

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., April 17, 2017, at Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. 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 April 3, 2017 meeting. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Hancock to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$34,347.95, Recycle-\$1,803.34, Water O&M-\$6,763.60, Water Cap. Impr.-\$437.46, Sewer O&M-\$6,932.06, Sewer Depr.-\$17,966.10, Band Shell Pres.-\$1,205.00 and Fines-\$261.06. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Pastor Dave Schultz, representing Main Street Orion, addressed the board regarding the organization's funding request in the amount of \$10,000. He pointed out MSO's importance to the business community through its annual \$5,000 façade grant program and Cooperative Interest Buy-Down Program, which is funded at the rate of \$1,000 per year. He also discussed the two entertainment events sponsored by MSO at the Orion Fall Fest: Little Miss Orion and Orion's Got Talent. He said the loss of those events on the OFF calendar would greatly reduce the crowd in the park during those two time slots. Also, if the village cut MSO funding, MSO would be competing against all other Orion organizations to raise more funds from the same sources. Pastor Schultz pointed out MSO's bylaws state it has to receive some financial support from the village. Ms. Jill Marshall, an MSO board member, said the organization brought music back to the park, creating good events for young people, and also revived volunteerism for youth. MSO's vice president, Mrs. Shelly Marshall, said memories have been created for her children through MSO's events, and it was great to be part of the joint effort to get ornamental street lights installed in the downtown area. She pointed out MSO is a valuable partner in the effort to grow and prosper the village. Mrs. Roxanne Chapman, MSO president, said she was a native of Oklahoma, transplanted in Moline, with a desire to move to Orion after hearing nothing but positive things about the community. Her immediate family moved to Orion along with her parents and sister. Mrs. Chapman said one of the MSO events is the highlight of her 5-year old daughter's life. She expressed thanks for the village board's past and continued support. Trustee Lawson told the group he objected to the fact that the national MSO organization did not financially support the group. Other reasons for his funding objection were the lack of financial reports, the out-of-date website, and the fact that other things had to be cut from the village's budget that he would rather support. Trustee Mitton complained that MSO isn't transparent and the

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF HENRY)
VILLAGE OF ORION)

The minutes of April 17, 2017 continued:

organization's aforementioned assets aren't worth \$10,000 to the community. Trustee Drucker said if not for MSO, no other existing group would do the quality of life events or be responsible for economic development or job retention. He reminded the board MSO was instrumental in the effort to keep a pharmacy in Orion and for years the village board tried to get the streetscape program off the ground, when last year MSO spearheaded the project and accomplished it with assistance from the village. Trustee Drucker asked MSO to provide information regarding its membership numbers along with business event sponsors. President Cooper said the board wanted to see financial information and MSO should be cognizant of that need.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to extend the deadline for the community profile brochure to December 31, 2017. Prior to the vote it was noted the extension was necessary in order to obtain quality photographs. Also, the direction of the brochure will change to include information more attractive to residents rather than businesses. The cost remains \$2,200, \$700 of which Orion's membership dues will cover. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to reduce the FY 2018 contribution to MSO from \$10,000 to \$7,000 and increase by \$3,000 the part-time police budget. Prior to a vote, Trustee Drucker asked why the board would need to reduce MSO's contribution in order to increase police payroll. He said the general fund is financially healthy and could most likely incur both expenses. Trustee Newman said he initially included an extra \$5,000 in the part-time police budget, at the request of Deputy Chad Baze, but reduced it back to the current year's amount in an effort to be fiscally responsible. Trustee Lawson reminded the board another issue lurking with an unknown cost is dispatch fees. Trustee Mitton expressed mutual concern. President Cooper and Trustee Drucker assured the board dispatch fees would not be charged until 2018 at the earliest. President Cooper said MSO's request was less than one-half percent of the proposed budget. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Mitton and Lawson. Noes: Peterson, Newman, Hancock, and Drucker. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve the FY 2018 budget totaling \$2,107,927. Prior to a vote discussion ensued. Trustee Drucker asked about the inclusion of two street projects totaling \$200,000. Trustee Lawson referred his question to Street Supt. Neil Dahl, who said his summer schedule would not accommodate the street projects unless contracted out. He also said he didn't wish to do more in-house street projects until Trustees Drucker and Newman came up with a salary schedule. Trustee Drucker took exception to an employee not putting forth more effort because he feels he's underpaid but told Supt. Dahl many of the street projects he had worked on

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF HENRY)
VILLAGE OF ORION)

The minutes of April 17, 2017 continued:

were exceptional in quality. Trustee Newman offered hiring an additional summer employee to assist with an in-house project but Supt Dahl was skeptical about the knowledge and ability of a summer employee. Trustee Lawson felt cooperation between existing employees was lacking. Supt. Dahl said 13th Avenue Ct. held the highest priority of the two projects included in the budget. The vote on the motion was temporarily tabled by President Cooper.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to remove from the proposed FY 2018 \$146,000 for the 14th Street project. Prior to a motion Trustee Mitton said he was confused about cutting the project when it was just determined the village was financially secure and was able to fund MSO. Trustee Newman said there was an order of magnitude between the two issues. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: Mitton and Lawson.

The motion to approve the FY 2018 budget, moved by Newman and seconded by Drucker, was resurrected and amended to include a reduction of \$146,000 by deleting the 14th Street project. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: Mitton and Lawson. Absent: None.

President Cooper thanked the board for its input on the budget and admitted not every issue was an easy decision. He said it was good to have differing opinions and hearty discussion and see that the board was very conscious of its expenditure of village funds.

No Finance Committee meeting will be held in the month of April. The next meeting will be announced on May 1st.

Trustee Drucker reported no problems in the water department. He said some ordinary maintenance issues were being attended to at the west pump house.

Park Superintendent Arnie Sandberg is doing preliminary legwork to prepare for upgrades to the Love Park tennis courts.

Mobilitie LLC sent a request for right-of-way use to erect a cell tower along 10th Avenue in Orion. The tower would be 120' tall. The documentation did not give details on compensation for the use of the R.O.W. President Cooper said Ames Law will review the request before action is taken by the board.

Discussion was held about correcting storm drainage near the Methodist parsonage, 1401 6th St. A. Street Supt. Neil Dahl said the project was scheduled for this year. He will extend the tube further into the waterway.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF HENRY)
VILLAGE OF ORION)

The minutes of April 17, 2017 continued:

Trustee Newman said he had a good meeting with Deputy Chad Baze and all in the police department is going well.

The renewal date of May 1, 2017 was verified for those with off-road vehicle permits.

President Cooper said he continues to attend Henry County Public Safety Committee meetings along with other trustees. He said Henry County has used the most unfair formula that could be imagined to determine who will and will not pay dispatch fees. In regard to the cost per call, the county has gone from \$32.50 to \$7.50 and will now charge fire and ambulance services, but only those who they deem can afford to pay. President Cooper and other Henry County mayors will meet again to discuss the matter. He felt the matter would eventually end up in court because none of the communities would agree to pay the fees. The county wants Orion's board to sign an amended intergovernmental agreement for police services that will include the dispatch fees. The county has a new computer program that may allow for dispatch calls to be better identified, increasing the ability to charge the appropriate government body. Trustee Lawson suggested the village consider giving its 90-day notice of termination of the contract and not allow the squad car outside village limits. President Cooper said he did make it clear that ending the contract was an option.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Drucker to advise and consent to President Cooper's appointment of Jeremy Coulter and Ron Thompson to the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals for terms ending February 2020. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to advise and consent to President Cooper's appointment of Neal Nelson and Tom Peterson to the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals for terms ending February 2020. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper said a 5K run will not take place during the Orion Fall Fest. Instead, the Orion Lions Club Bike & Hike 4 Sight has been scheduled. A specific time has not yet been determined, but a route for the event is in place. The event will be held Saturday, September 2nd and includes biking, walking, and running. Each segment will start independently. Discussion was held on the management of streets and traffic. President Cooper said it should be more traffic friendly and have less impact than the 5K & 10K runs. Trustees Newman and Hancock will meet with a Lions Club representative to iron out details prior to the next village board meeting, when the event will be on the agenda for approval.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF
VILLAGE BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF HENRY)
VILLAGE OF ORION)

The minutes of April 17, 2017 continued:

President Cooper said he approved vacation carry-over for two employees as authorized by the personnel code but required it be used within the 1st quarter of the new fiscal year. It was determined a more formal approval method was required for ordinary use of vacation leave, beyond just notifying village hall staff. The board asked that a quarterly status report be provided and that employees request approval from a board member and/or the president.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to enter executive session at 8:38 p.m. to discuss probable or imminent litigation. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:03 p.m.

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Mitton to pursue compliance of the village code, in regard to Patti Hardi and the number of cats she currently holds. Prior to a vote Trustee Newman questioned the solidity of the village's case against Ms. Hardi. The rest of the board felt Ms. Hardi, in 2014, was less than truthful about the number of cats she had or later obtained 80-90 additional cats, in clear violation of village code. In 2016, she was found guilty of cruelty to animals, among other things, in a court of law. And the condition of the structure housing the animals was in such poor condition it was demolished. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: Newman. Absent: None.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk