

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., April 7, 2014, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, 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 Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 17, 2014. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Darrel Muhleman and Mr. George Rose were in attendance to request an addition to the Veterans' Monument in Central Park. They asked to place a stone, opposite the directory, that will hold a plaque engraved with names of Western Township veterans. Lackey Monument will provide and install the stone and the Coulter Trust is assisting financially. It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Drucker to allow the addition of a stone to the Veterans' Monument in Central Park. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mrs. June Rettig expressed her desire to get signs changed at the intersection of 3rd Street and 13th Avenue. The board adopted an ordinance allowing the change one year ago. Trustee Lawson said the sign change would be done as soon as the street superintendent could get to it.

Landscape waste site dates were set as follows: Saturdays – April 12 & 19, May 3 & 17 from 8-10 a.m., and Mondays – April 21, May 5 & 19 from 1-3 p.m.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Drucker to accept MFT Audit Report No. 02-065, covering the calendar years of 2011 and 2012. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Street Supt. Neil Dahl asked the board if they had approved his guidelines for storm debris pickup. President Cooper said it would be discussed at the next meeting. Street Supt. Dahl told the board he asked engineers at Missman to draw up a plan for storm drainage coming off 5th Street and flowing in a westerly direction. There are no easements allowing for improvements of the storm drain system on private property.

Trustee Peterson pointed out some right-of-way areas on 12th and 15th Avenues that need work before property owners could mow. Also, a manhole is sticking up on 15th Avenue near 8th Street.

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It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Lawson to authorize another application be submitted by a private company to the Illinois EPA allowing leachate delivery to the sewer plant. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Drucker said no obvious underground leaks have surfaced, despite the increase in water pumped from the water wells.

Trustee Peterson said the sidewalk replacement in Central Park would begin soon. Bathrooms in both parks have been opened for use.

Trustee Mitton thanked public works employees for taking down Christmas decorations. A new gutter should be installed at the east shed before the end of the fiscal year.

Trustee Newman informed Trustee Mitton about the two emergency sirens in Orion and how they are intended to warn people who are outdoors. People indoors should be alert to news media reports.

Trustee Newman said he had discussions with Bart Sampson about drawing a plan for the proposed storage building in Central Park. Mr. Sampson recommended a full basement versus a crawl space in order to get the most benefit. A loft was also suggested. Mr. Sampson is volunteering his services. Additionally, a member of the building committee located a 30' x 50' metal building at a reasonable cost. All options will be presented to the entire committee at a later date. The building will store band shell extensions, chairs, Christmas decorations, band equipment, etc. Trustee Newman said the building must be aesthetically pleasing.

Police officers will be instructed to walk through the parks to monitor illegal activities. They will also be asked to watch for vehicles exceeding the speed limit in the vicinity of Love Park as well as people burning landscape waste on the street surface throughout Orion.

The Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for April 9, 2014 at 4 p.m. at Village Hall.

President Cooper talked about the newly adopted animal ordinance and its strengthened regulations and asked the board to make a decision about renewal of a kennel license for Ms. Patti Hardi. Ms. Hardi and Mr. Mike Larson, both residing at 1003 1st Street, were present. Ms. Hardi has five dogs, most acquired during her former employment as animal control officer. Mr. Larson said she had done a good job of finding dogs' owners

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or adopting them out, but those she has kept are less adoptable older dogs. The current ages of the dogs range from eight to 12. One rescued dog was trained and put into service for sight impaired people. Ms. Hardi, in addition to caring for her own animals, has done animal sitting for others. President Cooper said Ms. Hardi's kennel didn't meet regulations set out by the state. Orion has no stipulations for kennels other than paying an annual \$15 fee and being situated in a properly zoned area. Ms. Hardi has had a kennel license for three years and was requesting renewal for a fourth year. Trustee Mitton applauded Ms. Hardi for her work to find homes for the animals but said she must abide by the village's animal regulations. Trustee Drucker said the village's new animal regulations did not change anything about kennel licenses. Mr. Larson told the board he and Ms. Hardi housed 10 cats, also as a result of her prior employment as animal control officer. The village did not have any regulations on the number of cats per household until December 2013. Village attorney John Ames said he would interpret state regulations before the board made a determination about Ms. Hardi's kennel license. It was moved by Mitton, seconded by O'Leary to table the kennel license discussion until Attorney Ames' review. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper said employee health insurance premiums previously set to increase by 20-25% will now decrease 30% for the next fiscal year. The news was a welcome surprise to the board.

President Cooper told the board he went to Springfield for a legislative day. He learned the state's temporary raise in income tax will most likely become permanent. Legislators said teachers, prison guards, police officers, and more would be out of jobs if the tax was not made permanent. The state will outline an enterprise zone in the near future, which will include Orion. Senator Mike Jacobs told President Cooper and others that he wanted to help those who are not part of his district.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to enter executive session at 8:43 p.m. to discuss personnel wages. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:25 p.m.

Newman motioned and Mitten seconded extending the 5% employee contribution to their medical plans for the 2014/15 FY budget. The 5% is intended to include the employee and family portions of the medical plan. Ayes: Newman, Mitton, Peterson, Drucker, Lawson, and O'Leary. Noes: None. Absent: None.

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The minutes of April 7, 2014 continued:

Lawson motioned and Drucker seconded raising salaries for the salaried full-time village employees by 3% for the 2014/15 FY budget. Ayes: Newman, Mitton, Peterson, Drucker, Lawson, and O'Leary. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Lawson motioned and O'Leary seconded raising the hourly wage for the village treasurer to \$13.50 per hour for the 2014/15 FY budget. Ayes: Newman, Mitton, Peterson, Drucker, Lawson, and O'Leary. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mitton motioned and Peterson seconded raising the hourly wage for the part-time police officers to \$15.00 per hour for the 2014/15 FY budget. Ayes: Newman, Mitton, Peterson, Drucker, Lawson, and O'Leary. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Peterson motioned and Mitton seconded adopting Ordinance #2014-2, raising the compensation of village board members to \$100 per regular meeting and raising the compensation of village board president to \$250 per regular meeting to be effective per current Illinois law for the next newly elected officials. Ayes: Newman, Mitton, Peterson, Drucker, and Lawson. Noes: O'Leary. Absent: None.

Peterson motioned and Mitton seconded adding \$6000 to the 2014/15 FY budget for summer seasonal part time employees. Furthermore, the seasonal employees will be hired on the condition that specific approved projects are identified for the seasonal employees to work on. Ayes: Mitton, Peterson, and Lawson. Noes: O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Given that there was a tie, President Cooper voted aye. Motion carried.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

and

Stephen Newman
Village Trustee