

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., November 2, 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 led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 19, 2015. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Drucker to approve the recommendation from the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals to allow Caitlyn Carroll, 708 12th Avenue to operate a one-chair beauty salon on the premises. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Ron Thompson requested help from board members and any other able bodied men on November 22nd at 1:00 pm in Central Park to erect a new artificial Christmas tree. President Cooper added that some football players and trustees did a test run a week ago.

Mr. Don Goembel read an open letter to Mrs. Mindy Carls, *Orion Gazette* editor. He felt Mrs. Carls had taken a public stance against the village board due to the fact she requested a review of roll call votes at a meeting of the village board on September 9, 2015. The review was requested of the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Bureau. Mrs. Jennifer Smutzer addressed the board in regard to the request for the closing of 10th Avenue at the September 9th board meeting. She went on to say that the community was bothered by the front page article of the October 30th issue of the *Orion Gazette*. Smutzer told Carls she was disappointed the editor had chosen to contact the attorney general's office. She apologized for the lateness of the request for the Booster Bash as it had not been on the agenda and added that her committee took some responsibility for not getting the request in earlier for the street closing. Smutzer also thanked the village board for helping make the event a success. President Cooper addressed Mrs. Carls stating that he felt she misled the attorney general's office. He said that he did not call on each member for a vote and went on to read a portion of the minutes from the September 9th meeting which did not mention a roll-call vote was taken. President Cooper stated no rules were violated. He said he asked the board if any had objection to the closing and added that he did not ask by name and believes this incident is a non issue. He went on to say he understands what an agenda item is and if it was an agenda item he knows it would be accepted. President Cooper went on to say Mrs. Carls had disrespected the entire board, booster club, and village. Trustee Lawson said Mrs. Smutzer is not part of the booster club board but only represents a committee formed to organize the Booster Bash.

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The minutes of November 2, 2015 continued:

Trustee O'Leary said he was also disappointed with the October 30th *Gazette* article. He vowed to not buy the paper again.

Trustee O'Leary reported on the field tile issue in the 1400 block of 7th Street, which was talked about at the last meeting. He said Sewer Superintendent Chris Lundburg had received a cost estimate of \$5,600 from Marshall Land Improvement to repair and/or replace connection of approximately 180' of 10" field tile. Last month B & B Drain Tech ran a camera through the line and located a blockage attributed to tree roots on the property of Mr. & Mrs. David King at the corner of 7th Street and 14th Avenue. Mr. King was present at the meeting. Trustee O'Leary said he had seen the video showing the blockage. Mr. & Mrs. Dave Crosiar asked to see the video. O'Leary advised that they could visit the sewer plant, where they could view the video. He said the village has fixed what they are responsible for and residents are responsible for what is on their own property. Mr. Crosiar remained unconvinced that the village had no further responsibility. Mr. King had concerns about the amount of storm water flowing through the natural drainage area.

Trustee O'Leary said the street superintendent was assisting Sewer Superintendent Lundburg with equipment maintenance at the sewer plant. In other sewer business, President Cooper announced work would begin on November 3rd to resolve the Carlson/Rasmussen/Carnahan sewer lateral issue.

Trustee Mitton announced he will be meeting with Tri-City Electric on November 5th to discuss additional security cameras for Central Park.

Trustee Drucker reported that two residents on 11th Avenue had been hooked up to the same lateral which has since been corrected. He also commented that the hydrant program was going along well. Approximately 10 hydrants were to be painted over the weekend but due to weather, they did not get done. He commended the *Orion Gazette* for getting the word out about the program.

Trustee Peterson said mulch had been delivered for both parks. Park Superintendent Sandberg moved all of the mulch, and Boy Scouts and some parents placed it around the park equipment. He added that the contractor started work at Love Park on the electrical upgrade. An accident occurred with the electrical contactors but no one was hurt. The system will be remotely controlled from the concession stand when completed.

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The minutes of November 2, 2015 continued:

Trustee Drucker stated the next Finance Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 12th. The tax levy will be discussed.

President Cooper and village attorney John Ames recently attended an Orion school board meeting to see if school board members would be in favor of extending the current TIF district 12 more years. The school board favored the proposal. A letter will be sent to the Henry County Board to gauge their interest in the TIF extension. The Henry County Economic Development Partnership has already given its support. Support from state legislators will also be required, according to Attorney Ames.

Trustee Newman said the noise ordinance will be available for discussion at the next board meeting. The ordinance will go before the board for vote at a later date. Newman said he spoke with Captain Lonka at Henry County Sheriff's Office regarding flex hours for Orion deputies. Captain Lonka said he was not opposed to the idea. President Cooper had to stop youths from jumping on top of playground equipment in Central Park recently. The boys were also using foul language. He got the names of the boys and the information was passed on to the police department.

There was discussion about putting in place a system to issue municipal tickets for code violations. Trustee Drucker questioned why there are no enforceable code violations. He believes the law states the village can set and collect fines for such offenses as barking dogs, parking violations, etc. Attorney Ames remarked that the subject had been visited in the past. The office staff would be required to administer the fines and keep track of such. Trustee Drucker stated that he wanted reasons why the village can move forward with municipal tickets, not why it can't be done.

Street Superintendent Dahl reported that all vehicles have been serviced for winter. He added that the F450 truck was towed today and he is working on getting it repaired. He said is trying to get some parts for the grader but having a difficult time since it is 44 years old. He added that the village has plenty of salt on hand for winter. Trustee Mitton questioned how proactive the village was in budgeting for new equipment. Street Superintendent Dahl said the average age of equipment was 24 years old. The village has set aside funds for the purchase of a new truck.

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

Sandra P. Mizen
Deputy Clerk