

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF HENRY)
VILLAGE OF ORION)

An emergency meeting of the President and Board of Trustees was held at 4:00 p.m., May 23, 2012 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Absent: None.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Cooper said he called the emergency session in order to provide engineer Mike McCaw time to revise streetscape plans and submit them to the Illinois Department of Transportation by May 29th if the board chose to continue with the project.

President Cooper, Trustee Newman, and Mike McCaw met the previous day to discuss options on how to proceed with the streetscape project. The project budget has grown considerably due to Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and those provisions have become the central issue for projects funded by the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program. ITEP funds are supplied by the federal government and administered by the state.

Trustee Newman said there had been some conflict in the regulations, with some changing mid-project or being interpreted in a stricter manner. Recently, village officials were told the object of ITEP funds was to comply with ADA requirements, not to beautify the village. Since the scope of the project became focused on ADA requirements, costs escalated from the projected \$90,000 the village allotted for its share. ITEP grant funds total nearly \$175,000.

Trustee Newman provided four options and rough calculations of cost for each option. He said the village could cancel the project, which would result in the loss of \$26,500 already spent on engineering; construct the project without the ITEP grant; construct the project with the ITEP grant but ask IDOT for more grant funds to do so, which would also increase the village's share of the cost to \$200,000; or construct the project with existing ITEP funds but request it be split into reasonable segments that would allow the village's cost to increase slightly from the original \$90,000 estimate to \$107,000. Trustee Newman stressed that he calculated the estimates and the figures were not exact.

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The minutes of the meeting of May 23rd continued:

Trustee Newman said the best case scenario would be approval from IDOT to perform the work in segments. However, before that could be requested, procedurally, the village would be required to ask for additional ITEP funds to complete the entire project at once. If that request was approved and the village could not finance their increased share of the project, the door would be open to request the segmented option. Trustee Newman recommended going through the procedure in hopes of being able to request the project be segmented. Taking the next step in the procedure would require the engineers to modify the streetscape plan, committing the village to some additional expense. Trustee Newman did not have a cost for the engineering but said it was about two days of extra work.

Trustee Drucker said when the project began Main Street Orion presented the village with a beautiful streetscape plan and then it evolved into a plan about meeting ADA requirements. Trustee Newman said the area would still look beautiful after the required improvements. Trustee Lawson objected to spending more money on engineering, and President Cooper asked the board if having pretty sidewalks was more important than fixing sewer backups. It was noted that turning down the original ITEP grant could impact future IDOT grant requests, but President Cooper said the impact would be short term.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by O'Leary to cancel the streetscape project. Prior to a vote Trustee Newman asked the board to see the options through to the end for the small cost of two more days of engineering. He reminded the board if the project was cancelled the village would be out the \$26,500 in engineering fees already expended. Trustee Stiles was skeptical about continuing and said IDOT oversight could be strong and cumbersome. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: Newman. Absent: None.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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