

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 7:00 p.m., April 3, 2017, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, Drucker and Mitton. Absent: None.

President Cooper led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2017 meeting. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Lawson, Hancock, Drucker and Mitton. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Newman reported on the state of the village's finances. He said at the next meeting the board will need to approve the fiscal year 2018 budget. He stated that the village was in great financial shape. A lot had to do with the cash on hand. A few years ago the village had around a half million dollars in surplus and now that number is around \$800,000. He stated there is more to it than that and we need to critically eye what we have in the budget. Newman has introduced a new way of looking at the finances due to a suggestion from Trustee Drucker. He would like to look at revenues and expenditures to make sure they match. The water department is doing well and is under budget. The sewer department is in a more difficult situation. Sewer is over by \$60,000 and the revenue is not matching up to the expenditures, which is in part due to loans. Newman mentioned that sewer rates have not been increased in a long time. Drucker spoke up and said rates were raised a few years ago. Newman said that the village board would be reluctant to raise fees, but at some point it may have to be done. He mentioned that he had spoken with Clerk Sampson regarding two major loans that are due to be paid off in July of 2020. The village has the money and would like to pay down the loans. This should be the number one priority. General Fund is considerably over budget by about \$400,000 but part had to do with \$100,000 that has been committed to tennis court and baseball field upgrades. This amount is fully refundable so the money will be reimbursed. Also, on the general fund side there are two major street projects. Trustee Newman asked Trustee Lawson if the village could use Motor Fuel tax money to pay for these projects. Street Supt. Dahl mentioned earlier that it is harder to use the MFT funds due to certain information they need to provide first. Trustee Newman would like to speak with Street Supt. Dahl at the next village board meeting. Trustee Drucker spoke up about the initial estimate provided by

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The minutes of April 3, 2017 continued:

Supt. Dahl being half the cost if he were to do the work himself. Trustee Drucker stated that Supt. Dahl has done good work on past projects. He mentioned maybe Supt. Dahl could do the work for the 14th Street project himself and contract the other one out. The board asked that Trustee Lawson speak with Supt. Dahl.

Trustee Newman went on to mention changes to the budget. Out of the General Fund digging and adding rock around the band shell was removed, added \$9,000 for easements, removed new squad car and \$5,000 for part time police and deleted 5th street storm drain project in the amount of \$170,000. Regarding the potential renovation of village hall, nothing was added to the budget. Newman would like to use TIF money for engineering costs. Trustee Newman asked for questions regarding budget. President Cooper made a comment that the village's financial condition is outstanding and that the auditor has been telling us that for years. He stated our goal is to have \$1,000,000 in excess.

Trustee Drucker mentioned page 5 of the budget worksheet which included adding \$800 to phone charges. As of now the employees use their personal phones for business. Trustee Drucker stated that they had talked about giving employees phones a few years ago, but they did not want to carry two phones. He suggested paying the three superintendents \$300 per year toward cell phone costs. This issue will be added to the agenda for the next village board meeting.

Trustee Lawson asked why the donation to Main Street Orion had been increased. Trustee Lawson said that he wouldn't have a problem with it if items were not being cut out of the budget. Trustee Lawson wanted a vote on Main Street funding because the budget was being discussed, but President Cooper said they would not vote on the budget until the next meeting.

President Cooper mentioned that he along with Trustees Drucker, Mitton and Peterson attended a safety meeting at the Henry County Courthouse regarding dispatching fees. He mentioned that he felt it was a budget issue with the county. They have a \$400,000 shortfall and want to charge the eight communities that have police departments to make up for their deficit.

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The minutes of April 3, 2107 continued:

Trustee Mitton questioned how you tell people who live in town they have to pay extra but the people outside of town don't have to pay. He wanted them to provide an amount but Henry County could not provide a figure. He then questioned why the county is trying to ram this through without first coming up with an accurate amount. Trustee Newman feels like we need John Ames to look into this issue.

Trustee Newman was asked about ongoing problems with foul language at the park. He spoke with Deputy Baze who suggested that people be reminded they should call in the incident right away. Trustee Newman will speak with Officer Baze Tuesday regarding checking the security tapes again.

Trustee Newman left at 7:30.

Sewer Supt. Lundburg reported that the repairs at the filter building are almost completed. The final item to be finished is the door, which should be installed this week.

Trustee Drucker reported everything is running fine in the water department. He stated Water Supt. Sandberg forwarded an email he received from the Illinois Rural Water Association stating that the White House budget for 2018 would eliminate the USDA Water and Wastewater loan/grant program. IRWA is suggesting the village send a letter to its representative. President Cooper would like Clerk Sampson and Deputy Clerk Lundburg to draft a letter and put on village letterhead for signatures. It was suggested to do multiple letters.

Trustee Peterson reported Park Supt. Sandberg has been working on the bathrooms and water fountains at the park. Trustee Lawson asked Supt. Sandberg if the bathrooms have been opened at the park. He had a lot of complaints from the baseball team.

Repairs have been made to the street sweeper. Also, someone ran over some signs near the 7th street bridge. The signs are fine but the posts need to be repaired. Field tile is being laid at the rock yard. Trustee Drucker reminded Trustee Lawson money has been put aside for a new

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truck. Street Supt. Dahl doesn't want a new truck but would rather have a used one and add the necessary components. Trustee Drucker asked Trustee Lawson his opinion. He felt it would be harder to find a used truck. Also if you buy new and it ends up being diesel you have to deal with emission requirements. He stated that purchasing a new truck would almost double the price. Trustee Lawson wondered if they should buy a smaller truck.

Pesticide has been sprayed at the band shell. The village is waiting for a bill from Red Oak Builders for repairs made at the band shell. Trustee Drucker asked Trustee Mitton in the village hall plans to include space for Water Supt. Sandberg. He feels since he serves buildings and grounds, recreation and water he would be better off at the village hall. Trustee Mitton asked Supt. Sandberg how he felt and he responded fifty/fifty. He mentioned he could not have an office in either pump house due to corrosion issues. President Cooper suggested that he and Supt. Sandberg could share an office. Supt. Sandberg mentioned that he was out of the office most of the time anyway.

President Cooper asked the village board to approve the proclamation that April 6, 2017 will be Junior Achievement Day. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Hancock. Ayes: Peterson, Drucker, Lawson, Hancock and Mitton. Noes: None. Absent: Newman

President Cooper reported, at the Henry County Public Safety Committee meeting, they found out the safety board, in its preliminary calculations, determined the village would be charged \$32.50 per incident call. This would be charged even if the village police or the fire department is called outside of town to assist with an incident. Cooper stated that the village of Coal Valley is charged \$3.75 per call from the city of Rock Island. President Cooper stated that there would be no way the eight communities affected would accept this number.

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

Deanna G. Lundburg
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer