

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., June 5, 2017, at Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Absent: Lawson.

The meeting was called to order by President Cooper and he led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Lawson was absent due to job responsibilities.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Hancock to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 15, 2017. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Mr. Tom Hamerlinck, an Orion School District employee, said the school needs to repair its water lateral and there is a problem with shut off valves on the village's main, making it impractical to shut water off without affecting several blocks of residents and instituting a boil order for 2-3 days. He said the water superintendent wanted the school to use a line stop to prevent the disruption of water service to others. Mr. Hamerlinck requested the village pay for the line stop. President Cooper, Trustee Drucker, and Water Supt. Arnie Sandberg had discussed the issue previously and offered to pay for one-half the line stop cost. The equipment would be a line stop that could be converted to an operating valve at a cost of \$4,400. Mr. Karl Kane, an Orion school board member, balked at the school paying for a valve that would be placed on a village main and owned by the village after its installation. He said the village should follow its own ordinances, whereby the school would only pay for lateral repairs. If the school district was not participating in the cost of the valve/line stop, Trustee Drucker said it should be placed where it is most advantageous to the village. Water Supt. Sandberg said the village could do away with the installation of a new valve, shut off service at the nearest working valve, institute a boil order, and incur little to no cost. The issue will be considered and placed on the next meeting's agenda for action.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the Annual Treasurer's Report for FY 2017. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

A change in phone and internet service was reviewed. Current Frontier Communications internet service is poor and the local service person has retired, leaving little to no benefit to remain with the company. Mediacom offered service at a cost of \$507.10 per month for all phone and internet service as compared to \$630-\$650/month with Frontier. Some trustees had personnel knowledge of Mediacom's product and none aired complaints. Trustee Mitton cautioned against probable annual increases. The three-year contract proposed to the village contains annual increases of \$10. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to enter a three-year contract with Mediacom for phone and internet

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The minutes of June 5, 2017 continued:

service at a cost of \$507.10 per year, increasing by \$10 the second year and another \$10 the third year. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 4 p.m. at the village hall.

Trustee Newman told the board two sewer loans could be paid off on July 1, 2017. Carry-over funds would allow for the pay-off and significant savings for residents. Pay-off of the two loans is partly due to generous Coulter Trust and Orion Sanitary District donations. By paying off two loans, an average user could save \$12-\$14 per month. Also, the phase II loan retirement fund is short on revenue and its rate could be adjusted to cover expenses. The shortfall is currently being covered by TIF revenue. Operation and maintenance rates might also need to be reviewed. Rates based on consumption are not generating as much revenue as anticipated, due to water-saving devices and other conservation methods. The matter will be discussed and acted on at the next meeting.

The Prairie Knoll lift station fence has been constructed.

Trustee Hancock said a sewer backup occurred at Mr. Matt Lerminez's at 801 11th Avenue. Mr. Lerminez contacted B & B Drain to unclog his lateral and found the blockage was in the village's sewer main instead. Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg gave B & B Drain permission to open the blockage in the main. Since the cause of the problem was not Mr. Lerminez's, he requested reimbursement of charges from B & B Drain in the amount of \$174. After recognition of the fact that every resident would not have the knowledge to first contact the village when a backup occurs, and the problem was obviously in the village main, Trustee Hancock said the village should pay the bill in this instance. It was moved by Newman, seconded by Hancock to pay B & B Drain charges in the amount of \$174 for work performed at 801 11th Avenue and to consider future requests on a case-by-case basis. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

A water main leak west of 13th Street, on 11th Avenue, was repaired. Trustee Drucker said the water and street superintendents worked together to get the leak stopped and the street backfilled. He said Orion's infrastructure is aging and there are little to no funds available to assist communities who want to upgrade 90-100 year-old systems. Additionally, a hydrant at 13th Street & 7th Avenue leaked after being used to flush a water main, but Water Supt. Sandberg was able to get the leak stopped. Trustee Drucker said the west pump house façade and door replacement had been completed.

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Ordinance #2017-3 was briefly discussed by the board. The ordinance requires a resident to take affirmative action when notified a water meter is not functioning and allows for water to be disconnected when not in compliance. Access to one home has been denied by way of the resident scheduling appointments and failing to answer the door or failing to be home for the meter to be changed. Efforts to change the meter have taken place over the course of a one-year period. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to adopt Ordinance #2017-3, amending Chapter XXVI, Section 45 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Orion. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Trustee Peterson asked the board to consider erecting a new fence around the entire perimeter of the Love Park tennis courts. He obtained prices from two vendors. One vendor's price was incomplete. It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Mitton to award Interstate Fence & Construction Co. the job of installing fence around the perimeter of Love Park's tennis courts at a cost of \$15,688.00 and amend the FY 2018 budget to allow for the expense. Prior to a vote Trustee Drucker cautioned against spending down the general fund reserve. Trustee Mitton agreed but said it was right for the board to proceed with fencing since the Orion Lions Club is rehabbing the courts at this time. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Lights are being maintained in Love Park and some trees will be removed in the near future. Bush Turf is expected to install the grass infield in Love Park in mid- to late July.

Street Superintendent Neil Dahl read a lengthy list of items completed in his department, including partial drain pipe replacement on right-of-way across the entrance to the pharmacy, spraying weeds between the street and curb, mowing ditches, patching, and adding a drain pipe near the maintenance garage. He also bought a trailer and sold an old spreader to Lynn Township that hadn't been used in several years.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve an intergovernmental agreement with the Henry County Highway Department for bituminous material and seal coat application. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Hancock to approve an engineering agreement with Missman, Inc. for the MFT program. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

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It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve a resolution appropriating \$44,000 in MFT funds for the purpose of maintaining streets and highways. Drucker and Mitton amended the motion to include amending the MFT budget by increasing the street maintenance line item by \$4,000, to \$44,000. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

President Cooper said the 13th Ave. Crt. project was estimated to cost \$35,000, if done in-house. The board budgeted \$54,000 for an outside contractor to complete the job and then learned the engineer's estimate reached \$90,000. President Cooper instructed Street Supt. Dahl to do the project in-house. Supt. Dahl said other work would have to be postponed if he took on the project himself.

Trustee Newman reported 24% of police calls were for issues out of the village limits, for the month of May. This exceeds the April total. The average for two months is 15%.

President Cooper and Trustee Drucker attended Henry County's public safety board meeting in Cambridge earlier in the day. Communities were cherry-picked when a decision was made who would and would not be charged for dispatch fees. Certain fire and ambulance services will also be charged, but only those who can afford it. And those communities who don't employ their own police force will face no extra fees. The public safety board will present its recommendation to the county board at its next regular meeting. President Cooper said he and other community representatives met and agreed the formula presented was not fair and thus fees would not be paid. The fee per 'event' was set at \$6.11. Trustee Drucker said the public safety board met for nearly two hours and still couldn't or wouldn't clearly explain who would or wouldn't be charged a fee and why. A suggestion to drop the proposed fee and try the ½ cent safety tax again was met with negativity, though community leaders said they would campaign for approval of the tax. Trustee Mitton balked at the unfairness of Orion and others being treated differently from some communities. He said a resident of Orion could move to rural Orion and not be affected by dispatch fees. Trustee Drucker thanked President Cooper for being a voice against the unfair proposal.

Trustee Mitton said painting at the Central Park Band Shell should be starting soon.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve a donation of \$1,200 to the Orion Fourth of July Fireworks Festival. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

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It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to set the pay rate for Andrew Lundburg, a fourth-year summer employee, at \$10/hour. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve Ordinance #2017-2, Prevailing Wages. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk