

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. March 6, 2023
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

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

Trustees: David Blakeman, via GoToMeeting; Tara Ramsey, Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, and Anthony Rusher
Clerk: Jill Gilpin
Treasurer: Debbie Niles (Absent)
Superintendent: Jake Heberling
Village Engineer: Rajita Singhal (Absent)
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)
Chief of Police: Travis Peden
Officer Manager: Kari Scott (Absent)
Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Kim Brown, Village resident; Earl Good, Village resident; Korey Bailey, Village resident; Jackie Dowdy, Village resident

Minutes from the February 6, 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.

Minutes from the February 13, 2023, committee meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Wilson, that the committee minutes be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented for the month of February 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 February to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by 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 February to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by 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 February to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Callan, 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 February 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 Ramsey, to approve and issue warrants for all bills. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer LeVault issued no zoning permits in the month of February.

President's Report: President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 23-688 per the changes made at the February 13, 2023, Committee meeting. Ordinance 23-688 is An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Utilities, Article 1. Garbage Haulers of the Municipal Code Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Blakeman, to approve Ordinance No. 23-688. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Wilson "Yea"; Ramsey "Yea"; Blakeman "Yea"; and Callan "Yea". Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed the possible annual 3% increase in the water and sewer rates that are automatically set to incur or to hold off a year on the increase. He reported the year-to-date reports, the water system seems to be holding its own and the sewer system seems to be losing money.

A Finance Committee Meeting and a Water Committee Meeting have been set for Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss water, sewer rates, and Sharpsburg water and employee payroll.

President Dowdy stated the lift station at Maple Street is down to one pump. The lift station also needs work done to the piping on the inside. Superintendent Heberling stated that he has received one quote for the repair and is waiting on another quote and then will present them to the Board.

President Dowdy stated that the Village has authorized for more than one trash service to be allowed to pick up trash in town. The garbage haulers were asked to submit an application or send a letter of interest. The only letter of interest that was received was from Cleeton's Sanitation.

President Dowdy welcomed Jackie Dowdy to the table to discuss the new flowerpots that have been bought to be placed on Main Street and the Village Hall. She has been discussing with Bayer regarding the dirt and the filler for the pots. She shared with the Board that there has been some interest in people sponsoring the flowerpots. The

sponsors would be responsible for buying and planting the flowers. She stated she and Bayer will take care of watering and maintaining the flowerpots. She is going to check with the businesses in town to see if they want a flowerpot placed at their business.

Village Engineer Report: Superintendent Heberling, in Village Engineer Rajita Singhal absence, reported the following: a disbursement to Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$7,908.17; hold \$88,039.28 until the punch list of the items are completed; and, \$7,880.19 is the remaining balance for the Village to keep.

The Board felt this information was unclear and that these disbursements were approved at the February 6, 2023, regular board meeting. No disbursements were approved.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling thanked the Board for the allowing the purchase of the GIS. He stated that it locates everything. He reported the wells were cleaned last week and according to the EPA, because of the aquifer, the wells should be cleaned every five to seven years.

Superintendent Heberling attended a conference in Effingham and asked the EPA a lot of questions regarding the lead and copper servers. He stated that they will have to have information on every water service in town, from the water main all the way to the first shut off in the house and 18 inches outside the house. The EPA wants this information and is not forthcoming is telling how it is supposed to obtain the information. The Federal Government is asking for 33 pieces of information and the State has not given any recommendations as to how many pieces of information they want.

Superintendent Heberling attended a Superintendent meeting in Sullivan and reported there is a mega rule coming out for gas and it unclear about the new rules coming out because they have not been implemented.

Superintendent Heberling reported there were three water leaks in the last month and nine gas callouts.

WATER – The Water Report for December 29, 2022-February 2, 2023, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for December 28, 2022-February 2, 2023, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for December 28, 2022-February 2, 2023, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Rusher reported there was a question whether everyone employee of the Village had to take the gas call taker training. Specifically, the police department. He contacted Lindsay Enlow with the Utility Safety & Design, Inc. (USDI). Enlow stated that as long as Chief of Police Peden is not taking a call or responding to gas calls, that he did not have to take the call taker training.

Superintendent Heberling remarked that Debbie Niles, James Lupton, Rex Wheeler, Kari Scott and himself have all taken the call taker training and passed and that they are enrolled in the drug testing program.

Superintendent Heberling stated that Chief of Police Peden called him three times last year regarding gas leaks. Superintendent Heberling contacted Lindsay Enlow with the USDI and he was told that if Chief of Police Peden is answering calls and has responded to any gas leaks and since he is a city employee that he has to have the call taker training. Enlow also advised him to make sure it is documented that the Board has stated that Chief of Police Peden does not have to take the call taker training and to contact the ICC and report it.

Superintendent Heberling also handed out a memorandum from Homer Gardner, USDI, Director of OQ and Safety quoting the Illinois Department of Pipeline Safety and Phmsa section 192.605(a) 192.615(b). The memorandum also quoted The Operation Manual for the Village of Stonington, Section 2-part,G *All persons receiving gas leak calls must take call taker training. The person receiving the leak complaint call should dispatch a qualified employee to investigate the leak as soon as possible after receiving and recording the information from the caller.*

Superintendent Heberling stated that it is his job to make sure that everyone is trained and to protect the Village, so the Village is not fined.

Trustee Wilson questioned what the downside is if Chief of Police Peden takes the call taker training and to do more investigating to see legally if Chief of Police Peden must take the call taker training.

President Dowdy will contact the Illinois Commerce Commission that oversees gas and discuss the situation.

Trustee Rusher reported on the back yard at North and Lake. Chief of Police Peden stated that he will be sending a letter to the owner. Trustee Rusher also suggested that they should start driving around and looking at properties to be cleaned up.

President Dowdy stated the roof has been recovered at the residence on Pine Street.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Trustee Callan reported that the water meter on Locust Street is sunk in the ground, he advised Superintendent Heberling about it.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Blakeman reported on the gas prices. They are running \$2.33 to \$2.66, and the futures is \$3.70.

He also inquired if the tornado sirens are going to be tested on Tuesdays again. He stated that tornado sirens are usually tested March through October and some areas are testing them yearly.

President Dowdy scheduled the April Regular Meeting for April 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Rusher, seconded by Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk