

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 4, 2014, 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.

Mindy Carls, Orion Gazette editor told the board she had contacted the State of Illinois Public Access Counselor in April for information, not review, regarding the March 17th meeting. She reminded the board that Jeremy Coulter, Main Street Orion board member, asked the village board to consider a \$10,000 contribution in the FY2015 budget. President Cooper had said the board would like to know the salary of the new director before making a decision on the matter. Director Ford said the MSO board would set the salary for the new director and she did not know what that would be. After coming out of executive session following the meeting, the board voted and approved a contribution of \$6,000 to MSO. Based on the information given to the Public Access Counselor by Ms. Carls, the board is required to give 48 hours notice before final action may be taken. The matter should have been put on the agenda for the next meeting. President Cooper deferred from making comment and will review the minutes of March 17th. He will advise his findings at the August 18th board meeting.

Wanda Beck, Susan Renfrow, and Larry Hawkins, children of Mrs. Lela Hawkins (deceased) spoke to the board regarding the recent media coverage in Orion about the ongoing gas vapor issue on 11th Avenue. The family had scheduled an auction of their mother's home for August 9th but have postponed until a later date due to negative media coverage. President Cooper sympathized with the family but said this has been an ongoing issue with the EPA since 1995. He said he has been in contact on a regular basis with the EPA but it is a very slow process and they answer requests in order given, not priority. Mrs. Beck feels the property is unsellable now due to this coverage and the family can't afford to keep paying expenses on it. President Cooper said he has spoken with congressmen, a state senator and Governor Quinn's office. In fact, State Senator Don Moffitt met with President Cooper in his home in the recent past.

President Cooper discussed with the board lining the sewer mains in the area of the gas vapor problem. Mains to be lined are in the area of 10th and 11th Avenues and 2nd Street. President Cooper is waiting for EPA approval of payment for this project. Trustee Drucker felt even after mains were lined, the problem could still exist underground. A company was hired by the village to clean and televise the mains in preparation for this project. The Hawkins family and Mr. Darrin Brown complained about debris backing up in their basement toilets during the cleaning process. When quizzed by the board, Superintendent Lundburg stated such a thing had

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never before occurred. Mr. Brown and Mrs. Beck asked to be updated regularly on the gas vapor issue.

The 8th Street water project is moving along to completion according to Trustee Drucker. The east ground storage tank and tower cleaning are not yet scheduled.

Mid-American Energy is working to schedule time to move a utility pole for the 8th Street project. The village contractor will begin as soon as that has been completed. Trustee O'Leary presented an estimate in the amount of \$1,880 from Mary Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church to rectify a drainage issue on church property. Trustee O'Leary and President Cooper will meet with church officials to discuss the problem.

Street Superintendent Dahl is preparing select streets for seal coating. Orion School District is requesting cost share for replacement of sidewalk on north side of 14th Avenue A. President Cooper was favorable to the idea. Street Superintendent Dahl said Henry County Health Department has offered a tire drop off site for municipalities within the county for a limited time.

Trustee Newman apologized to the board for missing several board meetings. The previous discussion to pay for training for a part-time Henry County deputy has been made moot. The potential trainee took a job with Silvis. The deputies whose training is being paid by Cambridge can also work in Orion. The Labor Day police schedule is almost complete. Trustee Newman was informed the Cops & Kids fundraiser was held last weekend.

There was brief discussion about placing another security camera in Central Park. No decision was made. In other park business, Trustee Newman said he left a message for Mr. Bart Sampson regarding the park storage building but received no response. The board talked about the issues yet to be resolved. Trustee Newman said he wanted to have another committee meeting prior to bringing information to the board, such as exact location, cost estimate and final plans.

President Cooper told the board that the Cambridge building inspector does not issue permits. If the inspector worked for Orion permits would have to be issued by other village staff. Mrs. Deb Ford suggested advertising the position on Main Street Orion website.

President Cooper said Henry County Health Department representative Whitney Young visited the property at 1010 11th Avenue and witnessed overgrown grass and weeds. The village had

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notified the water bill customer of these violations and gave time limits to rectify. Since the problems were not rectified the village hired a company from Moline to clean up the site. The property owner has since been billed for the expense. Water was disconnected at this property in March. Ms. Young further assisted the village by writing a letter to the property owner with a deadline for a response.

President Cooper had been contacted by WQAD-TV about the gas vapor issue and was considering doing an interview.

President Cooper mentioned the need for estimates for relining sewer mains which is required by the EPA for reimbursement through the LUST fund. The lining is expected to cost \$45,000 - \$50,000.

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.

Sandra P. Mizen
Deputy Clerk