

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., September 15, 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.

President Cooper noted Trustee Drucker was out of town and absent from the meeting. He also welcomed Deputy Mandy Davis, who is one of the newer part-time officers in Orion.

President Cooper addressed *Orion Gazette* editor Mindy Carls' article in which she reported violations to the Open Meetings Act at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Village Board meeting. He told Ms. Carls that he appreciates what she does, but felt he needed to note some things that he and other board members didn't agree with in her article. President Cooper noted the article stating a gasoline spill in the early 1990's was considered cleaned up, until five years ago when heavy rains brought the water table up to the soil layer where fuel remained. He said that was incorrect. President Cooper also thought Ms. Carls should have reported in her article that he had just received approval from the IEPA, at 4:30 p.m. the day of the meeting, to reline the sewers. He thought it important for the board to act on that as soon as possible and move forward on the sewer issue for the benefit of the community. A special meeting could have been called for the next day, but President Cooper thought that would be a waste of \$800. He added it was key to get approval for the project so Hoerr Construction could order the special pipe and waiting two weeks for the next board meeting was not acceptable. It was President Cooper's opinion that the board had not been painted in a good light by Ms. Carls' article. He advised Ms. Carls to write down all the facts in the future because all laws have exceptions. President Cooper likened the village board's choice to defy the Open Meetings Act to that of a police officer who makes a choice whether or not to ticket a speeder.

Mindy Carls advised that the Orion office of the Gazette newspaper would be closing soon, but would continue to operate elsewhere. Ms. Carls requested that old flags be dropped off at the Village Hall as they had been in the past at the Gazette office. President Cooper agreed to the arrangement.

It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Lawson to approve the bills of the month: General Fund-\$6,423.37, Recycle Collect.-\$1,590.22, Water O&M-\$2,127.63, Water Depr.-\$3,819.41, Sewer O&M-\$3,005.37, Sewer Depr.-\$4,000.00, Sewer Cap. Impr.-\$130.00, Phase II Loan Retire.-\$126,968.46, Motor Fuel Tax-\$1,586.44, Cops & Kids-\$24.32. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker

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The minutes of September 15, 2014 continued:

President Cooper asked Village Attorney John Ames if he had anything to add regarding the *Gazette* article. Attorney Ames thought a person should look at the totality of the situation. He said it was an emergency situation for the homeowners who had fumes leaking into their homes. Attorney Ames added that he didn't see a great deal of harm done with the vote and that the lining of the sewer had been talked about at many meetings.

Trustee O'Leary reminded the board that the Catholic Church bill from Myers Plumbing and Heating was not voted on at the last meeting due to it not being on the agenda. All members agreed laterals were the responsibility of the homeowner; therefore the church is responsible for that bill. The church still feels the village should pay because they wouldn't have had the problem if Foley Construction hadn't cut through the line. Trustee Lawson suggested a representative from the church should attend a board meeting since they want the village to pay the bill. President Cooper and Attorney Ames both agreed that it is the responsibility of the property owner to take care of their own lateral problems. It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Lawson to disapprove the payment to Mary Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church for Myers Plumbing & Heating. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

Trustee O'Leary reported the 8<sup>th</sup> Street project to repair the sewer main is scheduled to start next Monday. He also added that Hoerr Construction has a project in Bloomington, IL that will take three to four weeks before they are able to come to Orion to reline the sewers. The job is on their schedule and will take only two days to complete. President Cooper advised that Hoerr indicated the weather will not impact this job.

President Cooper indicated he had received a bid from Pat's Plumbing & Heating to correct sewer lateral connections at three homes in the vicinity of 13<sup>th</sup> St. that are illegally connected to the sewer main. President Cooper briefly explained the extent of work to be done on the Carnahan, Carlson, and Rasmussen properties and that easements were in place for this project. Permission may be needed from a nearby property owner to temporarily place excavated dirt. The contractor who bid the project is hesitant to perform the work for fear of not getting paid by one or more of the property owners. President Cooper has spoken with all three affected parties, two of whom are anxious to complete the project and the third, who claims not to have any funds to pay for the work.

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Trustee Lawson reported the Henry County Highway Dept. is hoping to oil and chip various streets this week. Street Superintendent Dahl hopes to get new street signs in place in the near future. He also plans to sow grass seed at the Catholic Church rectory.

Trustee Newman asked the board to reconsider paying training fees for a Henry County deputy in order to fill Orion's shifts as some existing deputies, who currently work part-time in Orion, are considering retirement in the near future. President Cooper said the Orion Fall Festival committee will reimburse the village \$360.00 for extra police coverage for two nights during the festival.

Trustee Lawson gave warning to the board of his recent experience with identity theft and wanted the board to be aware of this type of theft. He said his debit card number had been compromised and used in NY on three occasions.

Trustee O'Leary reported the Finance Committee met at the Village Hall on September 10, 2014. Credit card bills were checked and no inconsistencies were found. There was also an unofficial discussion as to the hiring of an additional employee.

Trustee Mitton told the board he will paint the steps at the band shell in the near future. Park Superintendent Sandberg advised he may have left over paint he could use for the project. Trustee Mitton advised he is still waiting for an estimate on roof repairs to the band shell. It was brought up by Trustee Peterson whether a green roof would be used so it matched other roofs in the park. After brief discussion, the consensus was to confer with Clerk Sampson upon her return to work. Trustee Mitton also reported the control panel in the generator at the village hall had to be replaced. It may have been due to a lightning strike.

Trustee Mitton advised he had no other quotes on the type of block to be used for the Central Park storage building. His opinion was to go with the original plan. President Cooper reported he had sent an email to Mr. Jim Dingman at BankORION to request additional funding for the storage building from the Wyman Coulter Trust. An application must be filled out for the request for additional funding. President Cooper added that the village may not get an answer for the request this construction season but wants to go with the original plan.

President Cooper reported the east ground storage tank had been cleaned and water samples have been sent out for testing.

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The minutes of September 15, 2014 continued:

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to set Halloween Trick-Or-Treat for October 31, 2014 from 5-7 p.m. in the village. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

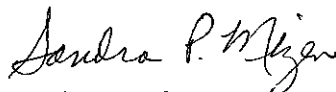
President Cooper advised that several calls had been received at village hall regarding the opening of the landscape waste site for the fall. Saturday dates will be Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 18, and Oct. 25 from 8-10 a.m. Monday dates will be Oct. 6, and Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m. It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to approve the landscape waste site fall schedule dates. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Mitton, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

President Cooper reported the potential candidate he had contacted for building inspector had declined the position. He added he had spoken recently with Rory Washburn of QC Building Trades and was made aware of a monthly newsletter for retirees the business has. President Cooper wrote a description of the job requirements and submitted it for the Building Trades monthly newsletter.

Mrs. Wanda Beck was present to inquire if any progress had been made on the relining of the sewer on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. She informed the board that she wants to pick a date for the sale of her mother's home in that area and asked if she could pick an auction date in November. President Cooper advised Mrs. Beck that he could not commit to a date at this point in time.

President Cooper thanked Deputy Clerk Mizen for filling in during Clerk Sampson's absence.

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



Sandra P. Mizen  
Deputy Clerk