

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., June 16, 2014, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Absent: Lawson.

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 June 2, 2014. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$26,349.56, Recycle Collections-\$744.18, Water O&M-\$1,868.84, Water Depr.-\$350.00, Sewer O&M-\$5,953.16, Sewer Cap. Impr.-\$10,664.62, and Fines-\$52.49. Prior to a vote Trustee Drucker questioned the generator maintenance expense for the sewer plant. Trustee O'Leary said the maintenance agreement had been approved by the board a few years ago because village employees weren't qualified to perform the maintenance. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Trustee Mitton said no smoking signs previously ordered for the parks were cancelled and reordered from a different company. They should be available soon.

Trustee Peterson said the Central Park playground equipment slide arrived and trees were trimmed in Love Park.

Nick Newman, who was hired as seasonal summer help, worked two days and quit. President Cooper then approved the hiring of the only other applicant, Andrew Lundburg. Mr. Lundburg began working on June 9th.

The west ground tank will be cleaned and inspected on June 25th. The east tank will also be cleaned and inspected but at a later date. A schedule for the 8th Street project was not available but the project will be completed before school starts.

Trustee Drucker said the water main leak that was found and repaired definitely corrected the problem of high pumpage at the pump house.

Trustee O'Leary said only three property owners had failed to sign easement agreements for the sewer main repairs to be done this summer. Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg will contact MidAmerican Energy Co. to get plans started to move poles away from the sewer main. Trustee Drucker suggested pictures of the work area be taken before the project

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starts. In that way the village could protect itself from unwarranted claims in regard to restoration of property.

Another new exhaust fan was placed above the manhole at 11th Avenue & 2nd Street to vent gasoline vapors. The picnic table placed over the fan for protection was damaged but has since been repaired.

President Cooper said he was obtaining a bid for work to correct the three illegally connected sewer laterals at the east end of the village. Property owners will then be approached by the village to complete the work and decide between themselves how the cost will be apportioned.

President Cooper contacted Shirlene South from the Illinois EPA's Leaking Underground Storage Tank division, as well as Elmo Dowd, to request an update on the gasoline vapor situation. He learned two monitoring wells drilled by Golars were being treated with chemicals to dissipate the gasoline, but that process could take 3-7 years to work. Another plan is being developed; however, it is not due until June 30th. The board discussed asking the IEPA if its UST fund could cover the cost of lining the sewer mains in the area to prevent the odor from coming in someone's home. President Cooper will check with the IEPA about availability of funds.

In the absence of Trustee Lawson, President Cooper said two small projects involving curb improvements were worked on since the last board meeting.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to adopt a resolution approving \$61,500 of Motor Fuel Tax funds for street maintenance. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Trustee Drucker asked again that maple tree seeds be cleaned from the top of street drains so storm water can flow unimpeded.

Trustee Newman agreed to pass minor complaints about kids on bicycles and skateboards to the police. The board also complained about those walking two or three abreast in the street despite traffic.

Trustee Newman said two meetings with Bart Sampson to discuss the park storage building were cancelled but will be rescheduled. Mr. Sampson is drawing detailed plans for the structure.

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Trustee Newman said Standard & Poor's bond rating report was enlightening, indicating the village is in great financial condition. The report pointed out things the village was doing right and could improve upon. The existing cash balance in the general fund was counted as a positive as long as it remains above \$500,000. A negative was the amount of debt the village was carrying. Trustee Newman felt the board should begin thinking how to use the cash in excess of \$500,000, whether it be to help pay off loans or applied to a new project. Trustee Newman said most loans were sewer related and the excess cash was general fund related, so the board might be opposed to using those funds to pay down debt. In regard to the most recent refinancing of debt, President Cooper said the bond issue was wrapped up on June 12th and a savings of approximately \$30,000 was the end result.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to adopt Ordinance #2014-8, Prevailing Wage Rates. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Drucker to accept the letter of resignation from building inspector Bill Pettifer effective July 1, 2014. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Discussion was held about hiring a new inspector. The village will advertise for applicants to replace Mr. Pettifer. The option of paying inspectors based on an hourly rate versus an annual fee was presented. Clerk Sampson said the method of payment would allow the board to have a truer picture of the work done by each inspector. The building inspector currently issues all permits, fields calls about permits, and performs inspections. The electrical and plumbing inspectors perform inspections. Clerk Sampson said the hourly rate would be more fair and the village might come out better financially in the end. The village might also be more able to retain a building inspector. Clerk Sampson said the past three building inspectors commented on the amount of time required for the position in comparison to the compensation. Previous research by Trustee Newman showed a much higher number of permits relating to the building inspector position as compared to the other two positions. President Cooper also asked the board to consider sharing a building inspector with a nearby community such as Cambridge. Obvious difficulties regarding that option were briefly discussed, including the inspector not being available when needed for permitting and inspections, and opening the door to contractors performing work without permits because an inspector would not be in the village on a daily basis. President Cooper asked the board to consider the options and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

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Discussion was held about outdoor music events for liquor license holders. Woo Dog's and Belly Up were given permission to hold such events over the Labor Day weekend but required to end the music on Sunday at 10:00 p.m. The new owners of another liquor establishment plan to hold events the same nights but not end the music until 1:00 a.m. Upon advice from the board, President Cooper will speak to the new owners about approaching the village board for permission to hold those outdoor events and the fact that all liquor license holders must be held to the same standards. President Cooper presented the board with regulations from Coal Valley limiting the number of outdoor music events for liquor license holders.

President Cooper said a sign will be erected along Rt. 150 by the Illinois Department of Transportation recognizing Dawson Schulenburg's state championship status in high jump.

President Cooper asked the board to consider approving a resolution to join with Henry County communities to investigate development of an enterprise zone. He said an enterprise zone, if successful, would provide great financial benefits to the community. If one is established in Henry County the cost to do so would be prorated based on each community's population. Once created, the zone must be administered by a full-time administrator. The administrator's salary would be paid with enterprise zone revenue. If Orion had no businesses locate within the zone, it would not be assessed any fees. President Cooper requested the issue be included on the next meeting's agenda for discussion and action.

Trustee Mitton said he was disappointed that the owner of Triple E did not attend the board meeting to state his case regarding his requests for village participation in improvements to his private frontage street and allowing ATVs on village streets. He said Mr. Stan Erdman needed to realize the village had to look at the big picture even though his business provides sales tax revenue. Trustee Newman asked if the village could take ownership of the street but was informed by Trustee O'Leary that part of the street area might be owned by the state of Illinois, and President Cooper said the village did not need to be saddled with extra street maintenance expense.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk