

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., June 1, 2015, at the Village Hall, 1202 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O’Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker.  
Absent: None.

President Cooper led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 18, 2015. Ayes: Peterson, O’Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker.  
Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper introduced Denise Bulat from Bi-State Regional Commission. Ms. Bulat was asked to summarize opportunities the organization might provide to Orion through its membership program. Ms. Bulat pointed out the joint purchasing program, which saved Sherrard about \$5,000 annually. Goods such as paper, can liners, chlorine and other items can be purchased at lower prices than direct from retailers. Also, Bi-State can write transportation grants as well as water and sewer grants. Mapping services are also available and have been used in the past by the village. The board discussed with Ms. Bulat the difficulty of obtaining grants since they are open only to communities with low-to-moderate income levels. Ms. Bulat agreed to check with MidAmerican Energy Co. for grants that might be helpful with Orion’s wish to update lighting in the business district. USDA grants were mentioned as a possibility for marketing Orion to developers for construction of assisted living facilities. Ms. Bulat said Bi-State could help with income surveys necessary for that process. She also said Orion could be eligible for an Open Space Land Acquisition grant to upgrade baseball facilities, if officials can provide a plan of improvement. When asked about business retention and marketing, Ms. Bulat said those services would be provided by the Henry County Economic Development Partnership. Bi-State staff can do the technical work of writing a grant and providing data for those efforts. In response to Trustee Drucker’s request to find a way to attract people to live and do business in Orion, Ms. Bulat said a fact sheet about Orion’s attributes could be developed and given to realtors, HCEDP, and major employers such as Deere & Co. and the Rock Island Arsenal. She showed the board a similar fact sheet developed for Port Byron. Trustee Newman asked how to get an interchange at Interstate 74 near Orion, and Ms. Bulat expressed doubt it was possible. She said interchanges are extremely difficult to obtain. The Federal Highway Administration does not want to build more interchanges. President Cooper said Orion’s request would be partially for safety reasons. Police, fire, and ambulance services are often needed on I-74 and emergency personnel have to travel Rt. 150 to Rt. 81 to get to the interstate. Discussion was also held on an east Rock River bridge, which some considered more important for the Orion area than an I-74 interchange.

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The minutes of June 1, 2015 continued:

Trustee Lawson said work was still being performed on sidewalks near the high school. Street Supt. Neil Dahl said repaving projects mandate bringing sidewalks in the same area up to code. Rubber mats are being installed in the walk near where the slope meets the street. In other street business it was noted work had begun on 6<sup>th</sup> Street A, which is scheduled for blacktop later this summer.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Drucker to approve a resolution appropriating \$100,000 of Motor Fuel Tax funds for street maintenance in CY2015. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Drucker to approve an intergovernmental agreement with the Henry County Highway Dept. for street maintenance. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Illegal sewer connections at the east end of the village were discussed. Two property owners have agreed to proceed with measures to come into compliance and the third says she cannot afford to do so. Further work needs to be completed regarding easements, but the village will most likely forge ahead and hire a contractor to bring all property owners into compliance. A lien will be filed against property owners who do not pay their fair share of the expense.

Discussion was held regarding an electrical pole moved last year to accommodate sewer main repairs. Dirt in the area has settled and the landscape has been returned to its normal state. MidAmerican Energy Co. had planned to return to move the pole to its original position, but the village will ask that it be left in its current spot due to the fact neighbors prefer not to have the landscape disturbed again. Since MAE's original contact person is no longer available, Trustee Newman said he would locate the person responsible for making that decision and put him in touch with Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg.

President Cooper said construction of the park storage building was proceeding well, and summer employee Andrew Lundburg will assist the work crew in the near future.

Hydrants are scheduled to be flushed in the next two weeks. Also, materials for repairs at Well #2 continue to be ordered.

Trustee Drucker said the Adopt A Hydrant is in swing and a few people have already volunteered to paint hydrants near their properties. The community service program is entirely volunteer-based. Trustee Drucker said interested parties should contact Village

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Hall to pick up paint, brushes, and scrapers. The Orion Fire District Explorers have not yet contacted Trustee Drucker about helping nor has the high school honor society.

The Corn Crib replaced flowers with evergreens in Central Park's concrete planting area. Trustee Peterson said he received compliments on the plantings. He thanked Mr. Ron Thompson for spraying weeds in the Main Street area.

Because the Love Park scoreboard cannot be adequately controlled by a wireless remote, Trustee Lawson said the Orion Athletic Booster Club is considering hardwiring the dugouts and considering asking the village to split the cost.

President Cooper said it was noted in last week's local newspaper that the Orion Lions Club was going to blacktop the tennis courts. Trustee Peterson had been approached by people asking how the grant funds were going to be used for the proposed Lions Club project and when village employees would be taking down the court fencing. Trustee Peterson objected to organizations proceeding with projects for the Orion parks without consulting with the village board. Past episodes of such activity have resulted in putting the village in violation of prevailing wage regulations and a structure being built partly on a neighboring property, which caused the village extra expense to hire a surveyor after the fact. A representative of the Lions Club attended a village meeting several months ago and presented the idea of using the court for activities besides tennis, proposing snap-together material for the surface. However, nothing has been communicated to the village since that time. Trustee Drucker said blacktop is not considered an appropriate material for tennis courts. Trustee O'Leary volunteered to talk to someone from the Lions Club and ask them to keep the village in the loop.

The Finance Committee meeting will be held June 17, 2015 at 4 p.m. at Village Hall.

Trustee Newman reported having residents bring dozens of loads of yard waste to the landscape waste site, last Saturday, despite persistent rain.

Trustee Newman, getting no additional feedback on a proposed noise ordinance, will move forward with Attorney John Ames to draft an ordinance to clarify time limits for outdoor events, possibly different times for weekdays and weekends. Trustee Newman said he passed along to police officers concerns of board members about drivers disobeying speed limits and stop signs. He also said the current squad car has over 100,000 miles on it and should be considered for replacement next fiscal year. Trustee Lawson suggested using the car as a backup to the police SUV and using the SUV for both daily shifts. Currently, the car is used for one shift and the SUV for another.

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Trustee Drucker said bicyclists of all ages must be observant of stop signs and other rules. He has seen people ride straight through stop signs without even slowing down. Parents should reinforce the rules with their children.

There being no other 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: Newman.

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk