

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., January 5, 2015, 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. He said village attorney John Ames was absent due to weather.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 15, 2014. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Gary Bowling was present representing the Orion Lions Club with a request to resurface the Love Park tennis courts. Mr. Bowling had a sample of the resurfacing material, Flex Court, which has a lifetime guarantee. It is installed in square pieces that can be easily replaced if damaged. The OLC wants to install a multi-purpose court that could be used for tennis, volleyball, pickleball, and basketball. The project is expected to cost around \$58,000 and the OLC's target date for installation is late summer. The OLC will pay for the project through fundraisers. Mr. Bowling said he would send an invitation to the village board when a representative comes to speak to the OLC about the surface product. President Cooper warned Mr. Bowling that the contractor performing the work would have to abide by prevailing wage rates, since it will be constructed on village property. Trustees Mitton and Peterson said the village will need to know who will manage the court before the board gives approval.

Trustee O'Leary said the sewer vapor dilemma continues at Mr. Darren Brown's, 106 11th Avenue. The village's exhaust fan was turned off at the 2nd St. and 11th Ave. manhole on Friday, January 2nd, but Mr. Brown complained the next day of a 'plastic sewer smell' so the fan was turned back on. Mr. Brown told Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg he would have someone look at his basement for another solution. Mr. Brown also told Supt. Lundburg he previously had someone fix a crack in a pipe, but the village doesn't know exactly what was done. Supt. Lundburg told the board he was satisfied that the village had done everything in its power to assist in resolving the vapor issue. The exhaust fan is running only for Mr. Brown's benefit. No other properties are experiencing an odor. Supt. Lundburg said the problem had to be coming from Mr. Brown's property and not the sewer main. If all sewer outlets had proper traps, sewer odor could not penetrate into the basement. The board agreed that Mr. Brown should contact the Illinois EPA and possibly Golars, the environmental firm remediating the gas vapor problem. The board also agreed that the village plumbing inspector should inspect the home when the odor is present and attempt to determine the source, and also find out from Mr. Brown what in his plumbing system was fixed.

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Trustee Drucker said Water Supt. Arnie Sandberg was investigating a potential leak in piping at the east pump house. If a leak is determined to be the problem, the well would be shut down in order to perform repairs. Supt. Sandberg is calculating the cost of potential repairs.

President Cooper said he and Trustee Peterson met with Bart Sampson regarding the Central Park storage building. Mr. Sampson is developing new specifications due to some structural changes. The changes could reduce the cost to less than the \$30,000 previously estimated.

Trustee Drucker said the next Finance Committee meeting will be held January 14, 2015 at 4 p.m. at Village Hall. At a prior meeting, the committee discussed using TIF funds to help pay for the park storage building, if needed. The project is within the TIF district.

Trustee Newman said the Henry County Sheriff's Dept. is still waiting to replace several deputies who retired and thus, won't be able to provide any extra part-time deputies to Orion until its own full-time slots are filled. Additionally, Trustee Newman said the village's contract ended the county's fiscal year with a surplus. A refund of \$3,149 was issued to the village.

Henry County deputies will begin using Tasers in the near future and it is recommended deputies patrolling in Orion also utilize them. In lieu of purchasing the equipment, it can be leased for five years and then replaced with a new Taser. Trustee Newman did not yet have cost information but said Deputy Chad Baze was checking on that issue. If funds are not available in the village's current fiscal year, money can be budgeted in the next fiscal year. Trustee Drucker questioned whether the use of Tasers was mandated and if grant funds were available. It was noted Henry County obtained grant money to cover part of the cost of its Tasers. Trustee Newman will report to the board once he has more information.

Upon learning from Street Supt. Neil Dahl that some property owners have installed steel posts right behind the curb, on village right-of-way, the board asked Supt. Dahl to notify the police of offenders. The police will contact offenders and tell them the posts must be removed.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to adopt Resolution #1415-2, Authorizing the Destruction of Audio Recordings of Closed Meetings Sessions of March 7, 2011, August 1, 2011, November 21, 2011, January 16, 2012, and March 18, 2013. Prior to a vote and in response to a question by Trustee Drucker, Clerk Sampson said the audio recordings could be eliminated after 18 months. A paper copy of the closed

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sessions remains as a permanent record. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Lawson to adopt Resolution #1415-3, Authorizing the Release of Closed Sessions of April 7, 2014, April 21, 2014, May 5, 2014, and November 17, 2014. Prior to a vote and in response to a question by Trustee Drucker, Clerk Sampson explained to the board that some closed meeting minutes may never be open to the public because of their sensitive nature, but those that are non-controversial and don't interfere with personal privacy are submitted to the board for consideration after a semi-annual review. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve a donation of \$250 to Orion After Prom. Prior to a vote, Trustee Drucker suggested the money be given in the form of Main Street Orion gift certificates. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper announced a rate increase by Mediacom, the village's cable television supplier. The local broadcast station charge will increase from \$2.45 to \$4.75. Other rates will also increase but by lesser amounts.

President Cooper said \$2,650 was donated by the Wyman Coulter Trust for purchase of an artificial Christmas tree for the Central Park Band Shell. The village will search for a commercial tree for next year.

President Cooper said he would hold a one-on-one meeting with each village employee to explain a proposed performance review. An employee's performance will determine whether a bonus is deserved and if so, how much. Trustees Newman and Mitton will develop the format of the review.

The Henry County Enterprise Zone application process was difficult but has been completed, according to President Cooper. He felt positive about Henry County's chance of being approved for the zone and said, even if there was no immediate benefit to Orion, there might be residual benefits.

Board members were asked to consider attending a Northwest Municipal Association dinner meeting where legislators will be present. President Cooper said it would be a good meet and greet opportunity. The dinner will be held January 21st at the Heritage Center in Hampton.

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President Cooper outlined several issues he wanted addressed in the upcoming fiscal year, including resolution of the 13th Street sewer lateral issue, ditch work, sidewalk replacement, and tree planting. He asked board members to add their own ideas to his list prior to the next meeting. President Cooper was adamant about replacing broken and uneven sidewalks, even if he had to do the work himself.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk