

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., November 21, 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 November 7, 2011. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Lawson to approve the bills for the month: General Fund-\$51,318.11, Recycle-\$1,809.64, Water O&M-\$13,785.85, Sewer O&M-\$24,341.89, Sewer Deprec.-\$445.00, Sewer Capital Improve.-\$4,170.00, Motor Fuel Tax-\$625.08, and C. R. Hanna Trust-\$4.26. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Ron Thompson thanked those who helped erect the Christmas tree in the Central Park band shell the prior day. President Cooper, who was one of the helpers, thanked Mr. Thompson for his effort each year to find the tree, purchase decorations, and gather volunteers. Thanks were also given to Chris Walton for donating his time to cut the tree from a portion of one he was removing from Central Park.

President Cooper called for a moment of silence in honor of a fallen soldier whose hometown was Moline, Illinois.

Trustee Drucker praised Water Superintendent Arnie Sandberg for his part in achieving recognition for the highest standard of compliance with the Illinois Fluoride Act. The village has received the award for 16 straight years.

Trustee Newman thanked those who were in Central Park on Sunday and helped with not only erecting the Christmas tree but moving the band shell extensions to the Orion Fall Fest storage building. He also thanked the OFF for allowing storage of those items.

Trustee Newman said he appreciated the work by village employees to remove items from underneath the band shell in preparation for inspection by Missman, Inc. The engineering firm's personnel inspected the band shell for structural integrity and other things. Trustee Stiles asked about the status of the security camera system for Central Park, and Trustee Newman responded that he was waiting to hear about a grant from the Coulter Trust and OFF Committee. President Cooper said the OFF Committee would make a decision after the village learned the results of the Coulter Trust request. Trustee

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Stiles reiterated his support for the camera system; however, Trustee Drucker told the board a more urgent issue for the structure is maintenance and upkeep. He pointed out that general wear and tear has affected the band shell more than any vandalism, noting many areas of deterioration he witnessed while helping with the decorating of the Christmas tree. He felt funds should be raised to maintain the structure instead of purchasing security cameras. Trustee Newman agreed that certain parts of the structure were in decline and a regular maintenance program should be put in place. He said his research showed the band shell should be painted every 3-5 years and painting has not been performed since 2003.

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Drucker to adopt Ordinance 2011-7, annexing territory to the village, specifically 16 feet on the west side of Love Park and 25 feet along a portion of the south side of Love Park. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Trustee Peterson said the Orion Fire District is requesting the use of the parking lot near the tennis courts in Love Park for a regional training event on April 21, 2012. The department would be required to provide a certificate of insurance for the event. Trustee Peterson said the park would need to be closed to all other uses while the training was taking place. The request was tabled until baseball schedules could be determined.

Trustee Drucker said the Finance Committee determined the property tax levy should be increased by \$10,000. He noted increases in general expenses for the village and static or reduced revenues as the reasons to request a higher levy. The increase would equal 5.47%, but due to revenue received from the Western Township Road and Bridge Fund, the increase will appear to be in excess of 13%. Trustee Stiles said the public rarely attends the tax levy hearings and noted the board would have to take whatever action is necessary for the village to function. Trustee Drucker reminded those present how irate residents were when the levy amount stayed the same for several years and afterward raised substantially. He said they did not seem appreciative when no increases took effect and responded critically when the board was finally forced to institute an increase. The tax levy hearing will be held December 19th at 7 p.m.

Trustee O'Leary and Sewer Superintendent Chris Lundburg met with a member of the Orion Sanitary District to inquire about funding possibilities for the sewer relief main project. The OSD officials will meet next month to review annual revenues. In addition, Trustee O'Leary said he would continue to pursue state and federal legislators for grant opportunities, even though those opportunities thus far have been nonexistent.

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Trustee O'Leary expressed concern about getting paid for the expense of the fan purchased to aerate gas fumes from the sewer main and also electrical expenses to operate the fan. President Cooper said the village should also be reimbursed for lining the sewer main. Village attorney John Ames said he would discuss the issue with the consultant performing the vapor investigation.

In regard to the gasoline vapor issue, President Cooper said he took offense to a rumor that the gasoline seeping into the sewer system had deteriorated the lining placed in the sewer main. He said the rumor was mean-spirited and had no merit because the village had special material installed in the pipe that is resistant to gasoline. President Cooper said he felt the rumor was started by an individual in an attempt to embarrass the village board. Trustee O'Leary agreed and said the village has kept accurate records of all steps taken to alleviate the problem for affected residents until the Illinois EPA is able to rectify the situation with a prior owner of the suspect property where leaking underground tanks were removed.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Stiles to adopt Ordinance #2011-8, creating a no parking zone on the east side of 16th Street between 12th Avenue and 14th Avenue, also the west side of 16th Street beginning at 12th Avenue and extending south 50'. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper said he learned that implements of husbandry are limited to 36,000 pounds when traveling Orion's streets. He said additional signs would be installed to better mark the existing truck route.

Trustee Newman said the landscape waste site was very busy last Saturday and residents were appreciative that they could dispose of their waste. The village board decided to add one more day to the schedule, that being Saturday, December 3rd from 8-10:00 a.m. President Cooper volunteered to man the site.

It was moved by Lawson, seconded by Drucker to enter executive session at 8:14 p.m. to discuss employee wages/bonuses. Ayes: Stiles, Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: None. Absent: None.

President Cooper reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:25 p.m.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Newman to approve bonuses in the amount of \$1,250 each for Chris Lundburg, Lori Sampson, Neil Dahl, and Arnie Sandberg, and \$500 for Sandy Mizen. Ayes: Peterson, O'Leary, Newman, Lawson, and Drucker. Noes: Stiles. Absent: None.

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

Lori A. Sampson
Village Clerk

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