

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., November 3, 2014, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Absent: Mitton.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. He said Trustee Mitton was absent due to a prior commitment.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 20, 2014. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Mitton.

Mr. Ron Thompson invited the board and others to help put up the annual Christmas tree in Central Park at 2 p.m., November 23rd. It was noted that after checking further on the purchase of an artificial tree, the one initially recommended would not hold up to outside weather. A suitable replacement could not be found at this time. Richland Grove Nursery will donate a live tree for this year, and the artificial tree search will continue for next year. A Coulter Trust application was submitted for the purchase but additional funds might be needed in order to get a commercial tree.

Though lights on this year's tree will be lit the day it is erected, Main Street Orion will be having an official lighting ceremony in December.

Trustee Drucker said water main flushing should be completed this week, and the exterior of the west ground tank will be cleaned this fall, weather and time permitting.

President Cooper thanked Park Supt. Arnie Sandberg for completing the stair painting at the band shell. A contractor should reroof the structure next week. President Cooper asked that village employees move the band shell extensions to the Orion Fall Festival building for winter storage.

It was reported that the 1990 S10 pickup truck owned by the sewer department would bring \$250 at the scrap yard or \$200 if the scrap yard picked up the truck from the maintenance garage. Trustee O'Leary asked that the issue be placed on the next agenda for discussion and action.

Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg will contact Hoerr Construction at the end of the week to see if they have a firm schedule for the lining of Orion's sewer mains. Also, President Cooper informed the

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board Golars would be drilling several new test wells on village rights-of-way in the areas where gasoline vapor has been a problem.

Street Supt. Dahl said he had replaced all but a handful of signs. The old signs were delivered to the Henry County Highway Dept. and the old posts were scrapped. Supt. Dahl picked up patch mix and plans to patch street cuts on 8th Street. It was reported the tree removal/trimming budget had been depleted for the fiscal year.

Trustee Drucker asked that residents be reminded not to burn on village streets. Burning damages the pavement and is not allowed. Some offenders have been notified and the police department will be on the lookout for continuing problems.

Trustee Newman said he received complaints, while volunteering at the landscape waste site, about the village's website not being accessible. Bi-State Regional Commission administers the website as a benefit of Orion's annual membership fee. However, the site was hacked months ago and was unable to have documents added by authorized village personnel during the lengthy period of being transferred to a new hosting service and getting the site back up to speed. It was also inaccessible to those using certain anti-virus programs. Clerk Sampson had talked to Trustee Newman about getting another company to administer the site but was now satisfied since Bi-State was able to recently resolve the problem. President Cooper received a call from Bi-State's Denise Bulat expressing apologies for the problems.

Trustee Newman asked the board to consider purchasing reflective bracelets for police officers to give to runners and walkers as part of an awareness campaign to keep them safe while pursuing their activities after dark. He felt the safety and security of the community and its residents was of utmost importance. Henry County Deputy Chad Baze previously offered to come to work one hour early one day per week to access pre-dawn runners and walkers. He also found the reflective slap bracelets at a cost of \$1 each. Trustee O'Leary suggested runners and walkers use the beautiful new track at the Orion High School. It was moved by Newman, seconded by Lawson to purchase 100 reflective slap bracelets at a cost of \$100 to hand out to runners and walkers. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: O'Leary and Drucker. Absent: Mitton.

Trustee Newman provided a chart to the board with confidential information about covered and non-covered police department shifts. He talked to the board about trying to fill more of the non-

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covered shifts, which is expected to become more difficult with recent and upcoming retirements of Henry County deputies, some who would ordinarily work extra hours in Orion. Trustee Newman said he would contact each trustee individually to get their opinion on the level of protection the village required. The Henry County Sheriff's Department will be hiring new employees to fill positions left vacant by retirees, and the board agreed the county should be made aware that the village is still willing to follow through with the commitment to sponsor training for a deputy in return for the deputy's commitment to work a minimum number of shifts in Orion. Trustee Newman said it is difficult for new recruits to get hired when they lack proper training.

Trustee Drucker said the next Finance Committee meeting would be held November 12, 2014 at 4 p.m. at Village Hall. The committee will discuss the tax levy and prepare a recommendation for the village board.

Four trees were planted in Love Park and one in Central Park, according to Trustee Peterson. He also said he was approached by Ali Seys, an alumna of the Orion High School Class of 2011, for permission to purchase two new basketball backstops and hoops for Central Park in memory of two young men from her class who were killed in a recent automobile accident. The class is holding fundraisers to do the project. A plaque would also be mounted in the vicinity of the hoops. The village board had no objections.

Park Supt. Sandberg said he was getting estimates to upgrade electrical services for the baseball diamonds in Love Park. An application will be submitted to the Coulter Trust for funding.

President Cooper said he hoped to have a report on the proposed park storage building at the next meeting.

Costs for a proposed crow's nest in Love Park are apparently being sought by Orion High School's baseball coach. Not much else is known about the project, since it has not been brought before the board. President Cooper said the sponsoring organization will apply for a Coulter Trust grant.

President Cooper gave permission to OHS to use Love Park bleachers for a football game this Saturday. The high school will be responsible for moving them. President Cooper congratulated all OHS students participating in fall sports for the achievements made this year.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk