

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 17, 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: Lawson.

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

President Cooper said Trustee Lawson was out of town but did contact him prior to the meeting to discuss street issues.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of October 3, 2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Peterson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$36,488.87, General Depr.-\$26,553.53, Recycle Collections-\$1,809.64, Water O&M-\$7,109.06, Sewer O&M-\$10,180.18, Sewer Cap. Impr.-\$14,368.93, Motor Fuel Tax-\$2,729.33, Hanna Trust-\$96.30, and Fines-\$208.21. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Trustee Newman reviewed with the board past instances of vandalism to the band shell in Central Park. He said it had proven difficult to catch perpetrators by utilizing the village's existing security camera system, and it had been found that the camera system was not functioning properly. In lieu of repairing the existing cameras, Trustee Newman researched the purchase of digital equipment. He was told the existing analog system was considered obsolete. Upon seeking bids, two of which were received, Tri-City Electric's bid was deemed most appropriate for the village's purpose. Mr. Charles Reed, Tri-State's general manager, and Ms. Lori Rochholz, Sales & Marketing, were present to demonstrate the camera system. Mr. Reed showed live feed of cameras placed at various points on Tri-City Electric property. Images captured earlier in the day were also shown. Mr. Reed said his firm has set up systems for Scott and Johnson counties and several school districts. He said Milestone software is recommended because it is user-friendly and the system can be expanded easily. In answer to board questions, Ms. Rochholz said the system could be expanded to Love Park with the use of fiber optic cable. It was noted that the first year maintenance agreement is included in the bid price but further maintenance agreements would be at additional cost. Any upgrades to the software would be included with the maintenance agreement. Also, parts of the system have a one-year warranty while others have a three-year warranty. In relation to a question about the eventual obsolescence of the system, Mr. Reed said there would be no reason to replace the camera system as long as it was still fulfilling the village's needs. He said the thing to consider is how long the manufacturer would continue to support the product.

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Mr. Reed said the cameras are vandal resistant and weather resistant, though he admitted that determined vandals could do damage, and certain weather conditions could affect the images. The system can be password protected, allowing only certain employees access. Trustee Drucker asked about privacy issues of those who don't know their images are being transmitted to a computer. Mr. Reed said it would be wise to make all who have access to the system sign a statement that they will not release inappropriate material to others. Discussion was held about financing the proposed \$18,000 project and it was determined the board should not vote on the issue until proper funding is in place. The project was not included in the FY2012 budget. The board is waiting for responses from organizations contacted for donations to put toward the project. Thus far, MSO donated \$1,500 and the Sherman Sagadin VFW donated \$250. Many other organizations have not yet responded. Trustee Drucker found it difficult to believe there was enough vandalism to warrant the expense. Clerk Sampson said the \$18,000 cost of the system should be compared against the cost of repairing the vandalized structure. She said the expense to cover graffiti and make repairs has been some paint, a few pieces of lumber and a few hours of the park superintendent's time. Clerk Sampson said she was unable to come up with any significant expenditures related to band shell vandalism. Opinions differed on whether there had been an increase in vandal activity – some board members felt it was on the increase and others felt it could be at the top of a typical cyclical pattern and would decrease over time. President Cooper said both the Veterans' Monument and the band shell were important to the village and should be protected. He said vandals could be prosecuted using recorded images and once someone was caught and punished, other vandals would stop harming the structures. Trustee Newman cautioned against thinking the captured image alone would be enough to prosecute a case. He said other evidence would be required and the state's attorney would have final say whether or not to move forward and prosecute the case. As an alternative to the camera system, Trustee Drucker asked the board to consider more police foot patrols during times when people are utilizing the park and gathered in the band shell area. He also suggested leaving more lights on in the band shell to deter nefarious activity after dark.

It was moved by O'Leary, seconded by Drucker to accept Missman, Inc.'s sewer relief main plan, Alternate #1, as the village's corrective action plan to the sewer backup issue, estimated to cost \$350,000, which will be forwarded to the Illinois EPA. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve an engineering agreement with Missman, Inc. in the amount of \$28,000 to begin sewer relief main engineering activities. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

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Trustee O'Leary said the IEPA expected periodic reports on each step of the corrective action plan for sewer backups. Clerk Sampson and Sewer Superintendent Lundburg worked together to complete reports for the first four steps of the plan and those reports have been submitted by email to the proper IEPA authority. Additionally, Trustee O'Leary is searching for a funding source to pay for the project and hopes to report to the board soon about a possible prospect.

In regard to the gas vapor issue, village attorney John Ames is seeking reimbursement for related expenses on behalf of the village from an environmental firm hired by those who owned the property at the time of the incident. President Cooper said Mr. Dave Requet, former owner of the property where the gasoline spill occurred, called him and requested a copy of the IEPA incident report after an article about the gas vapor investigation appeared in a local newspaper. President Cooper referred Mr. Requet to the IEPA. Clerk Sampson was directed to obtain a copy of the report from Missman, Inc.

President Cooper said the school district wants to alter a parking area along the north side of 14th Avenue to include a drive-through for parents dropping their children off at C. R. Hanna Grade School. A school official asked the village to pay for culverts and sidewalk at a material cost of \$1,000, as estimated by the street superintendent. Trustee Drucker said the traffic situation is created by those who drive their children to school in lieu of letting them walk and he didn't feel it was the village's responsibility to pay for a solution. Trustee Stiles agreed, adding that the school is a taxing body that can raise revenue for its project through the levy of property taxes. He also expressed concern over the fact that no one from the school was present to make the request. President Cooper said the school superintendent met with him previously to request the funding, and President Cooper felt money set aside for sidewalk repairs could be used to do the project. Trustee Drucker objected, reminding the board that the Street Committee chairman said at the last meeting that the street superintendent would not have time this year to repair an offset in a sidewalk that someone had tripped on. Trustee O'Leary concurred and said he had looked at the walk in question and felt it could be repaired in a timely manner. He objected to using sidewalk funds for the school's project. Discussion ensued about the lack of sidewalk repairs during the past few years. It was moved by Newman, seconded by Peterson to approve cost sharing with the school district at an estimated amount of \$1,000 for culverts and sidewalks in conjunction with a planned school drive-through on the north side of 14th Avenue between 8th and 10th Streets. Prior to a vote Trustee Peterson said three crosswalks would be needed in the one-block area. Trustee Drucker said those trustees arguing against paying the cost were concerned with the welfare of the children but didn't feel the cost should be borne by the village. Trustee Peterson said there is currently a drainage problem in the area that should be addressed

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by the village. The remainder of the board agreed. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Peterson and Newman. Noes: Stiles, O'Leary, and Drucker. Absent: Lawson.

Trustees said other drainage concerns should be addressed by employees, including the cleaning of leaves and other debris from grates and storm drains.

Trustee Drucker said hydrant flushing had been completed for the season.

Trustee Drucker said the Finance Committee would be discussing in detail the amount to request for the property tax levy at its November 9th meeting. He advised those interested in the process to attend the meeting or give input prior to that date. Other revenue sources will be discussed along with the assessed valuation of property in the village. Trustee Drucker said the village would be as fair as possible when reviewing the rate.

Trustee O'Leary complimented Trustee Drucker for his suggestion to apply for an Illinois Landmarks grant for band shell upgrades prior to 2013. Illinois Landmarks honored the band shell with a Richard H. Driehaus preservation award in 2004 and also granted \$15,000 toward the rehab of the west water tower. Trustee Newman said he would start researching the grant process.

Trustee Peterson said he is in the process of repairing the damaged park bench from Love Park. He also said the pine trees in Central Park are still slated for removal this fall.

Trustee Stiles said he talked with police officers regarding complaints about speeding drivers on 13th Street north of 11th Avenue.

President Cooper said the weight sign to be installed at the 7th Street bridge will indicate 'Legal Load Only', making it difficult for law enforcement to monitor truck weights and require any trucks stopped for apparent violations to be taken to a scale and weighed. Many trucks and farm vehicles have been traveling on 15th Avenue west to 7th Street, over the bridge, and onto the highway. Trustee Stiles said those vehicles are in violation of the village's truck route. President Cooper said, in light of that fact, he and Trustee Newman felt it might be wise to someday change the truck route from 11th Avenue to 15th Avenue. Trustee Stiles pointed out a lack of truck route signs at the east entrance to the village, which he felt could confuse drivers unfamiliar with the area.

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Drucker to deny a request from Bill Lang, Orion Tool, Die & Machine Co. for the waiver of fees associated with his annexation. Prior to a vote Trustee Drucker said the board empathized with Mr. Lang but felt a precedent might be established by granting the request. It was pointed out that all developers are charged

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for associated fees and those requirements are spelled out in the developer's pre-annexation agreement. The motion was called for a vote. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

Trustee Peterson asked the board to pursue the parking problem on 16th Street before next spring's baseball season arrives. He said 'no parking' signs would need to be erected for the east side of the street, and gravel may need to be placed in the street right-of-way on the opposite side of the street in order to encourage parking along the ball diamond fence line.

The board discussed the need for gates to be closed at the maintenance storage yard when not in use. Trustee Drucker found the gates open and no employees around and felt someone might take advantage of the opportunity to dump illegal items at the landscape waste site. President Cooper said he felt gates could remain open if employees were actively using the storage yard area but should be closed at other times. He will notify employees.

It was moved by Stiles, seconded by Drucker to approve a \$500 donation for MSO's Saturday with Santa event. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: Lawson.

President Cooper said he was still actively pursuing grant funds for the east sewer relief main project via state and federal senators and representatives. He said he talked with Representative Don Moffit, who will represent the village's district if re-elected in 2012, and Representative Moffit said he could assist with funding.

President Cooper said he had a meeting with property owners affected by the flooding during a heavy rain event in the spring and told them he felt the village engineer should review the size of an underground tube that is on private property. When the topic was discussed at a subsequent board meeting, trustees objected to the village spending money to investigate the tube, since it is located on private property and no records exist showing that the village had anything to do with its installation. Due to the wishes of the board, when contacted by Mr. Lewis Burson, one of the affected property owners, President Cooper told him the village board didn't feel village funds should be used to pursue a private property issue. Mr. Burson then told President Cooper he would see him in court. Due to the nature of the comment, President Cooper said he would no longer discuss the drainage issue with Mr. Burson or the other affected residents. If they have questions regarding the matter, President Cooper said they should contact the village attorney.

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Trustee Drucker said a woman used foul language with him when he politely told her she should not use the handicapped parking spot in front of the post office. She had no handicapped license plate on her car and no obvious handicaps. The woman told Trustee Drucker it was none of his business and that she was just running into the post office to do a quick errand. President Cooper and other trustees have had similar experiences.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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