

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., February 20, 2017, at Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Absent: Mitton.

President Cooper led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. He noted Trustee Mitton was absent due to illness.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2017 meeting. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Mitton.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$26,971.50, Recycle-\$2,186.72, Water O&M-\$3,180.79, Water Depr.-\$372.44, Water Cap. Impr.-\$1.29, Sewer O&M-\$4,992.20, Sewer Depr.-\$9,183.37, and Fines-\$80.98. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Mitton.

Mr. Ray Parrish reviewed a plan by the Orion Lions Club to improve the Love Park tennis courts and add pickleball and basketball. A quote has been received from Illowa Investment, Inc. in the amount of \$33,866.00. The Lions Club is near to its goal of raising all the funds necessary to pay the contractor. Removal and installation of net posts and basketball posts will not be done by the tennis court contractor. Some new posts may need to be purchased. The village will include necessary costs in its FY 2018 budget. Mr. Parrish suggested the colors of green, red, and white for the court surface and showed trustees how the pickleball and basketball courts would be laid out. Pickleball will use the same nets as tennis, with the use of an adapter that allows the center of the net to be 2" lower than the sides. Mr. Parrish asked the village to sign the contract to take advantage of its tax exempt status. Prior to agreeing to do so, Trustee Drucker asked that prior drainage issues be addressed. Grass clippings, leaves, and other debris clog the drain and cause flooding on the courts. Discussion was also held about a windscreen, fencing, separating basketball from tennis/pickleball, and allowing Trustee Mitton to review the plan prior to a vote. President Cooper requested a start and end date be supplied on the contract. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Trustee Drucker reminded the board about budget request deadlines and the schedule to approve the new budget. Trustee Newman said a 3rd quarter review of FY 2017 showed revenue outpacing expenditures. The Finance Committee recommended the purchase of a man-lift with TIF funds. Available funds of about \$9,303 were not adequate for the purchase nor did the person in charge of using such a machine feel one was needed at this time. Some board members felt a machine could be rented when needed. Instead of the

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man-lift, Christmas wreaths to decorate the new streetlights will be purchased along with additional lighted decorations for Central Park.

Clerk Sampson asked the board if it was still considering an extension of the TIF district. Work had begun to allow for the extension but had not been completed. Trustee Drucker said extension was still under consideration and was intended to fit in with development of a community profile. The board will continue with the TIF extension in the near future.

Sump pump repairs in the basement of the sewer plant's control room have been made, according to Trustee Hancock.

President Cooper said the village needs to include in its FY 2018 budget repairs to 14th Avenue east of 6th Street, where erosion is occurring. In addition, Trustee Newman said the board needs to begin planning for its next major project to be paid for with utility tax funds. The street superintendent needs guidance on the sequence of events, including planning and engineering. Improvements to 5th Street are expected once debts for other projects are paid down.

Trustee Drucker said a backup operator was lined up in the event of a major water system emergency while Water Supt. Arnie Sandberg was out of town.

Deputies have been reminded about switching up their shifts as much as possible. Also, according to Trustee Newman, a surprise inspection was done at the home of Patti Hardi. The sheriff's deputy and county animal control officer found Ms. Hardi to have just seven cats and the household to be in good condition. In that light, village attorney John Ames suggested contacting Hardi's attorney to urge compliance with the agreement offered. Since Hardi now has only seven cats, she is within one cat of getting the number down to six by July. Trustee Newman felt an animal facility would certainly take in the one cat, but Hardi would still need to reduce the number of cats by three more by December. President Cooper said Attorney Ames will contact Hardi's attorney and hope common sense prevails.

President Cooper said the issue with emergency sirens' inability to function around Henry County has not been totally resolved. He was upset that the county knew of the problem last July, and approved a budget last November, yet didn't include funds to correct the problem or notify affected communities the sirens didn't work. President Cooper's recent plea to the county to resolve the problem fell on deaf ears. Now, the National Weather Service will call the sheriff's department with weather alerts, which will be relayed to the volunteer Orion Fire District. Fire District volunteers will then

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activate the sirens in Orion. The system was tested February 15, 2017 and was successful. This system will be used until the county can get its equipment repaired. Trustee Peterson asked that the frequency on Orion's sirens be changed, allowing Henry County dispatchers to sound the sirens via radio frequency. The cost would be \$655. An additional cost of \$4,700 would allow the sirens to be activated by the village, if Henry County's equipment failed in the future. The board objected to spending \$4,700 until more information was available. It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Lawson to approve the expenditure of \$655 to change the radio frequency of Orion's two emergency sirens to the fire band frequency. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Mitton.

President Cooper said according to Lyle Little from Supreme Radio, there is equipment available at a cost of around \$200 that would allow village employees to activate the sirens in the event of other emergencies, such as a train derailment. He admitted it was a touchy subject, putting added emergency responsibility on a village employee.

President Cooper told the board he and Trustees Drucker, Mitton, and Peterson attended the Henry County Public Safety Committee meeting February 9, 2017, to discuss the issue of radio dispatching fees. Representatives of all communities facing the proposed fees were present. Committee members said only the eight largest users of the dispatching system were charged fees, which President Cooper likened to the village charging only the eight largest water users, with the remainder getting the same service for free. Due to the pushback by all affected, the topic was removed from the February Henry County Board agenda. The Public Safety Committee planned to further review the issue later in the month. Trustee Drucker said dispatch fees are already included in the village's contract with Henry County for police protection. President Cooper said Sheriff Padilla told the committee it shouldn't charge Cambridge and Orion, the two communities that had contracts for police protection. Trustee Newman cautioned that decisions about the proposed fees needed to be brought before the village board. This was in response to the group of affected mayors writing a letter to the Public Safety Committee rejecting the dispatch fees. Though Trustee Newman said he agreed that the village shouldn't pay one cent of the proposed fees.

Main Street Orion board member, Pastor Dave Schultz, asked the village board to include \$10,000 in its FY 2018 budget for MSO. MSO requested a liquor license for Eat in the Street on September 23, 2017 and a street closing on 4th Street between 10th & 11th Avenues, on the same day during the hours of 3-11 p.m. Additionally, a request was made to turn on the band shell's Christmas tree lights on December 1, 2017, instead of Thanksgiving weekend. A second liquor license may be requested, but the date for its associated event has not been determined. Pastor Schultz reviewed MSO's 2016

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accomplishments, which were many, and included two façade grants totaling \$10,000. One grant assisted a new restaurant, Maple Street Grille, and the other went to the Methodist Church's new activity center, a building available to the public for meetings and events. MSO's main achievement was working with the village and other organizations to install ornamental street lights in the business district. MSO paid for light pole accessories and sought donations to pay for light poles and banners in addition to locating contractors and getting estimates to do the work. Pastor Schultz pointed out MSO's work in promoting businesses on its Facebook page and at events. He outlined a lengthy list of 2016 events, which ended with Christmas in Orion. Upcoming 2017 events were also noted. President Cooper asked MSO for assistance in erecting the Christmas tree in Central Park this year. It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Drucker to close 4th Street between 10th & 11th Avenues from 3-11 p.m. on September 23, 2017 for Eat in the Street and approve a liquor license for the event. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Mitton.

The request for Main Street Orion's funding will be discussed with the other FY 2018 budget requests.

President Cooper, after being approached by others about this topic, asked the board if it thought the number of bands playing at local establishments during Fall Festival should be limited to one per night. The question was met with a resounding no. Trustee Drucker said we have a free market society, and Trustee Lawson said that type of control would not be instituted on any other day of the year so it should not be done on Labor Day weekend either. Bands for that weekend are not solicited by OFF but are listed on its schedule. Mr. Chris Walton, owner of Belly Up, said it was imperative the bars know now what they are allowed to do, because they will soon be signing contracts with bands. President Cooper said the rules will not be varied for the holiday weekend. Regarding the Labor Day weekend event, a request to extend the car show around the corner from 4th Street onto 10th Avenue will be under consideration by the OFF Committee.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk