

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 1, 2010 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, and Cline. Absent: Stiles and Drucker.

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

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 18, 2010. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, and Cline. Noes: None. Absent: Stiles and Drucker.

Mr. Ron Thompson said a tree for the Christmas season would be cut down and displayed in the band shell on November 21st. Anyone wishing to help should meet at 2 p.m. at the Dan Bergstrom residence, 808 15th Avenue.

Trustee O'Leary said the next Finance Committee meeting would be held November 10th at 4 p.m. at Village Hall. The tax levy will be discussed.

It was reported that Henry County Deputy Joe Femali had spent much of the last week teaching Red Ribbon classes at Orion Middle School. The classes were aimed at drug prevention.

Trustee Peterson said he expected the Love Park bathroom project to be completed within the week. The Scout project was also reported to be near completion.

Trustee Drucker arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Trustee Peterson told the board that the Orion Athletic Booster Club installed footings for a new batting cage in Love Park and they extended onto the adjoining property of Roger Woodley. The club wants two batting cages placed side by side, allowing a common wall between the two to lessen expenses. Mr. Woodley was prepared to allow the cages to extend onto his property if the village provided insurance, but he changed his mind and offered to donate the land if the village would absorb survey and legal costs. The board questioned the placement of the cages and whether the village could absorb the estimated \$1,000 cost, which had not been budgeted. Trustee Drucker cautioned the board about extra expenses, because with the decline of sales tax and other general fund tax revenue the board could only raise revenue by increasing property taxes. Alternately, other expenses would have to be cut. President Cooper said he would request Mr. Woodley and Mr. Jeff DePorter, president of the Booster Club, meet with him and Trustee Peterson to discuss all alternatives. He also said a cost estimate should be obtained for the survey.

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The minutes of November 1, 2010 continued:

Trustee O'Leary told the board a rejection letter was received from the Illinois EPA regarding the Compliance Commitment Agreement for sewer backup and pumping violations. The letter requested a firm schedule for compliance. Trustee O'Leary felt the village's initial response to the EPA provided the information the organization was seeking, but he agreed to ask Missman Stanley & Assoc. to speak directly with the EPA to determine how the village could comply. He said proceeding with any repairs would be a major problem without a funding source. President Cooper met previously with Senator Mike Jacobs' chief of staff and voiced disappointment that funds promised to the village by the senator for the sewer problem were not forthcoming. He updated the senator's staff about the violation notice from the IEPA. President Cooper also informed the staff member of the recurring gasoline vapor problem in the sewer, caused by the failure of the IEPA to investigate and resolve an incident at the former Orion Standard Oil property 14 years ago. The problem has cost the village thousands of dollars.

In regard to the gasoline vapor dilemma, Trustee O'Leary said tests by Missman Stanley pegged diesel fuel as the culprit. The tests also showed the fuel to be old. LEL readings continue to be taken at the 11th Avenue manhole. Village attorney John Ames said the IEPA might be able to obtain federal grant funds to pursue the owner of the offending property and proceed with remediation at the site. Attorney Ames provided the EPA with a chain of title for the Standard Oil property. He said the problem should be resolved and the village should not have to bear the expense of that resolution.

Repair of the Prairie Knoll lift station pumps and control panel were expected to be complete by next week.

Trustee Lawson said the 7th Street bridge was expected to be closed until mid-December, and he corresponded with Mr. Dan Long, president of the area snowmobile club, requesting that signs purchased last year be installed on the snowmobile route in Orion. Mr. Long indicated the club's trail coordinator would be in touch with the street superintendent in the near future to erect the signs.

Trustee Drucker reported on the continuation of hydrant flushing and said a chlorine heater failed and had to be replaced at a minimal cost of \$200.

President Cooper thanked Trustee O'Leary for manning the landscape waste site on Saturday and said the debris would be burned down this week. He also said employees would clean leaves from gutters and storm drains and cautioned residents not to blow leaves from their yards into the street.

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The minutes of November 1, 2010 continued:

President Cooper said cross arms had been installed at the 11th Avenue railroad crossing. Also, as a result of a train stoppage across all three crossings a week ago, he asked residents to be prepared with an alternate route out of town in the case of another incident. During the recent train stoppage, caused by a disconnected cable and lasting nearly 1.5 hours, children crawled under the train to get across the tracks. Trustee Cooper warned against this practice.

Mediacom announced a rate increase for its cable services in a letter to the village. The village receives a 5% franchise fee from the company.

President Cooper announced a grant award of \$174,840 from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program for the streetscape plan. The financial obligation for the village is between \$70,000 and \$88,000. President Cooper said 391 applications for a total of \$370 million had been submitted, resulting in a very competitive process. Trustee Drucker said the improvements to the streetscape would benefit business owners and hopefully energize them to make improvements to their own properties.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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