

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., January 18, 2016, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Absent: O'Leary.

President Cooper led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Cooper said Trustee O'Leary was absent due to health issues and was now recuperating at home.

It was moved by Mitton, seconded by Lawson to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 4, 2016. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: O'Leary.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve payment of the bills for the month: General Fund-\$32,708.41, Debt Retire.-\$36,601.13, Recycle-\$2,093.00, Water O&M-\$1,605.84, Water Depr.-\$1,740.70, Sewer O&M-\$3,294.20, Sewer Depr.-\$1,219.99, Fines-\$158.47, and Cops & Kids-\$3,073.06. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: O'Leary.

Orion Gazette editor Mindy Carls asked President Cooper if he had any response to the Attorney General's decision on action taken at the September 9, 2015 board meeting. President Cooper said he and village attorney John Ames thought the ruling against the village was wrong, and Attorney Ames recommended appealing, which President Cooper turned down. President Cooper said it was a procedural error and was not done intentionally. He said the board consists of lay people, not professional politicians. He told Ms. Carls she could have handled her complaint in-house versus submitting it to the AG. President Cooper did not hear one complaint from the public about the street closure informally agreed to on September 9th. He went on to say he could have made the decision on his own but decided to get the board's opinion, in order to be transparent. President Cooper said the ruckus could hurt fundraising for the Booster Club, and those who were responsible for last year's event have declined to organize another event. President Cooper asked Ms. Carls if she had a rebuttal. Ms. Carls said she asked the question of the AG due to the roll call vote taken by President Cooper. She said it was a departure from anything previously done by the board. Ms. Carls said she was praying the board would take no action on the issue being requested by Ms. Jennifer Smutzer because it was not listed on the agenda. As for the Booster Bash, Ms. Carls said it was never in jeopardy nor did her action affect the Booster Club. She said she was relieved the AG did not note the roll call vote as the issue and that no one was required to testify under oath. Ms. Carls also said just because village minutes did not reflect a roll call vote doesn't mean it didn't occur. She said minutes taken at board meetings are not verbatim, but a summary. Trustee Lawson said Ms. Carls made a big deal out of nothing and the

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The minutes of January 18, 2016 continued:

action taken by the board was no different than had happened in prior years. President Cooper told Ms. Carls he did not ask for individual votes from each person and he would swear to that. He felt Ms. Carls wrote to the AG to make the village board look like a bunch of buffoons. Attorney Ames said when a roll call vote is taken it is up to the clerk to record the vote by a yea or nay in the minutes, and there was no such record.

Trustee Drucker said a chlorine regulator malfunctioned but was repaired by the water superintendent. Fluoride testing equipment will be taken for calibration due to new regulations which reduced tolerance levels.

Trustee Peterson will contact Orion High School boys to assist with dismantling the Christmas tree in Central Park's band shell.

Street Supt. Neil Dahl thanked Walton Tree Service for donating time and equipment to hang Christmas decorations on Main Street light poles. He also said he and Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg had been picking up landscape waste from the ice storm. Street Supt. Dahl is working on his FY 2017 budget, which includes a possible truck purchase. President Cooper suggested looking at buying a bucket truck or some sort of lift and consider sharing the purchase of major equipment with Western Township. He said Coal Valley and Coal Valley Township have done shared purchases, which saves both taxing bodies a great deal of money. Trustee Drucker agreed. He said a former Western Township supervisor had previously suggested the same cost sharing idea. Street Supt. Dahl was skeptical about sharing equipment, such as dump trucks, that would be used often by both parties. President Cooper recommended he check with Coal Valley to see how it works for them.

Trustee Drucker said the Wyman R. Coulter Trust Fund granted the village a total of \$25,700: \$15,000 for the sewer relief main loan pay down, \$700 for inclusion of a small gift certificate in Main Street Orion welcome bags, and \$10,000 to replace damaged concrete in Central and Love Parks. An item not funded was new Christmas decorations for Central Park. President Cooper said the Coulter Trust received numerous requests and had to prioritize its donations.

Budget request forms will be prepared by February 15th and must be completed and returned by March 15th. The Finance Committee will review requests on March 30th for presentation to the village board on April 4th. Final action by the board will be required on April 18th. In the meantime, decisions must be made regarding personnel salary and benefits, most likely at the March 7th meeting.

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Trustee Drucker attended a meeting in Annawan to meet Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director, Jim Schultz. Though Henry County officials were well represented at the meeting, none were present from Bureau or Mercer counties. Trustee Drucker approached State Representative Don Moffit about CDAP funds, which are always unavailable to Orion due to low-to-moderate income requirements. Moffit's staffer noted the issue and will get back to Trustee Drucker or speak with him during the annual legislative trip to Springfield. Trustee Drucker also made his feelings known about the prevailing wage law and how it affects municipalities. There was discussion at the meeting about the Bomag facility in Kewanee and what the new owner will do with it. Trustee Drucker considered the meeting worthwhile.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to approve Ordinance #2016-1, amending Chapter X of the Municipal Code, Nuisances, Noise. President Cooper commended Trustee Newman and Attorney Ames for working to get the code strengthened. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: O'Leary.

Trustee Mitton met with a representative of GPX regarding an alternate bid on additional security cameras for Central Park. He thanked Trustee Peterson and Mr. Ron Thompson for removing decorations from the Central Park Christmas tree and Trustee Peterson for picking up sticks in Central Park.

President Cooper thanked Trustee Drucker for taking over for him while he was away on a business trip and in advance for his upcoming absence due to surgery at a hospital in Minnesota. The board wished him well with his health issue.

President Cooper said Home Serve contacted him in writing to let him know the company would be contacting Orion residents about insurance for water and sewer laterals. President Cooper said the village was not endorsing the company.

A letter was received from the Illinois EPA regarding the approval of reimbursement to the village in the amount of \$62,601.44 for gas vapor issues in the sewer system. Two paragraphs in the letter seemed to indicate two items were denied for reimbursement. Clerk Sampson will contact officials to get an explanation for the denials.

Trustee Drucker asked for an update on the Senior Housing Survey. Clerk Sampson said the deadline had passed and 100 surveys had been completed and would be delivered to Bi-State Regional Commission on January 19th for compilation.

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Clerk Sampson, addressing the prior subject of the Attorney General's decision that the village board violated the Open Meetings Act, said she wanted to respond to a question asked by Trustee Lawson during prior discussion on that issue. She said she did have a memory of President Cooper asking each board member individually how they felt about the street closing but did not record it as a roll call vote because there was no motion and second on which to vote. Clerk Sampson said her notes from the September 9th meeting read 'The board had no objections to the request.' She noted the roll call vote was not the issue on which the AG made a decision.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk