

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 16, 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 November 2, 2015. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$58,455.48, Recycle-\$1,593.00, Water O&M-\$14,556.62, Water Depr.-\$105.38, Sewer O&M-\$23,429.49, Sewer Depr.-\$1,301.50, and Sewer Cap., Impr.-\$315.38. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Tom Engelmann was present to discuss the FY2015 audit. He pointed out the lack of segregation of duties, due to the small number of office staff, and said the Finance Committee meetings are a good counter to that issue. Mr. Engelmann said cash balances rose during the fiscal year and debt was being reduced in an accelerated manner. Trustee Drucker was pleased to hear Mr. Engelmann's good report, and President Cooper thanked Clerk Sampson and Treasurer Mizen for their accounting efforts. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the FY2015 audit. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Ron Thompson asked for volunteers to assist with erecting the artificial Christmas tree in Central Park on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 p.m.

Trustee O'Leary said the sewer superintendent was putting new bearings in the VLR. He also said Mr. David King hired B & B Drain to clean out field tile on his property. The sewer superintendent told a representative of B & B that the tile needed to be repaired, not just cleaned out. B & B asked on behalf of Mr. King if the village would participate 50/50 in the cost of the repairs and the sewer superintendent declined. The field tile is on private property.

President Cooper said he was pleased to announce the Carlson, Carnahan, Rasmussen sewer lateral project was completed. He said the contractors did a good job disconnecting the illegally connected laterals and installing separate laterals. Property owners will be billed by the village. If payment is not forthcoming, the village has the option to file liens against the properties.

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The minutes of November 16, 2015 continued:

Trustee Mitton and others looked at locations to mount security cameras to monitor activity at the Central Park restrooms and storage building. He received an estimate of cost but had not had time to review it as of yet. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting. Trustee Drucker lamented the fact that more security cameras were deemed necessary, but Trustee Mitton said the village needed to make sure its structures were taken care of and not vandalized.

Trustee Drucker said the flushing of hydrants had been completed.

An unsolicited offer of providing the water department with chlorine was received and the water superintendent is following up on support and delivery to see how it compares with the existing provider.

Trustee Peterson said the rewiring project in Love Park was completed and bathrooms in both parks will be closed for the winter within the week.

Trustee Drucker announced the Finance Committee reviewed cash balances, revenues, and expenditures and decided it would not be necessary to increase the tax levy for 2015. The tax levy amount recommended was \$193,155. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to set a tax levy hearing for December 21, 2015 at 7 p.m. to discuss the recommendation to keep the levy at \$193,155. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve a \$500 donation to Main Street Orion for its Saturday with Santa event. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Newman said Henry County Deputy Chad Baze is utilizing flex time and has been asked to patrol running and walking routes used by residents in the early morning hours. He said there have been close calls between drivers and runners during pre-dawn and dusk hours. Reflective bracelets purchased for runners and walkers have all been distributed.

Trustee Drucker asked for patrols between 6-7 a.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> Street north of the Orion High School. He walks that route and has noticed drivers speeding.

The board agreed Christmas decorations should be erected before Thanksgiving. An email will be sent to employees.

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Trustee O’Leary said Stan Erdman of Triple E Sales requested the board consider allowing the use of ATVs on village streets. He said Geneseo recently passed such an ordinance. An ordinance provided to the village clerk, dated 2013, indicated ATVs were not allowed on streets in Geneseo. President Cooper said he would contact Geneseo to see if there was a revised ordinance. Trustee Drucker questioned the demand for street use of ATVs in Orion and noted there had been some nuisance issues with the vehicles on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He also said it would be another issue for the police department to enforce. Trustee O’Leary said he would favor the use of golf carts over ATVs, but Trustee Lawson noted many large and small towns have been allowing ATVs and he thought it was worth consideration. The board felt Mr. Erdman should attend a meeting if he had a vested interest in the topic. The issue will be discussed further on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

President Cooper reminded everyone that burning of landscape waste was not allowed on streets and grass cannot be burned at any time. Trustee O’Leary asked that the board consider instituting regulations requiring someone attend the fire at all times and possibly have fires out by dark. Trustee Lawson said requiring fires to be out by dark would be a big imposition on working people, who wouldn’t arrive home until after dark. Trustee O’Leary asked the board to think about adding the additional regulations. Trustee Drucker said the board needed to have a way to enforce rules before adding more.

The annual Northwest Municipal Association’s Christmas dinner will be held December 2, 2015 at the Milan Community Center. President Cooper encouraged all trustees to attend for the benefit of networking with other community representatives.

President Cooper congratulated the Orion High School volleyball team for its 40-1 record and second place status at the state tournament. He also commended the football team for making it to the Elite Eight tournament. Trustee Lawson concurred and said all the fall sports teams did an excellent job. Trustees Drucker and O’Leary were pleased to see the recognition Orion received on television and in print.

President Cooper told *Orion Gazette* editor Mindy Carls he took offense to her comment in the weekly paper that he failed to allow her a rebuttal at the November 2, 2015 board meeting. He said she had an opportunity to speak when he asked if anyone else in the audience had anything to address to the board. President Cooper respectfully requested Ms. Carls print in full the village’s response to the Attorney General regarding action taken at the September 9, 2015 village board meeting. President Cooper offered Ms. Carls a copy of the letter but she said she already had one.

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

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk