

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., May 2, 2011 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, and Drucker. Absent: Cline and Lawson.

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

President Cooper announced that Trustee Lawson was absent due to job requirements.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 18, 2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cline and Lawson.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned sine die by President Cooper.

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

CLERK SAMPSON GAVE THE OATH OF OFFICE TO TRUSTEES STEVE
NEWMAN, MELVYN DRUCKER, AND ROGER PETERSON.

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The regular meeting of the President and Board of Trustees was held at 7:35 p.m., May 2, 2011 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Absent: None.

President Cooper called the meeting to order and welcomed trustees newly elected and re-elected to the office.

President Cooper assigned Trustee Newman to the committee of Buildings & Grounds and Finance. All other committee assignments remained unchanged. Trustee Stiles pointed out the fact that another FOIA officer would be necessary due to the end of Rick Cline's term.

Trustee Drucker said village employees were readying the east shed grounds for a concrete approach to the building.

Trustee Drucker said the next Finance Committee meeting would be held May 11th at 4 p.m. at Village Hall. Clerk Sampson asked board members to view the Illinois Municipal League website regarding news that Governor Quinn planned to halt distribution of all tax payments to municipalities unless the state government complied with his request to borrow money to cover debts.

Trustee Peterson said new grills were installed in Love and Central parks. He also said he looked at the light poles to be donated to the village by East Moline. When transported to Orion the poles will be stored at Love Park. Light fixtures will be stored inside the fenced landscape waste site.

President Cooper said it was a proud day for the United States because the terrorist responsible for coordinating the attack on the Twin Towers in New York on September 11, 2011 had been eliminated.

Trustee Stiles said he sought to determine what it would cost the village to have its own police department versus contracting those services from the Henry County Sheriff's Department. He told board members they needed to be good shepherds of the residents' money. Trustee Stiles' plan of hiring a chief, one full-time officer, and filling in the remainder of shifts with part-time help at \$14/hour showed a savings of \$45,000-\$50,000 annually. He said he had a Rock Island County sheriff's employee and Tim Wise, chief of police for Annawan, review the proposed plan for feedback. According to Trustee

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Stiles, both officers thought his plan was feasible. The amount included in the proposed budget for a chief's salary was \$50,000, and Trustee Stiles said that amount could even be less depending upon the successful applicant's qualifications. He pointed out the current lack of control over salary and other issues through the contract with the county. The board questioned expenses for purchasing weapons and body armor, and Clerk Sampson said the FICA charge had been miscalculated, which would result in additional fees of \$2,300. Trustee O'Leary questioned the lack of a budget line item for training, and Trustee Stiles said he didn't intend to pay to train officers only to have them defect to other departments. He expected them to already be adequately trained before being hired, though he had garnered verbal commitments from two facilities for range use. Trustee Drucker objected to paying a new employee \$50,000 when none of the current employees make that much, though Trustee Stiles felt the chief's job held more responsibility, which Trustee Drucker said could be argued. Trustee Drucker felt the salary disparity could cause discord among the other employees. Trustee Drucker further said he realized the board had a fiduciary responsibility to residents in the community, but he didn't feel the village had suffered any problems with the county contract and asked that consideration be given to continuing the contract with the same number of officers in Trustee Stiles' proposal. Trustee O'Leary said when the village had its own department years ago, trouble abounded through the tenure of three different police chiefs, who ended up costing the village a lot of money and embarrassment. He also said the creation of a village department would create more paperwork for existing staff and headaches for the village president. Trustee O'Leary told the board he did not want Orion to be in the news for police issues, such as has been the case for several small, nearby police departments in the recent past. Trustee Stiles contended that other village-managed police departments suffered from lack of leadership, and he said that wouldn't happen in Orion. The board commended Trustee Stiles for his efforts to track down costs for a village department, however, it was noted that he only pointed out pros and no cons. Henry County Deputy Joe Femali attended the meeting and told the board he liked working in Orion and felt he had a good relationship with the board and the community. He spoke about the advantage of having his superior be the sheriff of the county, and not a village trustee, since it removes all politics from his profession. He also said the village would have a difficult time finding qualified officers to work in a village department and the board would be saddled with doing in-depth background checks on job applicants. It was pointed out that the sheriff's department handles all of those details currently, leaving the village to focus on other tasks. Deputy Femali said, under the contract, if an

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officer was removed from Orion, the sheriff would be able to appoint a replacement without delay. There was discussion about the quality of officers who might apply for positions with a village department, and Deputy Femali said they might include those who couldn't get into a department elsewhere and/or puddle jumpers hoping to get some experience and then move on to a larger department. He also noted the lack of overtime listed in Trustee Stiles' proposed budget and pointed out mandated training that would be necessary for all officers. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of Henry County making some of its services fee-based versus free of charge. Deputy Femali said other communities had switched to county contractual services but he didn't know of any community that had given up the county protection to go back to its own department. He also said it would be difficult to fill 2,000 hours with part-time labor. In conversation with the police chief in Colona, Deputy Femali discovered the city had been short two officers for quite some time and was currently seeking to fill four positions in the police department. Other things Deputy Femali thought could be detrimental were the possible loss of some investigative services, certified range instructors, and transportation for arrestees, in addition to evidence processing by the state versus the county, and the formulation of standard operating procedures for a village department. Trustee Stiles said he believed Henry County would still be required to provide some of those services, and he felt any additional paperwork for village staff would be insignificant. He reminded the board to be good shepherds of the tax dollars, even if it takes more effort to make a village-run department work. President Cooper asked the board to carefully consider all aspects of a village vs. county department before the issue is discussed again.

Trustee O'Leary said a pump was installed at the Prairie Knoll lift station and the station is now fully operational.

Trustee O'Leary reported another plan for the east end sewer relief main had been formulated by Scott Kammerman from Missman, Inc., which is expected to cost around \$300,000. The plan has been reviewed by the sewer superintendent and was considered to be a better alternate than those previously presented, partly because fewer easements would be needed from private property owners. Trustee Drucker said continued pressure should be applied to legislators for funding the important project. Hoped for funding through Congressman Randy Hultgren's office seems unattainable, according to Trustee Drucker. He said the village would need to qualify for a grant that wasn't tied to low to moderate income guidelines. Trustee O'Leary said he would submit information to

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legislators once a final plan is available. He also said a letter to residents in the affected relief main area would be sent in the near future. President Cooper expressed disappointment in the negative response for funding after having talked to Congressman Hultgren in person only a few days ago. There was discussion about sending a letter or making an appointment to speak to Senator Mike Jacobs to follow up on verbal promises for funding. President Cooper said he was frustrated that one community in the surrounding area qualified for grant after grant yet Orion could seemingly get nothing.

Clerk Sampson said the streetscape project was moving along but was somewhat stymied by a lack of information on proposed street lights from the local provider. Missman, Inc. needs photometrics for the proposed ornamental lights before the plan can be submitted. Trustee Newman said he could speak with the local provider's lighting specialist to speed up the process. Clerk Sampson said the plans needed to be submitted in the very near future or the project's construction could be delayed until 2012.

After an inquiry by Trustee Drucker, President Cooper said he would check on the completion date of the 7th Street bridge.

Discussion was held regarding the drainage problem on 14th Street between 14th Avenue A and 15th Avenue. A resolution had not been reached.

Mr. Gary Bowling said the Orion Lion's Club is sponsoring a Bike-A-Thon on Jul 16th to benefit blind and deaf individuals. He asked permission to conduct the event in Orion. The board consented to the use of the streets for the event.

It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Peterson to advise and consent to President Cooper's appointment of Jamie Lawson to fill the two-year trustee vacancy. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

The board briefly discussed changing the meeting time for future board meetings, but failing to get a motion, the issue died.

President Cooper said he would attend the next Henry County Board meeting to object to plans to split the county into two versus three districts. The north district would include Orion and several other smaller communities along with Geneseo. The south district

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would include Kewanee and smaller communities. President Cooper felt those living in the more densely populated communities would hold a greater advantage during county elections, leaving Orion and other small communities with no representation. The proposed change would also cost the county thousands of dollars. It was surmised that the district change was purely politically motivated. President Cooper asked interested board members to attend the next Henry County Board meeting with him.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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