

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., October 20, 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.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 6, 2014. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$22,591.80, Recycle-\$1,719.65, Water O&M-\$4,461.11, Water Depr.-\$17,553.70, Sewer O&M-\$4,855.94, Sewer Depr.-\$10,146.81, Sewer Cap. Impr.-\$648.00, Motor Fuel Tax-\$26,703.85, and Fines-\$80.11. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mindy Carls, Orion Gazette Editor, read her response to the village's response to the Illinois Attorney General's office in regard to a reported violation of the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Carls agreed that the gas vapor issue posed a life-safety threat and spoke from experience about living in a community where sewer vapors exploded when a car passed over a manhole. However, she noted there were no exceptions to the agenda requirement, not even for life-safety issues. She said the village board could have held a meeting 48 hours after giving proper notice and those officials not wishing to expend extra money to do so could have foregone their special meeting pay. President Cooper said the sewer main could have exploded in the meantime, though Ms. Carls observed that the sewer lining had still not been completed. Trustee O'Leary defended the action of the board. Trustee Lawson asked that discussion on the issue cease and Trustee Drucker agreed. Trustee Drucker asked that discussion wait until a determination is made by the Illinois Attorney General's office.

MidAmerican Energy Co. was expected to return by the end of the month to replace poles moved for the 8th Street sewer main project. It was also reported Hoerr, the company hired to line the sewer mains in the gas vapor area, ordered the necessary resin but it won't arrive for another 2-3 weeks. The company is not expected to be able to perform the work until near the end of November.

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The minutes of October 20, 2014 continued:

Trustee Lawson said the street supt. was finishing street sign installation. It was noted the Henry County Highway Dept. had no patch mix available but other commercial companies were still making the mix.

Trustee Drucker said the Finance Committee will discuss setting the tax levy at its next meeting, most likely to be held Nov. 12th. The levy amount will be presented at the Nov. 17th board meeting and a hearing will be held on Dec. 15th after which the levy will be adopted.

The Finance Committee discussed payment methods for a building inspector at its last meeting along with how to get the position filled. Since Mr. Bill Pettifer's resignation in July, Mr. Bart Sampson has been holding the position, but on a temporary basis. Based on Trustee Newman's prior research the building inspector position entails significantly more time than the electrical and plumbing inspector positions. Trustee Drucker said information became available during the committee meeting that Mr. Sampson might be willing to fill the position on a permanent basis at a salary of \$6,000. Mr. Sampson had provided Trustee Drucker with a ledger showing time spent on the job for the past three months. Drucker felt it was important to have someone who could do the job correctly, not only for the village's benefit but for the homeowner's as well. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by O'Leary to hire Mr. Bart Sampson as building inspector at a salary of \$6,000. Prior to a vote, Trustee Lawson expressed concern about the pay being more than that of the electrical and plumbing inspectors. He felt the other inspectors might ask for more money or quit. Members of the Finance Committee explained that no one else had shown interest in the position of building inspector, and it was found that alternate pay methods such as per inspection fees and additional money for permitting and correspondence would cost the village from \$7,500-\$9,000 annually. FC members said, based on numbers from past permits, plumbing and electrical duties equaled about 23% that of the building inspector. President Cooper said the position would be vacant without adequate pay. Advertisements had been placed in the paper and at a facility in the Quad City area with no response. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Noes: Lawson. Absent: None.

It was reported shingles on the band shell should be replaced in the near future. Trustee Mitton painted the porch steps of the structure but ran out of paint prior to completion. Park Supt. Sandberg will complete the job. Additionally, the timer for the Veterans' Monument will be replaced by a light sensor to be erected on the band shell in an area where a hole had already been cut for a prior use. Tony DeBaillie will do the work free of charge.

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The minutes of October 20, 2014 continued:

Trustee O'Leary questioned why the Central Park storage building had not been completed. Trustee Peterson said there had been difficulties locating a mason willing or able to do the work this fall. Additional monies have been requested to help pay for the structure. Trustee Drucker asked that the committee in charge get the project bid before next spring and allow the board to review and approve the building design prior to bidding.

Trustee Peterson was disturbed to hear of someone planning to construct a crow's nest in Love Park near the large baseball diamond. No one had contacted the village for permission to do so. Trustee Lawson said the head baseball coach mentioned it to him some time ago. Lawson felt prices were just being obtained to see if the project was affordable. Trustee Peterson said those wanting to erect structures in the parks need to be able to maintain them. The park department has no dedicated personnel and cannot accept additional maintenance duties. Trustee Peterson pointed out the unfinished batters' cage installed by the Orion Athletic Boosters. Clerk Sampson said a contractor had contacted the building inspector to see where the crow's nest could be located, yet neither the inspector, park supt., or park committee chairman knew about the plans.

Trustee Drucker said flushing of hydrants would begin this week and be completed next week. The exterior of the west tank will be cleaned. The east tower has been put back into service after it was inspected and passed two successful water sample tests.

President Cooper said he and Trustee Newman were concerned about walkers and runners using the streets instead of sidewalks for their activity, especially at dusk or after dark. The issue surfaced after Trustee Newman came very close to an unseen runner while he was driving after dark. The runner was dressed in dark clothes with no reflective devices. Trustee Drucker demonstrated proper clothing by wearing three layers of various reflective materials and asked that people use common sense. Reflective clothes, walking facing traffic, and using sidewalks when available were suggested. Trustee Newman was so startled by his last-second sighting of the runner he stopped and turned around to let the woman know how hard it was to see her, which was met with a rather negative response. President Cooper asked that police officers verbally warn people they see on the street in the dark without reflective clothes.

President Cooper said the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad plans to erect three 50' communications towers outside the village limits in the future. A notice will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Orion Gazette*.

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The board agreed the landscape waste site would be open the first three Saturdays in November from 8-10 a.m. Trustees wishing to volunteer should contact Clerk Sampson.

An artificial Christmas tree will be purchased for use in the band shell this winter. The tree is expected to last many years. The Coulter Trust has tentatively approved funding its purchase. The tree will be 15' in height and it was determined it will be ordered with LED lighting. The cost is expected to be \$2,800.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk