

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., October 3, 2011 at the Village Hall, 1202 4th Street, Orion, Henry, Illinois. The following members were present: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Absent: Cooper.

President Pro-Tem Drucker called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Stiles to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 19, 2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cooper.

Mrs. Pat Larson, 714 10th Avenue, was present to ask that a section of sidewalk be repaired in front of her home. Part of the walk was mudjacked previously but has since become offset with the next section of concrete, creating a tripping hazard. Accompanying Mrs. Larson was Mrs. June Stropes, who had tripped and fallen due to the offset. Trustee Lawson said street department personnel would look at the sidewalk but he could not guarantee it would be repaired this year. Mrs. Larson asked that the offset at least be temporarily patched to avoid more accidents.

Board members asked that patrols be stepped up on 13th Street north of 11th Avenue and 7th Street near the railroad bridge. It appears that drivers are speeding on these stretches of roadway.

President Pro-Tem Drucker thanked President Cooper for his doggedness in pursuing the repair and subsequent opening of the 7th Street bridge. The bridge opened September 30th.

Trustee Lawson asked that the police department be on the lookout for illegal use of village streets by heavy trucks and farm equipment. Those driving such equipment are required to use the truck route. It was noted that the load limit has been removed from the 7th Street bridge, but village streets still have load limits and drivers must adhere to the regulations.

Trustee O'Leary said a new pump has been installed at the 10th Avenue lift station and one is on order for the sewer plant. He also said an Electric Pump representative has been working on a pump at the Prairie Knoll lift station and hopes it can be repaired. If not, another solution will be sought.

Trustee O'Leary said some potential funding proposed by legislators for the sewer relief main turned out to be CDAP-related. Orion cannot meet low-to-moderate income requirements of CDAP grants.

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The minutes of October 3, 2011 continued:

Trustee O'Leary said it was learned that IEPA personnel cannot discuss the gas vapor investigation with the village's attorney. Instead, the village attorney must talk to IEPA legal counsel. No response has been received from IEPA legal counsel as to the status of the investigation and a request by the village to get reimbursed for expenses incurred. Trustee O'Leary said an article in a Quad City-area paper quoted the IEPA as "taking a scientific approach" to the problem in Orion. President Pro-Tem Drucker said the term must mean slow and methodical. Board members said it was unfortunate that the article tried to picture the village in a bad light when the board has no choice but to wait for the IEPA to complete its investigation. Attorney Ames suggested any charges incurred by the village regarding the gas vapor investigation be presented to the IEPA in writing in an attempt to find out what the environmental firm hired by the organization intended when they offered to reimburse the village.

Trustee Lawson said the 14th Street blacktopping has been completed and potholes will be patched in the near future. He said the street superintendent would also be preparing for the winter season. Trustee O'Leary asked that street gutters be kept clean from leaves and other debris. He also noted the condition of the street at the intersection of 12th Avenue and 16th Street. Trustee Lawson was aware of the problem.

President Pro-Tem Drucker said flushing of water mains is a continuing project.

Trustee Newman said letters soliciting funds for the Central Park security camera system were sent to local organizations and followed up with a personal phone call. The letter promised confidentiality of the amount contributed and the prosecution of anyone caught vandalizing the band shell or veterans' monument. Deb Ford, Main Street Orion Director, said the organization had fewer façade improvement requests than anticipated and used some of those budgeted funds to contribute \$1,500 toward the security system. Trustee Newman thanked MSO for its donation and said Tri-City Electric was the successful bidder for the security system. A demonstration of the equipment will be held at the next board meeting on October 17th. Assuming the board approves the project, it could begin this fall. Trustee Newman said the bid for the system was \$18,637.

Trustee Newman said he received a request from someone to hold a volunteer event to paint the band shell on October 1st. The request was given on short notice and Trustee Newman said future volunteer requests will need to follow guidelines he is developing. The guidelines will give the village more control over the event and allow for better structure and publicity. Trustee Newman said he would review the guidelines with the board at a later date. A few volunteers showed up for the event on October 1st and they did some touch up painting, which will get the band shell through the winter season. The band shell will be painted in its entirety prior to its 100th birthday celebration in 2013.

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The minutes of October 3, 2011 continued:

MSO Director Deb Ford asked that she be notified of the painting schedule so as not to conflict with MSO's movie and concert events.

The next Finance Committee meeting was set for October 12th at 4 p.m.

Attorney John Ames said he finally had all paperwork necessary to complete the Love Park/Woodley land transaction and will proceed with that project.

Trustee Peterson said the removal of three pine trees in Central Park is still pending, and he will be repairing the broken Love Park bench in the near future.

It was moved by Newman, seconded by Drucker to set Halloween Trick-or-Treat for October 31st between 5:00-7:00 p.m. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Cooper.

President Pro-Tem Drucker discussed with the board a proposal from the fire department to utilize a village-owned lot at 506 10th Avenue for parking after construction of an addition to the department's existing fire station. President Pro-Tem Drucker said it was brought to his attention that the village uses the lot for storage of snow removed from streets, and sanitary and storm sewers run diagonally under the surface of the lot. He encouraged caution in any deliberations for the lot's use or sale. President Pro-Tem Drucker also cautioned against taking business away from commercial enterprises providing similar facilities, such as the community room mentioned at the prior board meeting. Trustee O'Leary said the lot didn't look conducive to the use requested. Trustee Stiles recommended asking fire department personnel to attend a board meeting to provide factual information about the exact nature of the building addition and the use of the village's lot. Drawings showing the addition and its relation to the lot would also be helpful.

Orion Gazette Editor Mindy Carls expressed appreciation to the village for its swift replacement of a tattered flag at the corner of 4th Street and 11th Avenue.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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