

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., August 1, 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 Newman, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 18, 2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Stiles, seconded by Peterson to approve the request by Veronica Emmert, 500 15th Avenue, Orion, for a special use permit to operate a day care facility. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Representative Rich Morthland introduced himself to the board and offered his assistance, encouraging village officials to contact him anytime. He told the board he would not represent Orion after the 2012 election, much to his dismay. Representative Morthland praised officials for maintaining a nice community. He also said Representative Don Moffitt would be the village's new contact in 2013.

Trustee Drucker said he submitted a grant application to the Coulter Trust requesting another \$25,000 to put toward the east tower painting project. He said it could be possible for the project to be bid this fiscal year and completed next fiscal year.

Trustee Drucker said an ordinance would be proposed at the next meeting to increase water rates for users outside the village limits. Those users are currently paying the same rate as village residents.

It was reported by Trustee Drucker that a lightning strike caused damage to equipment in the west pump house on July 22nd. An electrician was contracted to review the electrical system in the building and Water Superintendent Arnie Sandberg did other necessary repairs. An insurance claim has been filed for the expenses incurred, totaling around \$1,100.

The Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for 4 p.m. on August 10, 2011 at Village Hall.

Clerk Sampson said the monthly payment to Henry County for sheriff's department services had been reduced in order to draw down an accumulated balance of \$23,000.

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Some of the accumulated funds will be left in the Henry County account to cover expenses of negotiated Fraternal Order of Police contractual expenses. Those expenses won't be known until the contract dispute has been resolved. According to Trustee Stiles, the contract between the county and the F.O.P. is in arbitration.

A schedule of baseball diamond use will be obtained from the city of East Moline by President Cooper. Trustee Lawson can then work around the schedule to pick up light poles the city is giving to the village.

Trustee Peterson said hornets nesting in the sand volleyball pit have been treated with chemicals, but the sand pit should be avoided until the hornets are gone. Signs have been installed to alert the public.

Trustee Peterson told the board more parking is needed near the Love Park ball diamonds. He suggested an area be established along the west side of 16th Street by the ball diamond fence and a no parking zone be created on the east side of the street. This would ensure emergency vehicle access and truck access to Orion Tool & Die. Trustee Lawson also suggested adding more parking on the east side of the driveway entrance to the Love Park shelter.

Trustee O'Leary requested the police department be vigilant about drivers exceeding the speed limit.

Trustee O'Leary said it was believed that one sewer pump was hit by lightning during a storm but it appeared that no damage was done. Nevertheless, the pump will be inspected by Electric Pump.

President Cooper said he asked Sewer Superintendent Chris Lundburg to be prepared for any forecasted storms by having pumps ready to place at manholes. Trustee Peterson said storm drain grates still need to be cleaned so water can flow properly during rain events.

Trustee Drucker said he would contact Doug Thomas from Congressman Randy Hultgren's office to see if any headway had been made to locate grant funds for the sewer relief main project.

Trustee Lawson said the street department is preparing roads for seal coat application at the end of the week. Trustee Drucker complimented the street department for its work installing drain tile on 14th Street and keeping inconvenience to the residents to a minimum. He said he hoped the street would be ready for blacktop application in

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accordance with Henry County's schedule. Trustee Lawson said he would check with the street superintendent regarding the blacktopping schedule.

The condition of 12th Avenue east of 13th Street was discussed and Trustee Lawson said it will be seal coated and chipped this year. He also recommended thought be given to improving the street in the future, since it is subject to heavy truck traffic.

Mr. Mike McCaw from Missman, Inc. told the board that recently enacted Americans with Disabilities Act requirements would increase expenses for the streetscape project. Additional engineering fees are projected at \$7,500 and additional construction costs could be as much as \$7,500 per handicapped ramp and there are seven ramps in the plan. Mr. McCaw said true engineering costs to adjust the plan would be closer to \$15,000, but his firm, in an attempt to be equitable to the village, would only charge half that fee. The Project Development Report submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation has been rejected twice due to federal guidelines for street lighting and ADA accessibility. Mr. McCaw expressed frustration and dismay over the chain of events but said the village was at the mercy of the federal government when accepting grant money. He used the term "pennies from Hell" to describe the funds. In addition to coming into compliance for ramps in the project area, the village must formulate a plan to bring all other ramps into compliance. This plan need not be included in the third submission of the PDR but needs to be kept on file with the village in the event federal auditors request it. Mr. McCaw also must file a variance request to allow diagonal parking on 4th Street, even though street surface repair/replacement is not included in the plan and diagonal parking has been in existence at that location for 50 years or more. Revisions to the streetscape plan have caused bid letting and construction to be pushed into 2012. Mr. McCaw did not foresee increased construction costs as a result of the delay.

Mr. McCaw told the board he looked at 12th Avenue between 5th and 7th Streets for tension cracking that could allow the introduction of water, which would damage the street. He said the blacktop looked in relatively good condition, considering its age, but he wanted to look at the street under somewhat cooler conditions and see if existing cracks widened. The street department consulted Mr. McCaw about seal coating over the existing blacktop surface to extend its life. It was determined that seal coating over blacktop is a viable solution.

President Cooper asked the board to consider continued membership in the Henry County Economic Development Partnership by approving dues in the amount of \$245. Dues were reduced by the group in consideration of difficult economic times for member communities. The group also decided to allow membership to all government bodies and businesses. An employee will also be hired to assist HCEDP with its mission to stimulate

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economic growth in the county. It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve payment of \$245 to the HCEDP for membership dues. Prior to a vote Trustee Drucker said HCEDP was the catalyst for the Mayor/Village President meetings and the ethanol plant established in another Henry County community. Trustee Stiles said the village doesn't have room for economic expansion, and past membership in the organization had realized little to no benefit. Trustee Drucker said there is acreage available for development within the TIF district. He also noted the group scheduled trips to Springfield to provide face time with legislators. Trustee Stiles expressed doubt that the group was pushing businesses toward the village of Orion. President Cooper said the group is doing its best with limited time and resources, and he said information obtained at MVP meetings had been helpful to the village. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: O'Leary and Lawson. Absent: None.

Clerk Sampson reported on information she researched regarding potential membership in the National Flood Insurance Program. She said there is currently no floodplain established in Orion and the village could join the program with the simple passage of a resolution and ordinance along with completion of an application form. Membership would allow village residents to purchase flood insurance at a relatively reasonable cost. Clerk Sampson said coverage would only extend to normal basement items such as a furnace, water heater, washer, dryer, etc. It is not intended to cover finished living space. The only time it would cover finished living space is if the basement was open at grade level on one side. Adoption of the program would require some things to be checked if a permit was issued for construction in a flood prone area. Clerk Sampson said the possibility existed that FEMA could decide to establish a floodplain in the village if enough claims were submitted in the same area. In the event a floodplain was established, everyone purchasing or building a home in the floodplain would be subject to stringent building code regulations and required to purchase flood insurance. Mr. Mike McCaw cautioned the board that floodplain management could become a great burden for the village's building code department. The board was wary to consider membership without knowing how many flooding events might trigger establishment of a floodplain and the actual cost of the insurance. Mr. McCaw said, anecdotally, he heard an average annual premium could be \$800. The matter was tabled until further information could be obtained.

President Cooper said a letter had been sent to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway requesting the drainage ditch parallel to the tracks be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis. He said BNSF was also notified about village regulations against grass and weeds in excess of 10" in height.

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It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to enter executive session at 8:39 p.m.
Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent:
None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:57 p.m.

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, Newman, Lawson,
and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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