

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., February 7, 2011 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, and Drucker. Absent: Cline.

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

President Cooper said Trustee Cline was absent due to his coaching obligation to the Galva school system.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Stiles to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cline.

Trustee Drucker reminded the board that FY2012 budget request forms would be ready for distribution on February 14th. The next Finance Committee meeting was set for Wednesday, February 16th at 4 p.m. President Cooper asked the board to be very frugal with budget preparation and dispense with unnecessary expenses.

Trustee Stiles expressed concern about a resident who ran after and jumped on village equipment along with making threatening remarks to the employee driving the equipment while plowing after a major snowstorm last week. He said if it happened again, the police would be contacted.

Trustee O'Leary said the motor on one pump at the Prairie Knoll lift station had to be rewound, but the other pump was functioning well. Sewer Superintendent Chris Lundburg is pursuing a cost estimate for changing to a 3-phase pump system at that location. Also, Trustee O'Leary said a lightning neutralizer had been installed at the site.

It was reported by Trustee O'Leary that the fan dispelling vapors from the 11th Avenue and 2nd Street manhole is now plugged into an outlet installed on a nearby power pole. The village is no longer using electricity from Larson Body Shop. He commended Tony DeBaillie and MidAmerican Energy Co. for working together to get the service installed in a timely manner. Trustee O'Leary said the picnic table placed over the fan was buried with snow that has since been cleared away.

Trustee O'Leary said there had been no recent contact with Illinois EPA officials regarding the gasoline vapor problem. Also, Mr. Daren Brown was still attempting to find a date when he could meet with village officials to discuss the vapor issue. President Cooper mentioned an encounter with an individual who wanted to notify local media outlets about the gas vapor issue in order to get quicker action from the EPA. President

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The minutes of February 7, 2011 continued:

Cooper asked the person to refrain from contacting the news media, as it would only create a poor image for Orion.

Mr. Mike McCaw from Missman, Stanley & Assoc. was present to review details of the streetscape engineering agreement. When questioned why the cost was \$15,000 over and above the \$20,000 estimate, Mr. McCaw said federal stimulus money was being used to fund the ITEP project, which increased engineering and record keeping requirements substantially. Mr. McCaw said the project would be bid through the IDOT office in Springfield. Clerk Sampson asked the board to wait to act on the engineering agreement until the Finance Committee could meet and discuss where additional funds could be secured to pay for the extra engineering fees.

Trustee Lawson said most residents were pleased with the snowplowing efforts of village employees after a record snowfall of around 18". Some expressed displeasure about driveways getting plowed in, but Trustee Lawson said plows could not avoid every driveway. He thanked the village employees and Chris Weber of Osco Tank and Truck, who moved mountains of snow from the Main Street business area and trucked it to Central Park and an empty lot behind Orion True Value. The hauling took about five hours, which was days quicker than village employees could have accomplished the task. It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Drucker to pay \$625 to Osco Tank and Truck for snow removal. Prior to a vote on the motion, it was noted that Mr. Tom Griffin had requested snow dumping be eliminated at the north end of 4th Street at the 10th Avenue intersection. When the snow melts it creates problems for the building he owns north of the dump site. President Cooper thanked Trustee Lawson for his hours of assistance helping the employees clear snow and Trustee Stiles for his offer to assist. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cline.

Trustee Drucker requested the purchase of tire chains for the loader/backhoe with the cost to be split between water, sewer, and streets. Trustee Lawson agreed the chains would be a good idea and said he would instruct the street superintendent to move forward with the purchase.

Trustee Lawson thanked the Orion Fire District volunteers for their assistance clearing fire hydrants after the snowstorm. They spent many hours working on the task during the past weekend.

President Cooper expressed his appreciation for legislation proposed by newly elected state representative Rich Morthland regarding leaking underground storage tanks. The legislation would allow the state of Illinois to provide funds for clean up efforts.

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President Cooper asked Clerk Sampson to write a letter of thanks to Representative Morthland.

Trustee Drucker said he and President Cooper were encouraged after their interaction with legislators during a Northwest Municipal Association meeting at Lavender Crest in Colona. All local politicians were present at the meeting. Trustee Drucker said Senator Mike Jacobs claimed to have funds to help the village with the sewer backup issue for which the Illinois EPA has cited the village. A letter was written to Senator Jacobs a few days after the meeting to confirm the conversation. It was felt that valuable information was gleaned from attendance at the meeting and that Representative Morthland could be a valuable friend and ally of Orion in the future.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve payment of dues to the Henry County Economic Development Partnership for 2011. Prior to a vote Trustee Drucker said he was in favor of trying the membership one more year. He pointed to increased vigor by a new employee and her offer to assist communities with updates to the L.O.I.S. system and the community portion of HCEDP's website. Trustee Drucker also said the past president of the group is now a Henry County board member. He noted one problem with the HCEDP board makeup, however. Trustee Drucker said representatives of private, non-dues paying businesses are allowed to sit on the board (in which they have no financial stake). After brief discussion by the board regarding HCEDP's lack of assistance to Orion, Trustee Drucker said the village might be at fault itself for not making all economic information available. He also said the village often does not have land or buildings or incentives that are expected by relocating companies. It was noted that a potential business owner was shown the former Augie & Earl's Chevrolet building when it became vacant. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, and Drucker. Noes: Lawson. Absent: Cline.

President Cooper said the HCEDP is planning to have the Mayor/Village President meeting in Orion in March. He explained to the board that the host community normally offsets the cost of the event to some degree and asked for approval of an expense not to exceed \$300. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the expenditure of no more than \$300 for the March MVP meeting to be held in Orion at Woo Dog's Pub & Grub. Prior to a vote Trustee Drucker suggested a sponsorship be requested from a couple of local businesses to offset the village's cost. President Cooper invited the board to attend the event to experience the value of the meeting firsthand. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cline.

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President Cooper said the village of Cambridge had successfully obtained many grants and he attributed that success to its village administrator. He said the employee is able to devote much of his time to seeking grants. The salary for such a full-time position was estimated around \$55,000-\$60,000. President Cooper asked the board to consider a similar position for Orion, noting the salary would be worthwhile if the village could obtain large sums of money from grants to improve infrastructure. Trustee Drucker pointed out that many variables could affect grant acquisition, such as congressional district, state legislators, being the site of the county seat, and qualifying for grants that are directed to communities that can meet low-to-moderate income guidelines, which the village of Orion cannot. Trustee Drucker also pointed out that he was able to get \$500,000 in grant funds for the water department at no cost to the village beyond his ordinary trustee pay.

President Cooper told the board that the Mediacom franchise fee totaled just under \$16,000 this year. He encouraged residents to consider using the cable television provider versus satellite television.

President Cooper thanked all for their assistance during the snowstorm of last week.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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