

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., July 18, 2011 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Cooper, Stiles, Peterson, Newman, O'Leary, and Drucker. Absent: Lawson

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

President Cooper reminded board members to let him know if they plan to be absent from meetings. He said Trustee Lawson had not given him notification for two of his four absences this fiscal year.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 6, 2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, Newman, O'Leary, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Stiles to approve bills for the month: General Fund-\$34,359.03, General Depreciation-\$3,774.65, Debt Retirement-\$40,279.75, Recycle Collections-\$1,809.65, Water O&M-\$3,747.72, Sewer O&M-\$12,008.10, Sewer Depreciation-\$1,694.59, Phase I Loan-\$43,572.16, and Fines-\$1,401.99. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, Newman, O'Leary, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Mr. Chris Diericks, Ms. Melissa Wauer, and Mr. & Mrs. Ron Belton were present to discuss flooding issues with the board. Ms. Wauer and Mr. Diericks live at 208 12th Ave. and were affected by the overflowing creek/ditch that runs parallel to the BNSF railroad tracks. The couple showed the board photos of flood waters covering 12th Avenue and their yard. The basement of their home was also flooded. Ms. Wauer said it was the second time since she purchased the home that her basement had been destroyed, and she asked the board what the village intended to do to keep it from occurring again. Diericks, Wauer, and the Beltons claimed the grate covering the drainage culvert was clogged with debris that floated down the creek, impeding the flow of water and preventing it from flowing downstream. President Cooper explained that both instances referred to by the couple were due to heavy rainfall of several inches in a very short period of time after the ground had already been saturated by prior rainfalls. The Beltons and Wauer asked that preventive maintenance be done on a regular basis, such as cleaning the culvert, to ensure flow is not restricted. The board agreed that village personnel could meet that request. Trustee O'Leary said the railroad should also be responsible for cleaning the ditch, since it is on railroad right-of-way. The Beltons asked that the railroad be required to keep weed growth at the village limit of 10" or less. The board explained the difficulty of dealing with a powerful entity such as the railroad but agreed to send a violation letter asking the company to maintain its property. Trustee Drucker said the village would inform the railroad of the problems created by the overflowing ditch and make an attempt

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to get them to comply with keeping the ditch clean and maintained. President Cooper also intended to speak with Illinois Senator Darin LaHood about the issue. Senator LaHood's father is the current U.S. Transportation Secretary. Mr. Diericks asked if he and Ms. Wauer could establish a berm around their property to block the water from flooding their house. President Cooper referred the couple to the Henry County Soil and Water Conservation Department.

Mr. Bill Lange and Mr. Tim Stout were present to request vacating 200' of 16th Street on the east side of Orion Tool & Die, 1400 16th Street. He told the board of problems with baseball patrons parking on both sides of 16th Street and on the Tool & Die property, blocking access for emergency vehicles and semi-trucks serving the company. Tool & Die would like to vacate and fence off the 16th Street area. President Cooper said vacating the street would prevent the village from accessing County Highway 32 if the surrounding farm land was developed. Mr. Stout said Orion Tool & Die would agree to dedicate the land back to the village if it was needed for an extension of the roadway. There was some discussion about creating a 'no parking' zone on 16th Street in lieu of vacating the street, though Mr. Stout was skeptical the signs would be heeded. He said there are 'no parking' signs on Tool & Die property, but drivers continue to park there. Mr. Lange and Mr. Stout said they would be adding onto the existing building on land purchased from the adjacent property owner. They will be applying for annexation to the village. Village attorney John Ames will prepare a pre-annexation agreement, and a hearing will be scheduled with the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals for the end of August. The board asked Mr. Lange and Mr. Stout to approach the PCZBA about the street vacate request as well as the annexation. In further discussion about the Tool & Die street vacate request, Mr. Stout admitted that the expansion project would move forward even without vacating the street, but the problem of parking would still have to be addressed. Trustee Drucker advised Mr. Lange and Mr. Stout to contact Lee Trotter with the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity to see about receiving financial assistance, since the Tool & Die project will increase jobs.

It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Stiles to designate two handicapped parking spaces on the north side of 11th Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets east of the alley. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, Newman, O'Leary, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was reported that installation of drain pipe was almost complete on 14th Street between 14th Avenue A and 15th Avenue.

President Cooper thanked the water department for assisting the street department with the 14th Street project at the expense of delaying its own projects.

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Trustee Newman said he continues to work on a long range plan for the Buildings & Grounds Committee and hopes to coordinate projects with the Recreation Committee in regarding to timing and finances.

President Cooper said it had not yet been determined if there was a functioning control in the fire department for the tornado siren.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by O'Leary to approve the Annual Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, Newman, O'Leary, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Trustee Peterson said the drinking fountain in the park had been repaired, and assistance was still needed from Trustee Lawson to move the baseball diamond light poles from a park in East Moline to Orion. President Cooper thanked Trustee Peterson for watering plants in Central Park and keeping the sidewalks weed free.

Trustee Stiles said the police department was still waiting to hear from Tripp Light about insurance coverage for the computer and printer affected by a lightning strike.

President Cooper said a letter had been sent to Sheriff Padilla requesting a meeting to discuss police contract costs.

Trustee O'Leary said an employee with the village of Alpha would not be available until August to assist with the village's televising of sewer mains. The televising is expected to take 2-3 days. President Cooper said he would check with the city of Geneseo to see if they had equipment that might be available sooner than August.

Trustee O'Leary said it had been found that LUST funds would not be available to the village for reimbursement of costs due to the gasoline vapor investigation at 1009 Division Street, but another avenue for reimbursement is a possibility and that information will be forwarded to Attorney Ames for review. The vapor investigation is moving forward and the consulting firm is preparing a report to submit to the Illinois EPA, according to Trustee O'Leary. Contamination has been found, but it is unknown whether that contamination has caused the vapor problems experienced by the village.

Trustee Drucker said he talked with Jane Burns from Congressman Randy Hultgren's office regarding assistance for the sewer relief main in the east end of the village. The request resulted in a response from Doug Thomas, Deputy Chief of Staff for the congressman. The initial response was dismal but in a second email from Thomas it was learned that the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development had been

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contacted and thought some funds may be available. The assistant secretary was a former mayor and understood the problem facing the village. Trustee O'Leary thanked Trustee Drucker for his help.

The board, by general consensus, approved of President Cooper's appointment of Jeremy Coulter to the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. One more person is being sought to fill a vacancy on that board.

President Cooper said at a mayor's meeting in Geneseo he learned that in 2012 Orion will be placed in the 37th District, represented by Illinois Senator Darin LaHood. Senator LaHood attended the Geneseo meeting and told President Cooper he would contact Senator Mike Jacobs on Orion's behalf and remind him of the village's need for funding for the east end sewer relief main. Prior attempts to elicit a response from Senator Jacobs have produced no results thus far. The village is under order by the EPA to come into compliance regarding sewer backups by 2013 and is working toward that goal.

President Cooper asked the board to consider holding a mayor's meeting in Orion at some point in the near future. He said many good ideas have come from those meetings.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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