annually. Director Ford told the board that Cambridge lost its Main Street program for lack of volunteers but continued to support the Main Street functions by hiring the defunct program's director as its Community Development Director. Director Ford urged the board to put \$10,000 in its budget for FY2014 and stressed the importance of working together for the benefit of the community. Mrs. Jane Helke addressed the board about her decision to utilize an Orion business after receiving a \$500 prize for winning an MSO-sponsored contest. She said she considered the money a windfall and decided to join Badlands Gym as recommended by a friend. Mrs. Helke said she enjoys her workouts at the gym and feels she would not have taken advantage of the Orion business if not for the MSO contest. She also utilizes the Orion Area Pharmacy and participates in the Orion Community Band, which plays for many MSO events. Mrs. Helke quoted former Illinois governor Jim Edgar, who said in response to questions about how to make small towns grow and thrive, that you have to figure out your town's strength and focus on it. He also said you must offer activities to

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF HENRY)  
VILLAGE OF ORION)

The minutes of March 18, 2013 continued:

keep young and old from leaving the community, drawing people who are attracted to quality of life issues. Mrs. Helke said the former governor discouraged communities from waiting for state or federal aid. Communities must be prepared to do things on their own. Mrs. Helke urged the board to support MSO. Trustee O'Leary reiterated his fondness for MSO but continued to oppose paying a director. He felt it should be run by volunteers, even though Trustee Drucker pointed out how much things have changed throughout the years and people now lead much busier lives. As an example, he noted the demise of the Corncob Players, a local theater group. The group disbanded for lack of volunteers. Trustee Drucker also pointed out how some nearby communities have fancy main streets but no businesses. He said Orion is much better off than several of its nearby communities and noted MSO activities contribute to the quality of life in Orion. Trustee Peterson agreed and said MSO is the only organization beating the drum for the community and as such, they should be funded. Board members disagreed with each other over MSO's benefit to Orion businesses, but Trustee Drucker said anytime someone attends an event in Orion an opportunity presents itself for people to spend money in the community. Trustee Lawson felt MSO was well funded and did not need the \$10,000 requested, and President Cooper was skeptical of the hours Director Ford claimed to work and volunteer for MSO, especially since she is also a small business owner. Clerk Sampson said she had evidenced Ford's long hours devoted to MSO-related business. Director Ford offered to produce her work logs.

Mindy Carls, Orion Gazette Editor, said the newspaper is printing information about the Central Park Band Shell each week leading up to its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Trustee Drucker said the water superintendent was working on Illinois EPA reports and had no big projects proposed for the upcoming construction season.

Trustee Newman met with a local contractor to discuss deck replacement for the band shell. The deck will be replaced from the front to the point where the risers begin. Funds received from MSO and the Coulter Trust will cover the expenses. Work will start as soon as the weather is appropriate. President Cooper again pointed out the importance of the foresight of Wyman Coulter to establish a trust that will benefit the community in perpetuity.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. to review the proposed FY2014 budget. The board will review the budget on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Trustee O'Leary said the Orion Sanitary District will donate \$5,000 per year for the next two years toward loan repayment of the sanitary relief main.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF HENRY)  
VILLAGE OF ORION)

The minutes of March 18, 2013 continued:

Trustee Newman said a speed limit study will be performed by the Illinois DOT on Rt. 150 near the site of a recent double fatality.

It was noted that Henry County Deputy Joe Femali had left Orion for county road patrol. President Cooper and Trustee Newman were sorry to see him leave but wished him well. Henry County Deputy Chad Baze has moved into the first shift slot.

Trustee Peterson said he and Park Superintendent Arnie Sandberg completed their proposed budget for FY2014.

Millennium Waste is still delivering leachate but could be halted by road closures, according to Trustee O'Leary. If roads are closed the village could lose two months' revenue. The sewer superintendent had experienced a foaming issue when the leachate was delivered but now has that under control.

During the last rain and melting snow event, sewer backed up in a resident's shower but was resolved quickly. The problem was found to be defective floats, which will be replaced. Also, a sewer main blockage was cleaned north of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue near 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Trustee Peterson and Street Superintendent Neil Dahl plan to meet in the future to review the number of ash trees on street right-of-way and also look at other trees that may need to be removed.

Trustee Lawson said it had been determined a stop sign was warranted at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue controlling traffic proceeding west at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The two yield signs controlling traffic on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street at that intersection should be removed. The topic will be voted on at the next meeting.

Trustee Lawson felt fuel could be purchased at the pump cheaper than having it delivered to fuel tanks on village property. He asked that recent per gallon prices paid for delivery be forwarded to him so he could research the best way to proceed.

President Cooper asked board members to consider dates to open the landscape waste site this spring.

President Cooper expressed a desire to offer some sort of incentive to spur development in the Prairie Knoll Subdivision. Approximately \$52,000 was realized in TIF revenue this year. Some of those next year's TIF funds could be used for incentives, or permit and connection fees could be waived to encourage new home construction. President Cooper felt any incentives would be paid back quickly through the collection of

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF HENRY)  
VILLAGE OF ORION)

The minutes of March 18, 2013 continued:

additional property taxes. Trustee Drucker suggested the school participate in the incentive program as well. Trustee Newman said TIF funds could be used to purchase property and demolish unsightly buildings.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to enter executive session at 8:33 p.m. to discuss personnel wages for the FY2014 budget. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:16 p.m.

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

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk



ERROR: undefined  
OFFENDING COMMAND:

STACK: