

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

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

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 19, 2012. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

Cathy Foes, Henry County Tourism Director, addressed the board regarding the importance of Main Street Orion to the community. She noted the passion that MSO's director, Deb Ford, has for the community and said that Ford and MSO's president, Kevin Roberts, share a seat on the tourism board. Foes said many metropolitan areas have realized how important main streets are to a community and are trying to create them within large residential developments. She also said MSO was working for the community to provide economic business incentives and quality of life events, making Orion a more attractive place to live. Foes said Orion was fortunate to have a thriving business community in such close proximity to the Quad Cities and it was remarkable that 60% of those businesses were MSO members. She said Orion was unique in that MSO has included the entire community in its district, thus spreading the benefit of the CIBP to every business. Foes said there were opportunities for MSO to grow into a larger program and told the board that rack cards promoting Orion would be distributed statewide. Printing of the cards was made possible by a grant secured by MSO to promote tourism. Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity representative, Lee Trotter, said he has eight Main Street communities in his district and he is very impressed with MSO's success. He said it is a proven entity with a history of success and it is needed to bring people in and maintain a vigorous community. Ford said the organization pumps three times the amount of money it receives from the village right back into the community each year.

President Cooper urged Lee Trotter to tell legislators how frustrated the village is with the LMI requirement attached to all grants. He said Orion cannot meet those requirements and is penalized because the village is fiscally responsible. Mr. Trotter said he had heard the same complaint from other communities and would relay the message.

Trustee Stiles told the board the police vehicle included in his budget request should remain. It was deleted from the proposed budget for FY2013 by the Finance Committee with the hope of getting one more year of use. Stiles said odds were high that the leaking head gasket would end up costing the village and it was foolish to throw away money for

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repairs to a vehicle that will be replaced a year later, especially when the head gasket is a known problem. The board was also told the availability of police vehicles only comes at a certain time each year. Stiles said the police needed a dependable vehicle that they could count on in emergency situations. Further, the proposed purchase of an SUV with all-wheel drive was favored over a Chevrolet Impala because the Impala is going out of production and parts could become scarce. Stiles said the miles on a police vehicle could not be fairly compared to the miles on a family car. The board agreed by general consensus to put the police vehicle back in the budget for consideration on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

It was pointed out that \$10,000 was included in the proposed budget for MSO membership. Trustee Lawson contended that nothing should have been put in the budget because the board agreed last year to reduce the standard contribution. O'Leary proposed a \$5,000 cut, but Trustee Peterson thought the board had agreed to provide \$7,500. Lawson objected, saying the board hadn't previously agreed to any specific amount, and he favored giving just \$5,000. Trustee Stiles said the board shouldn't consider any donation to MSO as long as the village has other needs such as police vehicles, street projects, and water and sewer infrastructure needs, though in the end, he felt a \$5,000 contribution could be justified. Clerk Sampson said the village would always have infrastructure needs; there would never be a time when the water and sewer systems and streets would be perfect and if the village focused 100% of its time and money on those departments, it would be at the peril of every other department. She said the street department had been the beneficiary of unprecedented funding in the past 10 years; the police department was never denied funds for its needs; and the water and sewer funds were meant to be self-supporting, thus any expenditure from general funds should have no effect on those departments. Trustee Newman said he saw no compelling reason to cut MSO funding. He said the board was not endangering the public with the cuts made to parts of the proposed budget. Nonetheless, a general consensus of the board indicated a desire to only include \$5,000 for MSO in the proposed budget.

Discussion was held regarding a storage building proposed for Central Park. The structure would store band shell stage extensions, benches, and chairs for concerts and other park events. Trustee Newman said he was open to other storage options and welcomed board and public input, but the inclusion of the project in the budget was a net zero. Funding would be requested from the Coulter Trust and if that funding wasn't received, the project would not go forth. The board agreed the expenditure could remain in the proposed budget.

Trustee Peterson asked the board to consider adding \$500 to the proposed budget to assist with batting cage expenses. The project was overseen by the Orion Athletic Booster Club and actual costs exceeded estimates. A large amount of funds had been received

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from the Coulter Trust, but the booster club was asking for more from Orion and two baseball organizations. The board agreed by general consensus to include the expenditure in the proposed budget.

It was also agreed by general consensus to allow a \$13/hr wage rate for part-time police personnel to remain in the proposed budget, which is \$1/hr. more than the current wage.

Trustee Peterson said Orion Tool, Die & Machine Co. installed posts and cable in an effort to further control parking during baseball games at Love Park.

Trustee O'Leary reported some problems with the generator at the sewer plant. He was hopeful that it would turn out to be a minor maintenance issue. The problem was discovered during an annual maintenance review.

Trustee Stiles was waiting for an information packet from Becky Blankenship regarding a special census that could be conducted to see if Orion could meet eligibility requirements for a grant for the sewer relief main.

Trustee Lawson said the street department was in the process of fixing an area where water ponds on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The old curb will be removed and new curb will be installed. Another area being considered for repairs is the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue A, where vehicles turn too sharply and create ruts in the earth.

Clerk Sampson said the bid packet had been received for the east water tower but contained a couple of minor errors and would be returned for corrections.

Trustee Newman said installation of the camera security system would begin in the near future.

President Cooper said Mercer County was the only nearby entity receiving grant funds for a squad car. Orion applied but was not selected. The grant was open to communities of 25,000 or less in population.

President Cooper said he was asked to speak to C.R. Hanna fifth-graders and enjoyed enlightening them about the duties of the village president.

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 Lawson. Noes: None. Absent: Drucker.

Lori A. Sampson



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