

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., November 17, 2008 at the Village Hall, 1202 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Sederquist, O'Leary, Lawson, Kane, Dunne, and Drucker. Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order by President Cooper. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Dunne to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 3, 2008. Ayes: Sederquist, O'Leary, Lawson, Kane, Dunne, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Sederquist to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$47,819.87, General Depreciation-\$17.99, Water O&M-\$13,660.31, Water Depreciation-\$502.60, Water Capital Improve.-\$700.60, Sewer O&M-\$24,230.10, Sewer Depreciation-\$289.15, Motor Fuel Tax-\$788.36, Special Tax Allotment-\$1,000, and Fines-\$256.60. Ayes: Sederquist, O'Leary, Lawson, Kane, Dunne, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Tom Engelmann addressed the board regarding the annual audit. He thanked the board for selecting him to perform the audit and the staff for their cooperation during audit procedures. Mr. Engelmann said a lack of segregation of duties was noted in his audit letter. He said this had been an ordinary caution for the past several years and was unavoidable due to the small number of staff employed in the office. Mr. Engelmann said fraud does occur in small towns, citing a recent example in the village of Sherrard, so he praised village officials for conducting finance meetings and reviewing records on a monthly basis. Mr. Engelmann reminded the board to remain alert in that regard. He said he performed some extra audit duties due to water and general fund grants, which increased the auditing fee. Mr. Engelmann complimented the board for making necessary infrastructure improvements, which prepared the community for more development. He did urge caution for future spending due to the unstable economy. President Cooper thanked Mr. Engelmann for completing the audit. It was moved by Sederquist, seconded by Drucker to accept the FY2008 annual audit report. Ayes: Sederquist, O'Leary, Lawson, Kane, Dunne, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Sederquist said the finance committee would soon be setting a hearing date for the tax levy. Upon questioning from Trustee Kane, he said an increase would be requested and it would bring the total levy to \$176,155.

Trustee Drucker said 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget expenses and revenues were reviewed at the finance meeting, and a few line items were found to be over budget. He said some of this was attributed to supplies that had been charged to the incorrect line item because administrative staff could not determine from the invoice that the purchased item was for

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The minutes of November 17, 2008 continued:

a particular project. Trustee Drucker said Clerk Sampson asked all employees to indicate on each invoice which line item the expense should be applied to. Trustee Sederquist said the bottom line for general fund, water, and sewer indicated expenses were running at 50% overall, which was on target for the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

Trustee Drucker said the curbside recycling program would begin December 11<sup>th</sup> and the village would begin billing for the service in January. As a result, he suggested the board make a decision about the use of the existing community bin at the maintenance garage. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Dunne to notify Western Township of the village's intent to discontinue participation in the recycling cooperative as of January 1, 2009. Ayes: Sederquist, O'Leary, Lawson, Kane, Dunne, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Drucker said the village had been spending around \$2700 per year for the community bin, and he suggested that savings be applied toward a senior discount on curbside recycling. He asked that the board consider waiving the curbside fee for all who qualify for the senior assessment freeze on their property tax bills. Trustee Drucker said the number qualifying was around 89, according to recent Henry County records. He said the village had no discounts for seniors in any other regard. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Dunne to waive the curbside recycling fee for those who qualify for the senior assessment freeze on their property tax bills. Prior to a vote Trustee Kane said the number of seniors eligible could grow in the coming years due to the large number of baby boomers. Trustee Drucker said those seniors would still have to qualify based on income, not just their age, and they would have to re-qualify each year. Trustee Lawson said many young people have financial struggles raising their families, and seniors should not be given any special consideration. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: O'Leary, Dunne, and Drucker. Noes: Sederquist, Lawson, and Kane. President Cooper broke the tie in favor of the motion.

Trustee Dunne said he received phone calls from residents who were interested in having a single trash hauler. He explained to the callers that the board would reconsider that option in the future. President Cooper said he received a call from a resident who was quite vociferous in his opposition to the recycling plan. President Cooper said he felt strongly that the program would benefit the community. He said he would make certain that those attending the informational meeting Wednesday evening were made aware that it would be a forum to learn about the program and sign up for a container and not the time to complain.

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Trustee Lawson said flushing the transmission on the old squad car did not solve its problem. After being informed of this, he authorized a new transmission to be installed. Trustee Lawson said the car would need to be used for at least another five months before being sold and replaced by a newer model. He also said preventive maintenance would be increased in order to avoid expenses such as this in the future.

Trustee O'Leary said he and the sewer superintendent discussed unexpected expenses in the sewer fund and purchases that caused operating supplies to exceed the budgeted amount. He said some products would be purchased in bulk in the future at a lesser per unit price.

President Cooper reminded all board members to be diligent watching expenses in their departments in light of current economic conditions. He said any nonessential purchases should be avoided.

Trustee Kane said the street superintendent was readying equipment for the winter season. He said the village was unaffected by increases in road salt prices that other communities have experienced.

Trustee Lawson asked that the Christmas decorations be erected in Central Park before weather conditions got difficult.

It was moved by Sederquist, seconded by Lawson to approve a \$400 donation to Main Street Orion's Saturday with Santa toy give-away. Ayes: Sederquist, O'Leary, Lawson, Kane, Dunne, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Kane, seconded by Lawson to enter executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Ayes: Sederquist, O'Leary, Lawson, Kane, Dunne, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:35 p.m.

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

Lori A. Sampson  
Village Clerk



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