

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., January 6, 2014, at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Absent: None.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 16, 2013. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Mitton, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mrs. Deb Ford, Main Street Orion director, invited the president and board to attend MSO's annual meeting and dinner at The Factory Restaurant on January 13, 2014.

Village attorney John Ames talked with Mr. Bob Jared from MidAmerican Energy regarding the sewer project planned in the 1400 block of 8th Street. Attorney Ames understood Mr. Jared to say MAE would pay for two utility poles to be moved in order to accommodate the project, though he is waiting for confirmation in writing. Trustee Newman works at MAE and confirmed that he had heard the same news. Trustee O'Leary plans to have only two of the many poles along the sewer line moved at this time.

Street Superintendent Neil Dahl said plowing of snow went well the past weekend and all snow pushed to the center of the street had been removed. There will be a few more days of pushing snow back to the curb to prepare for the next snowfall, once the wind dies down. The board commended all public works employees for their snow removal efforts.

Street Supt. Dahl asked the board to adopt any proposed sign changes prior to warm weather. He has 200 signs to install in the spring.

Trustee Drucker said an issue with heat at the east pump house had been rectified.

President Cooper said a water main break on 12th Avenue west of 7th Street that occurred just before Christmas was repaired by Miller Construction. The culprit was a broken bolt. Once the first bolt was replaced, a second one broke and was repaired. President Cooper showed the deteriorated bolt to the board. The board discussed the pros and cons of trying to replace water mains before failure occurs. Water Superintendent Arnie Sandberg reminded the board the mains are in fairly good condition but bolts are failing.

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The minutes of January 6, 2014 continued:

The board settled on sign wording for no smoking in both parks. Though there is no ordinance allowing for enforcement, signs will be posted in the parks asking people to refrain from smoking.

Trustee Newman said police department personnel are aware of snow route regulations and will order vehicles towed if necessary.

Trustee Drucker asked residents to shovel public sidewalks in front of their homes as a courtesy to those walking. It was also noted those plowing snow from driveways should not leave the snow in the street.

The Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for 4 p.m., January 15, 2014 at Village Hall.

Trustee Newman announced a \$42,800 grant award from the Coulter Trust. He said \$20,000 was intended for the sewer relief main project, and \$22,800 was intended for a storage building in Central Park. He said the trust board was extremely generous to the village. Trustee Newman volunteered to head up the storage building project.

President Cooper said Mr. Bill Pettifer accepted the position of building inspector beginning April 1, 2014. The current inspector will remain in the position until Mr. Pettifer returns from wintering in Florida.

Clerk Sampson explained to the board that the village was required to pay a \$595 fine to the Illinois Department of Labor for failure to notify a contractor of its responsibility to pay prevailing wage rates to employees while working on a fencing project in Love Park. The fence project was orchestrated by the Orion Little League and no village funds were used for the project, but the IDOL maintained since the project was performed on village-owned property, the requirement applied. The contractor is responsible for paying the employees back wages.

Trustee Mitton asked for clarification on the rule for employee attendance at meetings. He thought public works employees were required to attend the first meeting of each month but recently learned that one board member allowed the employee in his department to be excused from the current meeting. It was noted by Trustee Drucker that a board member's decision to excuse the employee should prevail; however, President Cooper said the reason for the excuse should be legitimate. After heated debate, President Cooper said employees should attend the first meeting of each month and board members should not arbitrarily excuse any employee.

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The minutes of January 6, 2014 continued:

President Cooper thanked the board for its efforts in 2013 and those who attended the Christmas dinner in December.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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