

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., May 21, 2012, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Absent: Lawson.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. He also said Trustee Lawson was absent due to a job conflict.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 7, 2012. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$34,170.91, Recycle Collection-\$1,880.48, Water O&M-\$5,184.19, Sewer O&M-\$8,152.32, Sewer Depr.-\$2,555.41, C.R. Hanna Trust-\$277.50, Love Trust-\$500.00, and Fines-\$126.49. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Mr. Dan Kost, owner of Hillcrest Event Center, spoke to the board about changing the facility from a resort to an event center. Long-term camping has been removed in favor of short-term rentals, and arrangements have been made with five top Quad City chefs to cater events at the facility. Mr. Kost said a reality show is being filmed at the facility, which will focus on his family's effort to run the business. Hillcrest also offers swimming, golf, nature trails, and picnic pavilions. Mr. Kost provided the board with a list of planned events for the summer and asked to be considered in Orion's long-range plan for annexation. He said it would help his business and the village. Mr. Kost said 10,000 people visited Hillcrest last year and he is working with Main Street Orion this year to promote his business and the Orion community. President Cooper said the board would give the request some consideration, even though the facility is two miles outside the existing village limits.

Mrs. Tammy Larson asked the board to allow the Orion Athletic Booster Club to use Central Park for an annual fundraiser. The group would sell raffle tickets for prizes to be awarded during the evening; two local bands would provide music; and alcohol may be sold or brought in for the event. Mrs. Larson was unsure whether the Club would pursue a one-day liquor license or encourage attendees to bring their own alcohol. She said they were considering the dates of Sept. 15th or Oct. 6th. The event would be for adults only. President Cooper and board members encouraged the group to hire some police officers for the event and said a certificate of insurance would have to be provided to the village. The board discussed other issues related to alcohol, but no decisions were made.

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The minutes of May 21, 2012 continued:

Trustee Peterson said first grades classes from C.R. Hanna Grade School put flags around the perimeter and along sidewalks in Central Park. He said they looked very nice. Also reported was a broken seat on a picnic table under the pavilion. The board was dismayed at the lack of respect for public property.

Part of the fence at Love Park was damaged by players using it for hitting practice. Trustee Peterson will ask coaches of the baseball teams to refrain from purposely hitting balls into the fence.

President Cooper said he asked ambulance personnel to move a scheduled meeting and training event from Love Park to school grounds in early June. A baseball tournament will conflict with the training.

Trustee O'Leary said the sewer jetter was back in operating condition and had been used to jet a main in the east end of the village.

Discussion was held about three parties who had been warned to separate their co-joined sewer laterals but thus far have failed to do so. Attorney Ames requested a meeting with all three parties separate from a meeting with the individual who has agreed to provide an easement to facilitate the sewer work.

The street supt. was reported to be patching potholes and preparing to begin a curb project at 13th Street and 14th Ave. A. Trustee Drucker said the ditch on the east side of 13th Street between the house and the Lutheran Cemetery needed mowing.

Trustee Newman, President Cooper, and Missman engineer Mike McCaw met with Illinois Department of Transportation officials on May 10th to review possible methods to allow for continuation of the streetscape project. Information was exchanged and Trustee Newman and President Cooper plan to meet May 22nd with Mike McCaw to further discuss the project.

Trustee Drucker said the east tower bid opening will be held May 24th at 11 a.m. at Village Hall. As long as all conditions are favorable, a bid will be offered for approval at the first meeting in June.

Trustee Newman said the support under the air conditioner at Village Hall had been improved and the ground around it reshaped to allow for water to flow away from the building. The site will be finish graded and seeded and should remain within budget limitations. He also said conduit work would begin soon in Central Park in preparation

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for security camera installation. A purchase order was submitted to Tri-City Electric for the purchase of the camera system.

Trustees Drucker and O'Leary will arrange to meet with Jim Dingman at BankORION to investigate securing a loan for the sewer relief main project.

The board agreed to close 12th Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets from 8-Noon on Monday, May 28th for a Memorial Day service.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to donate \$1,000 to the 4th of July Fireworks Committee for its annual fireworks display. After a question by Trustee Drucker, President Cooper said he would find out the total annual budget for the event. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

President Cooper recommended the board change the employee health insurance policy to a Heritage Plus plan, an increase of 12% over the current year's plan, versus an increase of 17% to keep the existing plan. The only difference between the two plans is higher co-pay from \$20 to \$35 for an office visit to a specialist. Trustee Stiles said the health insurance should be shopped around to different agencies, which Trustee Drucker said had been done in the past. Trustee Newman said President Cooper's recommendation had merit and he preferred instead that time be spent researching the municipal group option that is being explored by Henry County municipalities. President Cooper said it would be some time before details of a proposed municipal group would be ready for presentation. In the meantime, he said he would rather have an Orion agency carry the health insurance versus an out of town agency, even if the cost is slightly higher. Trustee Drucker said his personal health insurance increased 14% this year, so the 12% increase proposed seemed within reason. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve Option #6, Heritage Plus at a cost of \$4,114 per month. Trustee Stiles continued to object to making a decision without more options. President Cooper said United Health Care is a major provider across the country and other agents would most likely offer similar pricing. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Clerk Sampson said the Illinois Department of Labor visited the village for the first time in 15 years. The visit resulted in some deficiencies in safety training and policies; however, official notification has not yet been received. Clerk Sampson said she found that the IML Risk Management Association will do all required safety training on-site. Some must be performed annually.

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The minutes of May 21, 2012 continued:

President Cooper and Trustee Drucker met with Lee Trotter from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to discuss options for funding the sewer relief main and speeding up resolution of the gas vapor issue. Mr. Trotter said he would actively work to assist the village. Trustee O'Leary said Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg planned to contact IEPA officials to check on the status of the gas vapor investigation. The board complained about large barrels left near the site of the investigation, some of which are not properly contained.

President Cooper expressed his annoyance at reading about a \$200,000 grant awarded by Senator Mike Jacobs to Carbon Cliff for installation of brick paved streets. He doubted the project was as worthy as preventing sewer backup in the homes of Orion residents and phoned Jacobs' office to discuss the matter. The senator was not available and did not return his call, but President Cooper followed up with an email and was still waiting for a response. President Cooper said he wants Senator Jacobs to provide grant funds for the sewer relief main or apologize for renegeing on his promises.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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