

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 17, 2014, at the Village Hall, 1202 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Absent: Drucker.

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

Trustee Drucker was absent due to medical reasons. Village employees Neil Dahl, Chris Lundburg, and Arnie Sandberg were present.

It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Newman to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 17, 2014. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

President Cooper thanked the board for its understanding of the cancellation of the March 3, 2014 meeting. President Cooper was at the hospital with a friend and President Pro-Tem Drucker was confined to his house due to medical reasons, thus the reason for the cancellation.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Mitton to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$22,519.01, Recycle-\$2,093.00, Water O&M-\$4,133.12, Sewer O&M-\$4,768.18, Motor Fuel Tax-\$1,396.20, and Fines-\$138.00. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

Deb Ford announced her upcoming retirement as Main Street Orion Director. Mr. Jeremy Coulter, MSO board member and former village board member, asked the village to consider a \$10,000 contribution to the organization in its fiscal year 2015 budget. He pointed out that MSO brings good exposure for the community and provides family events. President Cooper said the board needed to know what the new director's salary would be before making a commitment of contribution. Director Ford said the MSO board would set the salary for the new director and she did not have any idea what it would be. Thus far, only one person had inquired about the position. Trustee Newman thanked Director Ford for her years of service and contribution and said he would be forever grateful for her efforts, especially the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Central Park band shell.

Street Superintendent Neil Dahl said he ordered another load of salt for the season, rather than run short. The salt, if not used, will be held in storage for next season.

President Cooper reviewed Supt. Dahl's suggested guidelines for debris pickup after major storms and said he would further review before making a recommendation.

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The minutes of March 17, 2014 continued:

President Cooper thanked all public works employees for their efforts during the long, winter season and endless snowfalls.

Attorney Ames continues to work toward easement acquisition for the sewer repair project in the 1400 block between 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Trustee O'Leary said no complaints of backup have been received after rain/snow melting events of the recent past.

A new leachate disposal contract was reviewed by Village Attorney John Ames and recommended for approval at the next meeting. The contract doesn't increase the amount of leachate being dumped at the sewer plant. Two separate companies will be bringing the product, thus the need for another contract. Sewer Supt. Lundburg said operations at the plant need a little more tweaking when leachate is delivered, but thus far the plant is able to handle it.

Water Supt. Sandberg has been outfitting his new truck. He said water pumped remains 25% higher than normal for this time of year, indicating a possible leak somewhere underground. It could take a while for water to reach the surface and reveal itself. The pumpage mirrors that of pumpage in the summer months and will not detrimentally affect the system.

Water Supt. Sandberg received an Illinois Public Health Department accommodation for maintaining proper fluoride levels in the water system. The village board appreciated his efforts.

Trustee Peterson said the batting cage at Love Park had been repaired, and a light on the softball diamond fell and damaged a fence. He asked that the fence be repaired at the same time as the backstop that was damaged last year.

Trustee Mitton asked employees to remove the Christmas tree from the band shell in Central Park as soon as the ground firms up. He also noted gutters will be installed at the east shed before the end of the fiscal year.

Trustee Newman briefed the board on the results of the Storage Building Committee. The use of the proposed storage building in Central Park was determined and plans will be drawn up for consideration. The next meeting will determine location and material to be used. President Cooper said the committee will take care to not detrimentally affect the aesthetics of the park. Trustee Mitton said the committee is also trying to look toward

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the future when envisioning the type of structure need. Funding for the project will come from a previous Coulter Trust grant.

The police budget is expected to go down this year as announced by Trustee Newman.

President Cooper asked the board to continue review of the animal control agreement proposed by Henry County. He said the village needed to make a decision in the near future. In conversation between President Cooper and the Cambridge administrator, it seems Cambridge was offered the same agreement for services from Henry County.

Trustee Newman reminded the board the Finance Committee will meet March 26<sup>th</sup> to review submitted budgets. On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the proposed budget will be presented to the board and approval will be expected at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Trustee O'Leary said refinancing of the Phase II sewer loan will be discussed at the next meeting. Bernardi Securities had difficulty gaining information from the Illinois EPA, but President Cooper has since provided permission for the IEPA to provide the requested information.

The board agreed the remaining Special Tax Allotment funds equaling \$9,219.04 can be spent on sidewalk repair. A bid from West Concrete tallied \$4,875 for sidewalk repair in Central Park. The remainder of funds are to be spent on sidewalks in other areas, such as the south side of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue from the Baptist Church east to the alley and the vicinity of 307 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.

The board held discussion regarding public works employees and summer help, if hired, being required to repair sidewalks this year. Street Supt. Dahl reminded the board knowledgeable part-time personnel would be necessary. President Cooper asked Trustees Lawson and Peterson to prioritize sidewalks that need attention.

It was moved by Mitton, seconded by O'Leary to approve appointment recommendations to the Henry County Board for Orion Sanitary District members as follows: Ron Saunders-3 yrs., Gene Boehm-1 yr., and Mike Gallart-2 yrs. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to advise and consent to President Cooper's appointment of Wade Weber to a five-year term on the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

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The minutes of March 17, 2014 continued:

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Mitton to enter executive session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss personnel wages, including elected officials. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:15 p.m.

After brief review of the 2014 MSO budget (MSO provided a copy), it was found that \$15,900 was budgeted for a director. Some on the board felt Director Ford or Mr. Coulter should have pointed out the budgeted amount when asked what a new director would get paid, even if a new director wouldn't receive that much money. It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to allot Main Street Orion \$6,000 in the FY2015 budget. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, and Lawson. Noes: Newman. Absent: Drucker.

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

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk