

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., June 20, 2011 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. 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 Peterson to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 6, 2011 as amended by changing Colona to Cordova on page two of the document. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Stiles to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$55,310.57, General Deprec.-\$5,446.60, Recycle Collections-\$1,809.64, Water O&M-\$4,882.60, Water Deprec.-\$435.57, Sewer O&M-\$9,540.92, Sewer Deprec.-\$2,947.66, Motor Fuel Tax-\$2,760.00, and Fines-\$312.94.

Mr. Jeremy Coulter, representing property owners living along the 7th Street natural drainage area, asked what the village was planning to do to manage the storm water flow and also prevent sewer backups. President Cooper said the heavy, incessant rains impacted the sewer system by infiltrating sewer mains through cracks in the pipe. He said the system is otherwise sufficient to carry normal sewer flow. Trustee O'Leary outlined an option the village is considering to rectify the backup situation. A relief main will be installed, beginning in the vicinity of 10th Street and 14th Avenue B and ending at 7th Street near 13th Avenue Ct. The main will carry the extra flow during rain events. Trustee O'Leary said the village has been ordered by the Illinois EPA to complete the project. Prior to the installation, investigative work will be done to determine the condition of existing mains, but this work cannot begin until dry weather exists. The cost of the relief main project is estimated at \$347,000, and according to Trustee O'Leary, funds for the project are scarce. The village has so far been unable to obtain grant funds but attempts are continuing. If grant funds are not available, a sewer rate increase will be necessary. Trustee O'Leary said the plans for the project would be available at Village Hall for public review. He apologized to those who experienced sewer backup and gave assurances that the village was attempting to correct the problem. President Cooper told those present that he visited the office of Illinois Senator Mike Jacobs three weeks ago and left a letter reminding the senator of his prior promise to fund the sewer project if a capital bill was signed. President Cooper and Trustee O'Leary urged residents to contact both the state senator and representative about this important project. Trustee Drucker said since federal earmarks are a thing of the past, federal funds are very difficult for Orion to obtain and the village has been told that by former U.S. Congressman Bill Foster and the staff of current U.S. Congressman Randy Hultgren. President Cooper addressed

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Mr. Coulter's concern about the storm flow in the natural drainage area and cautioned that children not be allowed to play in the swift-moving water. Mr. Pat Hessler, a resident living near the waterway, echoed those concerns, fearing the possibility of a child drowning. Trustee Lawson asked residents living adjacent to the waterway to not leave items in the path of the flow, such as firewood, which could cause blockages that would dam the flow. Mr. Coulter asked the board to consider a retention pond, such as the one the city of Davenport is considering. Mr. David Crosiar asked that the silt buildup be removed from the culvert under 14th Avenue to allow for better flow, but Pastor Dave Schultz, who lives on the west side of the culvert, said water was flowing freely.

Trustee Stiles thanked Henry County Sheriff Jim Padilla and Chief Deputy Jeff Happach for being open with information about the department. He said he has been emailing a copy of his plan for a village-managed department to interested residents. Trustee Stiles felt informed residents would choose the less expensive village plan over the Henry County Sheriff's contract. He also said he took offense to the notion that the village board could not appropriately manage its own department and pointed out that the board had an obligation to try to save money. Trustee Stiles said his plan would not cut coverage, just cost. Mr. Jim Cravens was present to ask the board to keep the county coverage. He said he did not want the village to return to the mess it was in when it had its own police department. Mr. Larry Griem, Security Officer and Vice-President of BankORION, said he had been impressed by the level of service and the response from Henry County deputies during incidents involving the bank. Trustee Stiles told those present that Henry County was not the only department that could provide good service. He stressed the cost savings of a village department, citing around \$40,000 the first year and increased savings thereafter. Trustee Drucker asked for a proper comparison between the two departments. He said Stiles' plan only provided two full-time officers compared to three full-time deputies in the Henry County contract. All remaining hours would be filled with part-time deputies/officers. It is a known factor that the removal of one full-time deputy from the county contract would save approximately \$63,000, but it is not known how much additional part-time coverage would offset that savings. Trustee Drucker said he had heard nothing but compliments about the current coverage, including positive remarks from Trustee Stiles. Trustee O'Leary said he favored the contractual coverage but also felt renegotiating the contract might be in order. President Cooper admitted that the board probably hadn't been proactive about reviewing the contract on a regular basis, but said he had done his due diligence to check into other municipal departments and those municipalities urged Orion to keep the county contract. Trustee Lawson objected to voting on the topic, indicating not enough time had passed since a change had been proposed. He asked the board to negotiate a new county contract before making a final decision. Trustee Drucker said he felt residents had the pertinent

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information they needed to be informed on the issue and in his 16 years on the board, he had more phone calls about this topic than any other. All who contacted Trustee Drucker were opposed to switching to a village department and several wanted to keep county coverage even if it cost more. Trustee Drucker also said an officer he knew in eastern Illinois said all small communities were switching to county coverage. Trustee Peterson echoed Drucker's remarks about calls from residents favoring county coverage. Trustee Stiles insisted residents would be unable to make a fair judgment if they hadn't read his plan. Trustee O'Leary said he did not want the mess and embarrassment of an Orion department, such as was the case more than 30 years ago. It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Peterson to keep the current contractual coverage provided by the Henry County Sheriff's Department. Discussion was held prior to the vote. Trustee Stiles contended that the board of long ago could not have been excellent leaders if they failed to manage a three-man department. There was discussion about the fact that other projects need to be funded in the water and sewer departments and the dangers of taking money from one fund to subsidize another. The president and some trustees also expressed reservations about the quality of the officers available to a small police department. Trustee Lawson claimed the county was not living up to its promises in the contract and objected to having to pay an officer's wages when on leave in addition to the wages of that officer's replacement. He felt the county was responsible for replacing the officer on its own dime. Village attorney John Ames told the board that the contract is a net agreement. The cost falls to the village because it is receiving the service. Attorney Ames said no one is to make money or lose money on the intergovernmental contract. Trustee Newman asked that proper cost comparisons be provided between the two proposals, as previously suggested by Trustee Drucker, and wait to make a decision. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: Stiles and Lawson. Absent: None.

Trustee O'Leary said one Homa pump failed at the 10th Avenue lift station and will be replaced by a better quality Flygt pump. The Orion Sanitary District will pay for the pump at a cost of \$13,899.34 and also provide \$5,000 to pay toward the Phase I Loan Retirement. It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Peterson to purchase a Flygt pump in the amount of \$13,899.34 and apply an extra \$5,000 to principal on the next loan payment for Phase I Loan Retirement. Trustee O'Leary thanked the sanitary district for supplying the funds. Trustee Stiles questioned the pump failure, saying he had memories of the pump at that location failing about a year ago. Trustee O'Leary said it had failed and the repair technician spoke poorly of the Homa brand. Homa's are a lower price than other pumps and are chosen many times based on that factor, but Trustee O'Leary said the higher priced Flygt pumps are more reliable. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

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Trustee Lawson said the street department was getting ready to lay drain pipe on 14th Street between 14th Ave. A and 15th Ave. He said Clean Up Week had just ended and went well with all employees helping.

President Cooper said the village's contact for BNSF Railway had changed and the new contact was on vacation and could not attend the board meeting to answer questions about when the 7th Street bridge would be open. However, President Cooper did find out from a Western Township official that the township will take ownership of the approach guardrails after installation by BNSF. The township is waiting for a written agreement to that effect.

Trustee Drucker said hydrant flushing would be delayed until late summer or early fall due to projects of greater importance in other departments.

Trustee Newman said the west tornado siren became operational as of June 14th. The east siren was also upgraded to come into compliance with narrowbanding regulations. Braniff Communications did not charge for installation, but the equipment purchased for the extra upgrade totaled approximately \$1,700, which was within the parameters of the funding provided by the Coulter Trust. President Cooper thanked the Trust board for its generous donation.

Trustee Newman said a lightning strike took out electrical power to Village Hall and staff was able to work by generator power throughout the work day. Power was not restored until the early morning hours of the following day. The lightning hit also took out a network card on one employee's computer. Computer repairs will be turned into the insurance company.

President Cooper said he got a tip regarding the identity of the person who damaged many of the light bulbs in the Central Park Band Shell. A police officer questioned the individual, who did not admit wrongdoing, but if guilty will at least be aware that the police have information regarding the crime.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to adopt Appropriation Ordinance #2011-3. Prior to the vote Trustee Stiles questioned the apparent lack of a line item for the electrical inspector. Clerk Sampson said it was included under another line item but she would clarify the description. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

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Attorney Ames said he was still waiting for a legal description of the Love Park property after a survey by Wallace Engineering. Attorney Ames had recently talked to Wallace and requested the document be sent.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to accept the proposal by Tom Engelmann to perform the village's annual audit for FY2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper said the village's employee health insurance plan would increase 15.3% in July. As an alternative, the village could select a plan with the same company at a higher deductible and incur an increase of only 2.9%. He recommended the village choose the higher deductible plan and pay each employee the difference between the old and new deductible, if used. The old employee/family deductible was \$500/\$1000 and the proposed deductible would be \$1000/\$2000. President Cooper said the village would still save money if every employee met their entire deductible. It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to provide employees with the Option #2 health insurance plan proposed by President Cooper, subsidizing the employees with the difference in the deductible up to a maximum of \$1000, if used. Prior to the vote Trustee Stiles objected to discussing the issue of employee benefits in open session. He said it should have been done in executive session. Attorney Ames said such issues could be discussed in a closed session but weren't required to be. President Cooper said in the spirit of transparency, it was his decision to not go into executive session. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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