

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., September 5, 2012, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Absent: Lawson.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was noted the Trustee Lawson was absent due to job responsibilities.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 20, 2012. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Jennifer Smutzer, Orion Athletic Booster Club member, asked the board to permit the club to hold a fundraising event on September 15th from 5-9 p.m. on the street in front of 306 10th Avenue. The liquor establishment at that address would be utilized for alcohol purchases. Russ Woodley, owner of the establishment, said people can make purchases from him and leave the building with open liquor. The club will fence the street area, two bands will play music, and only adults will be allowed at the event. Adjacent business owner, Chris Walton, said he had no objection to the street closing, and Mrs. Smutzer said access would remain open for customers of The Factory Restaurant. The rain date for the event will be October 6th. The Booster Club is hoping to have school district insurance coverage. There was no objection by the board.

Trustee Newman reported the police had no issues during the Orion Fall Fest and said the new squad was driven in the Sunday parade. He said the squad looked good and was something for the community to be proud of. Trustee O'Leary said he heard complaints about the wording 'Henry County Sheriff's Dept. Orion Division' on the squad, which he and others felt implied the squad might not belong to the village. Trustee Drucker said he would like to see more attractive wheels on the vehicle.

Trustee Peterson asked that a thank you be sent to Jim Belton for cleaning out the picnic shelter prior to the Orion Fall Fest.

Discussion was held regarding the need for police presence in Central Park due to acts of petty vandalism throughout the summer, including the recent trampling of mums in the flower garden. Trustees also talked about an additional security camera, but Trustee Drucker urged the board to first determine how clear the picture is on the new system. Trustee Peterson was frustrated that police officers did not monitor the park with regular walk-throughs. It was noted that a street light was out on the east side of the park where young people often congregate.

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Trustee O'Leary presented information on a 10-year loan with a 5-year balloon for the sewer relief main project. The interest rate would be 2.75% and the annual obligation for the village would be around \$46,000. In addition to a rate increase to repay the loan, monies from Millennium Waste and the Orion Sanitary District may be available. Trustee Drucker requested information on the 10-year fixed loan in regard to total interest charged as compared to the 5-year balloon. Trustee O'Leary said the bank official recommended the 5-year balloon but agreed further information could be obtained for the Finance Committee meeting.

Trustee O'Leary asked Clerk Sampson to give Missman, Inc. the go-ahead to advertise for bids for the relief main project. Easement request letters have been mailed to all affected property owners.

President Cooper will discuss painting of crosswalks with the street superintendent as well as handicapped parking spaces.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve a payment of \$64,676.25 to Putnam County Painting for work on the east water tower. It was noted that the payment request was not exceeding the work progress and 10% of the original request was being retained. Inspection reports have been satisfactory. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Trustee Newman said security cameras were installed in the band shell and at the Veterans' Monument. Some issues with the computer server have arisen and complete installation is taking some time. A village employee will install a dedicated circuit for the system. Camera notification signs have yet to be installed in the park and nondisclosure statements still need to be drafted.

The Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for September 12th at 4 p.m. at Village Hall.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to adopt Ordinance #2012-4, amending Chapter XIV of the Municipal Code to allow video gaming. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

A fee for licensing of state-regulated video games or video gaming establishments will be discussed at the next meeting.

President Cooper thanked the Orion Fall Festival Committee, fest volunteers, and those who attended the Labor Day weekend event. A rainy Saturday caused adjustments to the

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schedule but President Cooper said the overall turnout was good. He thanked Trustee Peterson for volunteering his time in the park before, during, and after the fest.

President Cooper related a conversation he had with Senator Mike Jacobs regarding grant funds for the sewer relief main. Senator Jacobs claimed he did not promise funds to Orion and must take requests on a first-come, first-served basis. He felt the village hurt his reputation by complaining about him during board meetings. Senator Jacobs also complained about Orion not following through with a special census of the neighborhood in which the relief main work was to be done. He thought this could have qualified Orion for certain grants. President Cooper explained that officials of these grant programs agreed with the village board, after a preliminary investigation, that Orion would not qualify for the grants, and President Cooper was unwilling to waste tax dollars on a study that would be futile. President Cooper said Senator Jacobs agreed to continue to seek grant funds for the village's project, even if successfully re-elected to a different district in November. The senator sent a letter to President Cooper confirming that statement. Senator Jacobs also gave verbal assurances that any loan already secured for the project would not prevent Orion from receiving grant funds. Trustee Drucker complimented President Cooper for persevering above and beyond the call of duty, but expressed disappointment that the senator did not seem to recall promises made in his state office and at a municipal event in Colona. Trustee O'Leary was equally disappointed that Carbon Cliff received funds from the senator for brick-paved streets and Rock Island for a half-block park. According to Trustee O'Leary, those two projects totaled nearly \$1 million.

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, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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