

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

REGULAR MEETING
December 4, 2023

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, December 4, 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 (Absent)
Treasurer: Debbie Niles (Absent)
Superintendent: Jake Heberling
Village Engineer: Mark Bingham (Absent)
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)
Chief of Police: Travis Peden
Officer Manager: Kari Scott
Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Elizabeth Wood, *Breeze-Courier*; David Blakeman, Village resident (Via GoToMeeting); Kim Brown, Village resident; Scott and Beth Kuntzman, Village residents; Bryan Kuntzman, Village resident; Jazmyn Jayne, Village resident; Don Bouvet, Village resident; Earl Good, Village resident; and, Leslie DeVore, Village resident.

Minutes from November 6, 2023, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Andrew Callan, seconded by Tammy Wilson, that the minutes be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

Minutes from November 6, 2023, Executive Session was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Tammy Wilson, seconded by Caleb Grover, that the minutes be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

Minutes from November 20, 2023, Committee meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by Tammy Wilson, 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 November to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Tammy Wilson, seconded by Andrew Callan, 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 November to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Andrew Callan, seconded by Tara Ramsey, 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 November to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Jeff Graham, seconded by Tammy Wilson, 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 November to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Caleb Grover, seconded by Tara 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 November to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by Tammy 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 Tammy Wilson, seconded by Jeff Graham, to approve and issue warrants for all bills. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

Zoning Officer’s Report: There were no zoning permits issued by Zoning Officer LeVault in the month of November.

President’s Report: President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. Ordinance 23-692, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 11. Zoning: Village of Stonington, Section 11.2007 E, Section 11.2007 F, And Section G of The Municipal Code of Ordinances of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion by Tammy Wilson, seconded by Tara Ramsey, to approve Ordinance No. 23-692. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy welcomed Scott and Beth Kuntzman to the table. Scott Kuntzman asked the Board what they could do about getting the ordinance changed to allow residents to have chickens.

President Dowdy stated that, that would have to be a discussion amongst the board and in the past, they were allowed for 4-H projects and Ag projects for school He asked how many chickens would be enough to make it productive to have chickens. Beth Kuntzman stated they would like to have up to 12 chickens and they would be confined and would be used only for producing eggs.

Trustee Ramsey stated that other towns have ordinances that allow six chickens, no rosters, and they must be in a confined area. Some towns require a \$25.00 permit to be issued to have chickens.

A Committee meeting will be set for Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss an ordinance to allow chickens.

President Dowdy brought up the discussion on the water runoff in front of Nolen's Plumbing.

Village resident Don Bouvet spoke on the matter. He stated that there used to never be a water problem until Nolen's started washing their porta potties and trucks in front of the business. He also stated there is always standing water that he drives through when he leaves and returns to his home. He believes a solution to the problem would be to get the water to flow back east in the direction of the train tracks.

Superintendent Heberling stated that there is a hump in the road that is preventing the water from flowing back the direction to the train tracks. He said that if the hump can be removed the water should flow in the direction of Nolen's office. He is concerned with putting a culvert down that road in case the tile does not take it and then a bigger issue arises. He suggested maybe trenching to drain the water down towards Nolen's office.

President Dowdy discussed and presented an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Stonington and the Stonington Community Center. He stated the agreement has been brought up and approved in the past but there was no legal document. He sent a copy of the document out prior to the meeting. He asked the Board if they had any questions and also stated that Village Attorney, Scott Garwood had added in a few things such as receiving receipts and paperwork before payment was made.

President Dowdy brought up the discussion on shop repairs. He stated that bids had been received from Trimble Construction and Jason Bliesner of Quality Construction before for support posts to be repaired in the Village shop and that TIF funds can be used for these repairs. He asked Superintendent Heberling to reach out to Trimble Construction and Jason Bliesner to get updated bids for the project.

President Dowdy brought up the discussion of gas valves and welcomed Superintendent Heberling to the table. Superintendent Heberling stated he would like to put a gas valve in the alley behind the mini storage. The gas service is lying above ground and only covered by 1 inch of dirt. While it is already dug up, he would like to install a new gas valve to have better control of the system. He provided a bid from USDI in the amount of \$2,960.00.

President Dowdy asked for confirmation that the gas valve replacement could be covered by ARPA funds. Superintendent Heberling confirmed that it can be.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the gas valve installation for \$2,960.00. Motion made by Andrew Callan, seconded by Tammy Wilson, to approve the gas valve installation of \$2,960.00 Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Superintendent Heberling spoke on the MTF funding for next year. He spoke with Engineer Mark Bingham and if the Village is going to use him, it will be 4 1/2% of the total job to do the paperwork and another 4% for Engineer Bingham to monitor them

while they are doing the work. Superintendent Heberling stated he is willing to do the monitoring to save 4% and Engineer Bingham would show him what to do.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Mark Bingham to handle MFT funds for the next fiscal year. Motion made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by Tammy Wilson, to approve Mark Bingham to handle MFT funds for the next fiscal year. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Village resident Earl Good asked if anything else is being done in the Village about cleaning up the cars with no plates sitting that are sitting around.

President Dowdy stated they do go around and issue citations, but it is not done monthly. He will contact the Village attorney to see what more can be done.

Village Engineer Report: Superintendent Jake Heberling stated Rajita reached out regarding the remaining 2% retaining fee of the Water Treatment Plant money. Rajita would like to have the remaining \$17,607.86 be paid so that the paperwork can be filed with the EPA and that will finish the project.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to release the remaining \$17,607.86. Motion was made by Andrew Callan and seconded by Jeff Graham. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Wilson "Yea", Ramsey "Yea", Callan "Yea", Graham "Yea", Grover "Yea". Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling stated that the Maple Street lift station is done. It is working good and not getting the water in it like they were. With what was budgeted, there was still a savings of about \$15,178.00.

Trustee Callan asked how the new employee was working out.

Superintendent Heberling informed the board it is going well. Jordan is signed up to go in January to get his General Standards, Mosquito, and Right Away training. He is also getting signed up for gas training in Olney, dates are not known at this time but should be the end of January, beginning of February. There will still be a few more tasks that he will need to complete before he will be able to be on call.

President Dowdy stated that the employee situation has changed.

Superintendent Heberling informed the Board that James will be leaving around the 18th of December as he accepted a new job with the state.

President Dowdy stated that it might be something to think about if we will continue with three Public Works employees or if we need to find a fourth.

WATER – The Water Report for October 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for October 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for October 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS –Trustee Ramsey asked if there was a way to force GFL to come and get their totes from residents who are no longer customers.

President Dowdy stated that he would make a phone call to see what he can find out about the GFL service.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Office Peden asked about getting insurance for himself through the Village and asked the Board to figure out how his wage would change.

President Dowdy suggested that this be on the agenda for the Committee meeting scheduled for December 13, 2023, since it is in regards to wages.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Trustee Graham quested the railroad crossing on the south end of town.

Office Peden said that he has already talked with them and that the tracks are pumping. Basically, it's just taking and dropping the asphalt down. He is going to reach out to his cousin again to see what is going to be down to fix the situation.

SEWER – Trustee Caleb asked if there is anything that can be done about excessive engine noises in the middle of the night.

President Dowdy stated that there is a noise ordinance, but the person would need to be caught for anything to be done.

GAS – Trustee Callan asked if there was any new information about what was going on at the old Village Pantry. He said that no one has been up there for about 2-3 weeks.

President Dowdy said that one crew came in and did a lot of work and then another crew came in and didn't do much work. There is no further information on the status of the building.

Office Manager Kari Scott stated that she received a call from a customer with information from GFL Trash Service. The customer stated that a driver told them trash pickup will be on Mondays not Thursdays. She is going to try to get in contact with GFL and get more information.

Village resident Leslie DeVore stated that both she and her mother contacted GFL in October and they both received two different pickup days. She was told trash pickup would be on Thursdays and her mother was told that GFL would still be offering trash pickup twice a week.

Village resident David Blakeman stated that he has had no issues with GLF. The last time he spoke with them, they said they were picking up trash on Thursdays. He also stated that since the Village is not a city customer and it is all individual customers that is why the rates increased.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the January Regular Meeting as January 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Tara Ramsey, seconded by Tammy Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk