

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 19, 2017, at Village Hall, 1202 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Absent: Cooper.

The meeting was called to order by President Pro-Tem Drucker, who led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 5, 2017. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cooper.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to use sewer carry-over and surplus money to pay off loans for the Phase I Loan Retirement and Relief Main funds totaling \$446,098.25. Prior to a vote Trustee Newman explained adequate money remains in depreciation and capital improvement funds for upcoming expenditures. Trustee Hancock said no mandated projects loom over the sewer department. Paying off the loans would eliminate two fees from monthly water and sewer bills, which should change the perception some have about Orion's high fees. This would be advantageous to anyone thinking of moving to the community and those who already live here. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cooper.

Trustee Newman explained the Phase II Loan Retirement fund runs at a deficit and is propped up by TIF money. The funding is appropriate because TIF is paying for an infrastructure improvement, but the opportunity exists to correct the revenue shortfall at the same time rates for Phase I Loan Retirement and Relief Main are eliminated. If the Phase II rate was corrected and TIF money became available for other projects, it could be used for a proposed village hall renovation, more street lights, or another project. The TIF district will be in effect through 2024 or 2025, and the Phase II loan expires October 2022. Also, the Sewer Operation & Maintenance fund operates at a shortfall and its rate could be adjusted. The board discussed using revenue from the processing of leachate toward O & M expenses, until the Phase II loan is paid off. President Pro-Tem Drucker felt rates should be left as is, since the proposed village hall renovation, if approved, is one to two years in the future, bringing the Phase II loan nearer to its pay-off. The board took no action to change sewer rates.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve an adjusted bid from Mediacom for phone and internet service, with a monthly cost of \$547.10 versus a previously quoted amount of \$507.10. Prior to a vote it was explained that two phone lines used for emergency sewer lift station calls would cost \$39.95 each instead of \$19.95

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The minutes of June 19, 2017 continued:

each. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, Hancock, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cooper.

President Pro-Tem Drucker said, through the water superintendent's historical knowledge of the water system, a working valve was found that was not indicated on village maps and would allow minimal disruption of water service to residents while a lateral is repaired at C. R. Hanna Grade School. The valve was buried just under the street surface at the southeast corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Trustee Hancock asked if the water department had a plan to repair non-working valves. Trustee Drucker said the issue had not been discussed.

A pump is failing at the east pump house but will be repaired next week.

Trustee Peterson said the tennis courts are being resurfaced and new gutters have been installed on Love Park and Central Park shelters and bathrooms.

Trustee Hancock presented a request from former classmates of Mr. Joe Smolenski to name Love Park's baseball field, used by Orion High School teams, after Mr. Smolenski. Smolenski was a high school baseball player and recently died in an accident in Wisconsin. The class has raised nearly \$1,000 and is looking for a way to memorialize Smolenski. Trustees felt it would be more appropriate to honor the individual with something at the high school. It was noted Smolenski was a fine young man with baseball talent, but others could come along at a later date and expect the same recognition. The board felt naming a facility after someone would be more appropriate if the person was an Orion resident and a war veteran killed in action or perhaps a long-time village official with great contributions to the community. Trustee Lawson said the young man was a good person but there are more and perhaps better opportunities to recognize him and there is plenty of time to consider all options. Trustee Mitton said he understood the immediate emotional reaction to name the field after Smolenski.

The street department is readying to paint curbs and handicap parking areas. Trustee Lawson said the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Crt. project will not be done this year. It is too late in the season to start the project and it would delay other necessary maintenance projects. President Pro-Tem Drucker said the project wasn't being completed because the street superintendent took a stand earlier in the year against any self-performed street improvements until he got paid a salary he felt he deserved. Trustee Lawson said no other employee is asked to do major water or sewer work without contracting it out. President Pro-Tem Drucker said that was not the street superintendent's objection, it was his compensation. Trustee Lawson said the project could be put on the schedule for FY2019 and done either in-house or by contract.

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The proposed 5<sup>th</sup> Street project was discussed. Preliminary engineering for the project was withdrawn from the FY2018 budget due to the drainage portion of the project being postponed. Trustee Newman said the village would need to start planning for the project within the next year. Once the loan being paid for by utility tax funds is paid off, another street project will need to be in place.

Trustee Newman reported on the speed and number of drivers on 7<sup>th</sup> Street coming from Rt. 150. A speed radar sign has been installed on 7<sup>th</sup> Street to gather statistics and warn drivers of their speed. The device will be moved to different locations on a periodic basis.

The board lauded President Cooper's efforts to get the Henry County Board to defeat a proposal by its Public Safety Committee to indiscriminately charge government agencies a dispatching fee. The board defeated the recommendation by a vote of 9 to 8. President Cooper spent hours attending mayoral meetings and Public Safety Committee meetings and served as the spokesman for affected communities. Trustee Lawson thanked those on the Henry County Board who voted to defeat the recommendation.

Trustee Mitton will try to get the band shell painted by July 4, 2017.

President Pro-Tem Drucker praised the efforts of President Cooper to get junk cleaned up on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue near the Orion Middle School. A property owner threw junk from her rental house onto the right-of-way during Clean-Up Week. The mess was beyond the ordinary and what employees were expected to pick up. President Cooper corresponded with the property owner and told her the junk needed to be cleaned up by June 19<sup>th</sup>, which it was. All employees worked well together during Clean-Up Week. The board thanked the employees for their efforts during the clean-up.

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

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk