

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., December 6, 2010 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, Drucker, and Cline. 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 Stiles to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 15, 2010. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, Drucker, and Cline. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Peterson thanked those who helped cut down, erect, and decorate the Christmas tree in Central Park. President Cooper thanked Dan Bergstrom for donating the tree.

Trustee Peterson said he had contacted a couple of surveyors to get prices to survey Love Park but had not heard back from either of them. It was reported that restrooms in both parks were closed for the season.

Trustee O'Leary was thanked for his contribution of new lights for the Christmas tree in Central Park. He said the lights were donated in memory of his son.

Trustee O'Leary said the fan venting the sewer manhole near Larson Body Shop was removed at about 2 p.m. and the opening was covered with an open grate for the winter. Around 5:15 p.m. a complaint was received about gasoline vapors in a neighboring basement at 106 11th Avenue. A village employee was contacted, who removed the grate and reinstalled the fan. The board agreed that the plumbing inspector should look at the complainant's sewer drain to see if it complies with the plumbing code.

Trustee O'Leary said Neelu Lowder from the Illinois EPA told village attorney John Ames that the IEPA could use federal Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) grant money to pursue investigation and cleanup of the unresolved gasoline leak at the former Standard gas station site. If federal funds were used, the IEPA would seek to recover any costs expended from the property owner(s) at the time the underground storage tanks causing the release were removed. The current property owner would be responsible for any contamination from any tanks still present if they caused a release. The second option would be to use state funds but it would be a year before the state could move forward to begin to resolve the issue and there would be no guarantee that state funds would be available at that time. It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Drucker to notify the Illinois EPA to move forward with a resolution to the gasoline contamination issue using federal LUST funds, and proceed at a later date to seek reimbursement for funds expended as a result of gasoline contamination in the sewer collections system. Prior to a

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vote Trustee Stiles questioned some of the language in the letter from the IEPA to Attorney Ames. Trustee Drucker and Attorney Ames both felt the letter indicated the village would incur no cost to seek out the source of the leak, find the responsible party, and resolve the issue. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, Drucker, and Cline. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee O'Leary said generators operating the sewer system worked perfectly during a recent power outage.

President Cooper said Representative-Elect Rich Morthland had been proactive in helping the village with the gasoline vapor issue. He said Morthland had contacted the IEPA on behalf of the village.

Mr. Steve Poehlein was present to request the use of village right-of-way on 7th Street and 15th Avenue for the installation of fiber optics for Verizon. He said the majority of the fiber optics would be overhead with only 500 ft. underground. Kentucky Data Link, Inc. would be doing the work for Verizon and would bore under the street in any area where the fiber optics had to cross from one side to the other. Mr. Poehlein said approval had already been obtained for Highway 32 and the company was awaiting approval from the state for Rt. 150. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to authorize Clerk Sampson to write a letter of approval to Kentucky Data Link, Inc. allowing the use of village right-of-way for fiber optics installation in accordance with construction plans dated November 28, 2010. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, Drucker, and Cline. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Lawson said employees did a good job plowing streets after the first snowfall. He said some areas required extra attention and he had talked with the street superintendent about that issue.

President Cooper said Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway bridge workers had been pulled from the 7th Street bridge reconstruction to attend to an emergency in Chillicothe but were back to focus on the Orion bridge. They will leave again sometime in January to attend a 7-10 day training session, delaying the completion of the bridge until mid-February. President Cooper said bus drivers for the school district were up in arms about the length of the bridge closure and some planned to contact BNSF officials, but he cautioned against angering the railroad.

In a related matter, President Cooper said a train once again blocked all three at-grade crossings in the village due to a mechanical failure over the weekend. Trustee O'Leary asked drivers to take extra care when seeking a rural route around the train. Several

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drivers had minor accidents traveling on rural roads. Trustee Lawson said emergency service personnel had vehicles stationed on both sides of the train track and were ready to respond if needed.

Trustee Drucker asked that intersections where hydrants are located be salted to avoid accidents where vehicles could slide into and break the hydrants. Trustee Lawson said he had already talked to the street superintendent about taking such precautions.

There was considerable discussion about options available to cover the 20% share of the cost of the streetscape project. Eighty percent will be covered by grant funds. Considered were a combination of general fund dollars, general depreciation, utility taxes, motor fuel taxes, TIF, Coulter Trust, and BNSF funds. Trustee Drucker reminded the board that some of the funds should be saved for east water tower painting in light of the fact that federal grant assistance didn't appear to be forthcoming. Trustee O'Leary also said the sewer department was under order from the IEPA to correct backup events within the next three years and would require in excess of \$200,000 to come into compliance. It was noted that the village could apply for a Coulter Trust grant and if funded, use that money to reimburse any village funds used. Trustee Drucker said there was only a finite amount available from the trust each year and he had already asked for funding each year for five years for the water tower. In the end, the board agreed to wait for a recommendation from the Finance Committee.

Trustee Drucker said the Finance Committee meeting would be held at 4 p.m., December 15th at Village Hall.

Trustee Stiles said Deputy Joe Femali and several other Henry County deputies were participating in a Christmas shopping event with underprivileged children from the Orion schools. The officers raised money to help the kids purchase gifts for their families.

President Cooper asked Trustee Stiles to contact Henry County Sheriff Jim Padilla and ask him to attend a village board meeting for the purpose of introducing himself to the board.

President Cooper said he was contacted through the village's web site by an energy audit firm that claimed to save communities thousands of dollars in utility bills. He will contact the firm to gather more information. Mr. Steve Newman, present in the audience, said MidAmerican Energy Co. offers similar programs for residential customers at no charge.

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It was moved by Drucker, seconded by O'Leary to enter executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss electrical and building inspector applicants. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, Drucker, and Cline. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:45 p.m.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to hire Bart Sampson as building inspector. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, Drucker, and Cline. Noes: Stiles. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by O'Leary to hire Tony Stiles as electrical inspector. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, Drucker, and Cline. Noes: None. Absent: None. Trustee Stiles abstained from voting.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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