

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., April 2, 2015, at the Village Hall, 1202 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, Newman, Mitton, O'Leary, 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 Mitton, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 16, 2015. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

MSO President Susan Moen said MidAmerican Energy Co. owns the light poles on Main Street and is embarrassed about their condition. MAE has agreed to replace the poles with one of two types available. Ornamental lighting is only available if an entity such as MSO or the village pays to have underground wiring. Moen will have MAE supply President Cooper with photos of the two poles available for overhead wiring.

President Cooper encouraged everyone to vote on Tuesday, despite the fact village trustees on the ballot had no competition. He thanked those who decided to run for office since it is difficult to get residents interested in open positions.

The Illinois EPA, after reviewing the work done to line sewer mains in the gas vapor area, initially decided not to reimburse the village for all of the lining. However, according to President Cooper, Mr. Hernando Albarracin from the Illinois EPA recently made contact with him and said the IEPA was willing to pay the entire cost. President Cooper and Trustee Drucker intended to meet with representatives of the IEPA while on a lobbying trip to Springfield later this month but now can focus on meeting with legislators. Trustee Drucker thanked President Cooper for his persistence with the IEPA, and Trustee Newman said it appeared the village had turned a corner on the issue as evidenced by work being performed on 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

It was decided not to pursue the contractor who performed basement waterproofing at the Darren Brown residence, 106 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The contractor allegedly did something to allow sewer gas into the basement during the course of working for Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown corrected the odor problem with the installation of a radon-type exhaust system. President Cooper said it would be difficult to get the contractor to admit to wrongdoing and proof would come at the expense of digging up the concrete in Mr. Brown's basement to locate the source.

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The minutes of April 6, 2015 continued:

In relation to the gas vapor issue, an electric service has been discontinued at the site where an exhaust fan was placed over a manhole near 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The temporary service will be taken down in the next week or two.

Trustee Mitton asked the board to review a proposed employee evaluation procedure, keeping an open mind, and be prepared to discuss at a later date. He said the committee met with employees last week to get their input. Trustee Mitton said the board and the employees need to be held accountable for what happens in the workplace and the evaluation procedure should be looked at as a win/win for both parties. He felt the procedure would improve communications and there would be a better understanding of what the employees do in their daily work. Trustee O'Leary objected to such a process, telling the board he believed it was the duty of the committee chair to handle personnel issues within their own department and if it could not be handled by the chair, it should be forwarded to the president. Trustee Mitton said department heads could assist with evaluations but the final result would be determined by a neutral party from the committee. He further explained the village could put itself out on a limb without proper documentation for good or bad employee performance. Trustee O'Leary insisted his meetings with the sewer employee, two to three times per week, were satisfactory. President Cooper reminded the board changes could be made to the evaluation procedure as time goes on, but trustees should review the proposed procedure for future discussion.

The east well is holding its own and will be repaired when weather permits, as reported by Trustee Drucker. Also, the water department is skeptical any post-winter water main leaks will develop if they have not shown themselves by now.

Trustee Drucker recommended the village consider an Adopt-A-Hydrant program. Residents and Orion Fire Department Explorers could volunteer to paint a hydrant in their yard or nearby, and the village could supply paint and paint brushes. Tops of hydrants need to be painted in accordance with the psi of each and such information will be provided by the water department. The board was asked to consider the project. It could be advertised in the next Nosy Neighbor to be published June 1<sup>st</sup>.

J.D. Hirsch and Jim DeFauw were thanked for assisting in Central Park with the flag and flag pole rope. They were working nearby and agreed to use their man lift to aid the village.

Trustee Peterson said the village would supply paint, rollers, and brushes for volunteers to use to paint the Love Park dugouts.

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The minutes of April 6, 2015 continued:

The Finance Committee submitted a proposed budget to the board and Trustee Drucker asked that it be reviewed prior to the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Revenues from the state are unsure at this time but the committee tried to be certain important projects remained in the budget. Street Superintendent Neil Dahl asked that the 6<sup>th</sup> Street project be included in lieu of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street project, or include the 6<sup>th</sup> Street project in the Motor Fuel Tax program so both projects could be completed. President Cooper said if there was ample time to do both projects, it was feasible one could be funded with MFT funds and the other with general funds. In other budget discussion, Trustee Newman asked about 4<sup>th</sup> Street drainage work mentioned at a prior meeting and was told only easement acquisition and legal work for that project were planned for the upcoming fiscal year.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to authorize the expenditure of TIF funds for the Central Park storage building. When Trustee Lawson objected and said funding was already covered by a Coulter Trust grant, Trustee Drucker said the grant would not cover the entire cost, and the village was always looking for worthwhile projects within the TIF district on which to spend TIF dollars. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, and Drucker. Noes: Lawson. Absent: None.

The next Finance Committee meeting was set for April 15, 2015 at 4 p.m. in the village hall. Trustee Drucker invited trustees who had questions about the proposed budget to attend. He went on to say that several Orion businesses had been lost in the recent past and the village had the potential to see a sales tax loss as a result. Trustee Drucker told Susan Moen, MSO President, who was in attendance, that the organization needed to get active on the issue of attracting more business to the community.

Trustee Newman said in addition to officers handing out reflective bracelets to those they see while on patrol, residents should feel welcome to get them at Village Hall.

Trustee Lawson asked for police presence at Love Park during baseball season. He also said a Dumpster and a construction trailer near Love Park are impeding traffic. If the Dumpster and trailer were to be moved to the opposite side of the street the area could return to two-way traffic.

President Cooper and the board declared May 23, 2015 as Poppy Day in the village.

President Cooper will obtain additional information about certification regulations for plumbing inspectors and report at a later date.

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The minutes of April 6, 2015 continued:

A firm estimate was given to President Cooper for sewer lateral changes near 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The project involves Destiny Carnahan, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Carlson, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rasmussen. President Cooper had talked to two of the three parties about the estimate. The contractor will only perform the work for the three parties if paid by the village, due to a perceived risk of not otherwise getting paid. It is possible for the village to pay the contractor and then seek reimbursement from all parties. President Cooper asked the board to consider this option.

President Cooper reminded those present to vote at Tuesday's election.

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

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk