

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., July 7, 2021 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Absent: None.

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

President Cooper said he has someone in mind to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ryan Hancock. President Cooper and Trustee Drucker will interview the man in the near future.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 21, 2021. Ayes: Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Nelson said the cement stabilization process has begun on 7th Street. The on-site engineer from Hutchison Engineering has been replaced by two others, but Shane Larson can be contacted with any questions by the village board. Trustee Nelson said there are still some property line questions and the fire hydrant has not yet been moved.

The village is awaiting the arrival of two ornamental light pieces before the lights can be installed in the 1200 block of 4th Street. Flashing crosswalk signs will be installed at various locations in the near future.

Trustee Nelson said storm water is ponding in areas of the Prairie Knoll Subdivision. The issue appears to have begun when a new home was built and changes were made to a field tile. There is also the possibility a field tile was cut when a spec house was constructed by the developer of the subdivision. It could have occurred without the knowledge of the developer. Attempts to contact him were unsuccessful. Storm water now flows across the top of the ground to a certain point but then ponds behind Trustee Dunlap's house. Trustee Nelson said there is no storm water easement that allows for village access. Trustee Dunlap said something must be done. He said water is a constant presence, is 18" deep at times, and smells. Trustee Nelson said he will try to come up with a solution.

Trustee Nelson said eleven Dumpsters were filled with junk during the village-wide clean-up. There was one employee injury, abuses of the clean-up, and according to Trustee Nelson, it is a matter of time before an employee is more seriously injured. He also noted, though the event was called Clean-Up Day, and residents had to put their junk at the curb the first day or risk missing out, it still took employees five days to pick everything up. This put employees behind in their own work. Though some trustees argued to keep the event by better defining acceptable junk and requiring employees to wear more protective clothing, Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg

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explained the dangerous action of climbing on the wheel of a rented hog cart to reach the top of a Dumpster in order to transfer the material from one container to another. He said employees get scratched, bruised, and incur back injuries every year. The loader is used as much as possible, but there is still a lot of manual labor involved. Sewer Supt. Lundburg suggested employees be allowed to decide whether or not to pick up certain items, such as trim boards filled with nails, not bundled but thrown randomly on the ground. Trustee Mitton objected to letting employees be in charge. Further discussion ensued. President Cooper asked the board to give it more thought.

Due to the absence of Street Supt. Neil Dahl, President Cooper asked to be consulted before an employee gets permission to miss a meeting. He went on to say employees are expected to attend the first meeting of each month unless they have a legitimate reason to not attend.

Sewer Supt. Lundburg said manhole risers have been purchased and manholes will be raised soon. The summer employee will assist.

Trustee Drucker said a check valve failed at one of the pump houses and Water Supt. Arnie Sandberg was able to perform repairs. He said it was to the village's benefit to have employees with the knowledge to make such repairs

The 11th Avenue water main replacement project has been held up due to the necessary use of domestic fittings. The use of ARP funds requires domestic fittings. The contractor expects to begin the project the latter part of July. Trustee Drucker said communication with the contractor is the responsibility of the village, not the engineer. Village officials will meet with the contractor before the project begins and affected property owners will be notified as to the project's status. Labor Day's Orion Fall Festival will also be kept in mind, since 11th Avenue is the parade route.

Trustee Dunlap asked that a new three-point line be painted on the basketball court in Love Park. He said a lot of kids from outside the Orion area have been coming to Love Park to play basketball.

Mulch piled in Love Park was discussed. The mulch, present since April, needs to be spread and is usually done by boy scouts. It is unclear whether the scouts are doing that project this year. Trustee Nelson didn't understand why the village is dependent upon volunteers. He said Love Park has become an eyesore, with weeds growing everywhere, and there should be a plan to address it. Trustee Drucker said many municipalities depend on volunteers to assist in various

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ways. President Cooper noted the difficulty of finding volunteers, and Trustee Dunlap felt better planning was in order.

Trustee Newman explained the parameters of the loan to be received from BankORION. It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to approve Ordinance #2021-3, Authorizing a Loan with BankORION in the amount of \$460,000, dated July 14, 2021, with the first payment due August 14, 2021 and the final payment in the year 2026. Ayes: Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to approve the \$460,000 loan agreement with BankORION. Ayes: Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Noes: None. Absent: None.

The next Finance Committee meeting was set for 4 p.m., July 14, 2021 at Village Hall. President Cooper encouraged all board members to attend when possible.

The request by Trustee Newman to share a Henry County Deputy with the village of Cambridge was turned down. Also, Trustee Newman said hiring a third full-time officer will not be considered. After speaking with Henry County authorities, Trustee Newman felt it was an anomaly when it took 45 minutes for police to respond to a serious incident in Central Park. He was told county coverage is split into quadrants, with one considered a floater, and it should take no more than 10 minutes for a response. Trustee Newman said the county is having difficulties filling its vacant law enforcement positions. Trustee Drucker spoke with Henry County Deputy Chad Baze about the problem with youths in Central Park. He was told vandalism has not increased, though that doesn't minimize the serious incident that occurred. Typically, Trustee Drucker was told, one or two kids cause the trouble. Both deputies working in Orion know the troublemakers and are keeping a close watch on them. Unfortunately, some kids are foul-mouthed and disrespectful. Trustee Newman said foul language is not a policing issue and everyone needs to become involved – parents, schools, churches, etc. Trustee Dunlap said his kids have noticed an increased police presence in the parks. President Cooper said the police do a good job taking care of the community.

It was noted that Tri-City Electric will be contacted to see if the existing server will handle extra security cameras. The project is moving forward.

Trustee Mitton said he heard Main Street Orion will park vehicles in the grass at Central Park for its upcoming car show and movie night. Trustee Newman said vehicles commonly drive into the park during Orion's Fall Fest. President Cooper said he is against it, though there are a few

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exceptions, and MSO can utilize the streets for the car show. He will speak with MSO's director.

Trustee Nelson asked that band shell light bulbs be changed and the area around the structure be spruced up before the Orion Education Foundation event. He also wants tables moved from Love Park to Central Park.

President Cooper praised the 4th of July celebration and noted how many turned out for the event. Trustee Drucker said the parade route was cleaned up quickly.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to enter executive session at 8:08 p.m. to consider the employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees. Ayes: Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:57 p.m.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to set the starting pay for the position of deputy clerk/treasurer at \$14/hr. to \$18/hr., dependent upon qualifications. Ayes: Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to amend the personnel code to allow the permanent part-time position that accrues leave time to utilize the community sick leave bank at 50% the rate of full-time employees. Ayes: Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Mitton to hire Sandra Mizen as temporary office help, at the village clerk's discretion, at a wage of \$17/hr. Ayes: Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Noes: None. Absent: None.

The board took no action on the topic of employees donating leave time to another employee.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved by Mitton, seconded by Drucker to adjourn. Ayes: Drucker, Dunlap, Mitton, Nelson, and Newman. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk