

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS.
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

REGULAR MEETING
August 7, 2023

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, August 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The Meeting was called to order by President Bruce Dowdy with the following Members present:

Trustees: Tara Ramsey, Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, Anthony Rusher (Absent), Jeff Graham, and Caleb Grover
Clerk: Jill Gilpin
Treasurer: Debbie Niles
Superintendent: Jake Heberling
Village Engineer: Mark Bingham
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)
Chief of Police: Travis Peden
Officer Manager: Kari Scott
Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Kim Brown, Village Resident; Rev. David Knoblich, Joy Assembly, David Blakeman, Village Resident (Via GoToMeeting); and Rex Wheeler, Village Employee

Minutes from July 5, 2023, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Ramsey that the minutes be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented for the month of July to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Ramsey, that the Treasurer’s Report be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

The Gas Report was presented for the month of July to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, that the Gas Report be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

The Water Report was presented for the month of July to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Callan, that the Water Report be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

The Sewer Report was presented for the month of July to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, seconded by Ramsey, that the Sewer Report be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

The Police Report was presented for the month of July to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Wilson, that the Police Report be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

Bills against the Village were presented for the approval of the Board. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Graham, to approve and issue warrants for all bills. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer LeVault reported there were no zoning permits issued in the month of July but amended the June 2023 Zoning Report by adding Permit #788-23 to Josh and Alicia Lehman located at 110 S. Maple for a fence was issued on June 6, 2023 and inadvertently omitted from the June report.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the Zoning Report. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Grover, to approve the Zoning report. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

President's Report:

President Dowdy welcomed Mike Blakeman from Pulley, Martynowski and Blakeman. Mr. Blakeman presented the Annual Financial Report for the year ending April 30, 2023, and the Independent Auditor's Report. Mr. Blakeman also presented the comparative analysis dated April 30, 2023, which is a five-year history.

President Dowdy stated there can be only one person listed as the Principal Authority for the Illinois Funds account. He asked for a motion to rescind the motion made at the July 7, 2023, meeting approving Debbie Niles and Kari Scott as Principal Authority.

Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Wilson, to remove Christine Lerch as the Principal Authority for the Illinois Funds account and add Debbie Niles as Principal Authority and Kari Scott as an Authorized Signer to the Illinois Funds account. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed changing 312 S West Street property from C-1 Commercial property to R-1 Residential property because the owners would like to combine this property along with the properties on each side of it and it must be zoned the same.

President entered a motion to change 312 S West Street from C-1 Commercial property to R-1 Residential property. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Ramsey, to change 312 S West Street from C-1 Commercial property to R-1 Residential property. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy reported he was contacted by Vertical Bridge who is the owner of the tower at the sewer plant. He explained the situation with the tower and after much discussion he asked for a motion to extend the contract with no rent payment for another year to Vertical Bridge.

Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to extend the contract with no rent payment for another year to Vertical Bridge. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed increasing the wage for the part-time police officer, certified and trained. A comparison chart of wages of part-time officers from surrounding areas was discussed. After much discussion, President Dowdy asked for a motion to increase the wage for the certified and trained part-time police officer.

Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to increase the wage to \$20.00 an hour for the part-time officer, certified and trained. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Wilson "Yea"; Ramsey "Yea"; Callan "Yea", Graham "Yea", and Grover "Yea". Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed hiring one full-time outside employee. James Lupton has said that he will be leaving, possibly after the first of the year. After much discussion, an employment ad will be run until Friday, August 25, 2023, and the Board will have a Special Meeting on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss employment applications.

President Dowdy reported that Keith Moran, who started the TIF District has passed away.

President Dowdy reported another bid for the Village shop was received from Jason Bleisner of Quality Construction & Concrete along with the bids received from Trimble Construction, Inc. in July. President Dowdy stated that all building improvements fall within the TIF District.

Superintendent Heberling said neither Trimble Construction, Inc. nor Quality Construction & Concrete would be able to start the project until after the first of the year but would like to get a bid approved.

Superintendent Heberling stated the bid from Trimble Construction, Inc. is \$52,021.85 to do the side walls and take all the posts compared to the bid from Quality Construction & Concrete is \$29,000.00 to repair the side walls and repair the posts. Bids were also received from Trimble Construction, Inc., and Quality Construction & Concrete for an addition to the Village shop.

President Dowdy stated the existing building can be paid out of TIF funding but not sure if TIF funding could be used for the addition to the Village shop. That will have to be confirmed before any bids are approved. President Dowdy is also going to check if the prices on the bids can be locked in. This will be tabled until the September 6, 2023, meeting.

Village Engineer Report: Engineer Mark Bingham discussed water system improvement projects. These projects are upgrading the wells, water tower maintenance, and a couple of water main replacements. He stated that the EPA requires an agreement in

place with the engineer with the language they require. He asked for approval to move forward with the project.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to move forward with the water system improvement project.

Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Grover, to move forward with the water system improvement project. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported there are no leaking gas valves anywhere in our system. He thanked the Board for allowing him to get the gas valves fixed.

WATER – The Water Report for June 1 – June 29, 2023, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for June 1 – June 29, 2023, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for June 1 – June 29, 2023, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson reported she had spoken with Lisa Grover, Stonington Township Librarian and Lisa would like to get the community more involved with the Stonington Township Library. Her thought was if the Village Board would participate in things held at the library it would be good for the community. An Ugly Art Night contest is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2023, from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., and asked if Village Board members would want to participate as judges or could be on a team and create the ugly art. Lisa also told Trustee Wilson that there are 1,000 people in the community, and they have only 100 community members registered with the library. It is free to get a library card.

WATER – Trustee Graham thanked Superintendent Heberling and Village employees for trimming the trees.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Callan reported on the gas prices, Panhandle is \$2.15, and the 12-month futures is \$3.26, which is up a cent from yesterday.

Trustee Callan also asked if plaques had been ordered for Frank Paulek and Allen Barringer. President Dowdy stated they have not been ordered.

Trustee Callan also inquired about the Melton residence on Pine Street. President Dowdy stated that the last update he received from the bank is that they are waiting on final paperwork to be finished before they technically get possession of the property.

President Dowdy would like to consider looking into adding an ordinance about remodeling of old properties.

President Dowdy welcomed Paster Dave Knoblich with Joy Assembly to the table. Paster Dave asked if TIF funds were available for the church which is non-for-profit and if there is something they need to do to move forward. He stated the plans are to build a pavilion and a playground on the empty lot across the alley. It is zoned residential and since it will be used for church purposes it would need to be zoned commercial. They also plan to install an awning in front of the church over the steps. President Dowdy stated there is an application for TIF funds for improvements and they would find out if a non-for-profit is eligible for TIF funds.

Paster Dave also wanted to let the Board know that during storms he would be happy to open the church for community members to go to if they do not have a basement.

Kari Scott reported the grant was approved for the storm sirens and a pay request was put in for \$47,178.40.

Debbie Niles reported that the interest rate at the local bank is .3% and the Illinois Funds interest is over 5% and discussed to look at moving some funds to Illinois Funds for some savings and earn some income off interest.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the September Regular Meeting as Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Wilson, seconded by Graham, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk