

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 20, 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 6, 2012. Ayes: Peterson, O’Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$33,708.68, Recycle-\$1,880.48, Water O&M-\$6,113.38, Water Cap. Imp.-\$103,768.75, Sewer O&M-\$8,794.78, Sewer Depr.-\$655.00, Sewer Cap. Imp.-\$6,877.50, and Fines-\$23,903.70. Ayes: Peterson, O’Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Mr. Aaron Kayser spoke to the board about his and his wife’s opposition to video gaming in Orion. He addressed social issues as well as fiscal issues. Mr. Kayser pointed to studies that show an increase in crime, DUI, and drug use where gambling is present. He also said the bulk of the video gaming money is paid out as winnings and the remainder is split between the state, village, and business owner. Mr. Kayser asked the village to consider whether the small amount of revenue was worth the downside. Mrs. Kayser also spoke to the board about an opinion of the city of Lincoln’s mayor. She felt people would spend their money in a better way if video gaming was not available in Orion. Mrs. Kayser said gambling would cause a redistribution of income, taking away from grocery stores and other businesses. She collected 30 signatures from others also opposed to the video gaming. Mr. Rich Straub asked the board to weigh the strife to families against the profit for the community. He said those who can least afford to gamble will do so. Mr. Straub also contended the vote on gaming was a moral issue. Mr. Karl Kane also spoke against the gaming. He said the projected revenue for the village was small compared to the money spent by gamblers. Mr. Jon Zahm, Henry County Board member, recommended the board put the issue on the November ballot and let the residents of Orion make the decision. Mr. Zahm is not a resident of Orion, but he said he intended to vote against the issue at the county level. Mr. Chris Walton, owner of Belly Up, said those using video gaming would know it was not a way to get rich quick. He noted the difficulties liquor establishments have had keeping their doors open since the smoking ban was instituted in the state. Mr. Walton said video gaming is a small way to bring in more revenue for the Orion business owner and keep patrons from going to

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nearby communities to spend their money. Though the increase in revenue may be small, Mr. Walton said it would help him and his business partner improve the building they own, which in turn would increase property taxes. He also reminded those present that video gaming is a legal endeavor. President Cooper said he lacked confidence that the village's share of gaming funds would be submitted to the village in a timely manner, since other revenue sharing payments had been consistently late. A rough estimate for annual income from gaming in Orion was \$2,500, according to Trustee Newman. Trustee O'Leary favored the video gaming and defended the liquor establishments' desire to increase revenue with a legal gaming endeavor. He said those opposed to video gaming would not have to enter an establishment offering it. Trustee O'Leary felt video gaming was no different than buying a lottery ticket or gambling at one of the nearby casinos. Village attorney John Ames said the gaming ordinance, if approved, would address an existing section in the village code prohibiting gambling and add a paragraph stating the prohibition does not apply to video gaming. Trustee Drucker suggested the issue be tabled for one more meeting in order to allow ample time for input from the community.

Clerk Sampson said extra security measures were instituted for transactions with BankORION via the Internet.

Trustee Newman said the new police vehicle should have all equipment installed and be returned to the village in the next day or two. The squad should be ready to drive in the Orion Fall Fest parade. Trustee Newman told the board sufficient amounts of regular and auxiliary officers would be on duty during the fest.

Trustee Peterson cleaned sidewalks in Central Park and will clean the shelter and its tables prior to the Labor Day weekend festival.

It was reported that Millennium Waste had begun dumping leachate waste in Orion's sewer system. The dump site will be at a manhole at the sewer plant, and trucks will get to the site via 10th Avenue. The price negotiated was \$.0225 per gallon.

Trustee O'Leary will set up a meeting with BankORION personnel to discuss securing funding for the sewer relief main. The meeting is expected to take place next week. Trustee Drucker will also attend.

President Cooper said oiling of Orion streets will take place after Labor Day weekend. Sidewalk repairs will be started after the oiling.

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Trustee Drucker said the outer prime coat was completed on the east tower and blasting of the interior paint surface was in progress. The tower will not be completed by Labor Day. The word Chargers will not be painted on the stem of the tower due to a lack of funding. Additionally, Trustee Drucker said a traffic accident caused damage to a fire hydrant at the corner of 8th Street and 15th Avenue. It does not need to be replaced, only repaired. A shut off valve will also be installed in the vicinity to prevent an interruption of service to a large number of residents in the Wilson's Addition in the event of a future emergency.

Security camera installation in Central Park will begin tomorrow and take approximately three days to complete. Video surveillance signs will be installed soon, and Trustee Newman will talk with Attorney Ames about nondisclosure agreements for those with access to the camera recordings. It is hoped that the camera images will be fed into squad car computers. Over the weekend, minor vandalism to the band shell's deck was found. The aggregate cover of a trash can was broken and pieces of it were beat against the floor. President Cooper said the village will pursue prosecution of vandals caught doing damage.

The landscape waste site was opened by the board for the Saturdays of Aug. 25th, Sept. 15th & 29th, Oct. 13th & 27th, and Nov. 3rd & 17th between the hours of 8-10 a.m. Also, Wednesday, Sept. 5th, and the Mondays of Sept. 17th, Oct. 1st & 15th, and Nov. 5th & 19th from 1-3 p.m. Volunteers will man the site on Saturdays and employees on other days.

The board reviewed a subdivision of land just outside the village limits owned by Linda Hines and the William and Donna Sainer Trust. A small parcel on which a house is situated will be subdivided from farmland, which is to be sold. The board had no objection to the request.

President Cooper said Senator Mike Jacobs failed to respond to a letter requesting fulfillment of his promises to the board for funding of the proposed sewer relief main. Senator Jacobs also failed to respond to phone calls left by President Cooper. It was noted that Jacobs apparently felt requests for brick streets in Carbon Cliff and a \$600,000 park in Rock Island were more important than preventing sewer from backing up in residential basements in Orion. President Cooper and Trustee Drucker elaborated on all prior meetings with Jacobs and his positive replies that funding would be available when a Capital bill was approved. In addition, formal documents with formal requests were submitted to the senator on other occasions, including an occasion when Jacobs attended an Orion board meeting.

President Cooper lifted the burn ban instituted two weeks ago.

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A letter of request for funds from the Henry County Youth Service Bureau was not fulfilled. Funding was not available in the village's budget.

In correspondence with Shirlene South of the Illinois EPA, President Cooper was told the gas vapor investigation was moving along. She said Phase III of Golar's inspection and remediation plan was not approved due to a technicality, but the corrected report was expected to be resubmitted and approved soon. Ms. South could not give a timeline for completion of the project nor could she guarantee the village would be reimbursed for its expense of dealing with the situation in the meantime. President Cooper asked that an IEPA representative attend a future board meeting to explain why resolution of a mid-1990s problem has taken so long. Trustee O'Leary said the sewer department feels a need to purchase another exhaust fan for the manhole on 11th Avenue. In the event the existing fan fails, a replacement is needed immediately. The cost is about \$1,200.

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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