

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

REGULAR MEETING  
November 6, 2023

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, November 6, 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 (Absent), and Caleb Grover  
Clerk: Jill Gilpin  
Treasurer: Debbie Niles (Absent)  
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: Elizabeth Wood, *Breeze-Courier*; David Blakeman, Village resident (via GoToMeeting); Jeff Nolen, Nolen Plumbing Heating & AC; Jordan Graham, Village employee (via GoToMeeting); and Ashley LeVault, Village employee (via GoToMeeting).

Minutes from October 2, 2023, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by 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 October 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 October 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 October to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Grover, 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 October 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 October 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 October.

President's Report: President welcomed Jeff Nolen to the table. Jeff presented pictures of the Nolen Plumbing Heating property showing where the water stands on the street. He proposed installing a catch basin to allow the water to move and for better drainage. He asked for any suggestions. After much discussion, this has been tabled to allow for the Board members to look at the area where the water stands and to discuss ways to help eliminate the problem.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the changes to the Employee Policy by adding d to 2.18 Professional Licenses. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Ramsey, to approve the changes to the Employee Policy by adding d to 2.18 Professional Licenses. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy moved to discuss adding a family leave policy to the Village's Employee Policy. After much discussion, this was tabled for the December meeting for further discussion.

President Dowdy discussed an email received from Attorney Scott Garwood regarding Chapter 11, Section 11.2007 E Travel trailers and recreational vehicles. Attorney Garwood stated that our current code prohibits the use of them, and the Village will need to add fines for violations. He also stated regarding violations, the Illinois Municipal Code limits the maximum fine to \$750.00. After much discussion a Committee Meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss fines and timelines for the fines to Chapter 11, Section 11.2007 E Travel trailers and recreational vehicles.

President Dowdy welcomed Superintendent Heberling to discuss the cleaning of well #12. He received a bid from Layne Christensen Company for well #12 to be cleaned and tested at a cost of \$15,220.00. The cost is eligible for ARPA funds.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to get well #12 cleaned and flow tested. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to approve getting well #12 cleaned and flow tested at a cost of \$15,220.00 to be paid with ARPA money. Motion passed with a roll

call vote that went as follows: Wilson "Yea"; Ramsey "Yea"; Callan "Yea", and Grover "Yea". Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy started the discussing of switching gas call centers. Superintendent Heberling stated the Village has been using ATZ Messaging for gas calls because USDI had recommended them. Now the Village and USDI have been having problems getting through to them and USDI has since switched over to TAS Communications. USDI will be certifying TAS Communications yearly. TAS Communications will be in compliance with the ICC and they are in the drug program. The Village averages 51 calls per month. The current cost of ATZ Messaging is \$125.00 a month plus 80 phone calls. Anything over that is an extra \$1.20.

Office Manager Kari Scott mentioned there is no contract with ATZ Messaging but if the Village was going to switch services, ATZ Messaging requires a 30-day notice to cancel. She also stated she did not see that there was a contract with TAS Communications and mentioned they also offer a call monitoring system that allows the Village to listen to the phone calls in case of any misinformation.

The base rate for TAS Communications is \$78.00 a month with \$1.45 per minute and the call monitoring system is \$7.95 a month.

Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to change call centers from ATZ Messaging to TAS Communications. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Village Engineer Report: Engineer Mark Bingham reported on future upgrades to the water system and presented a budgetary estimate. The four projects are repairing the water tower, replacing the water main, a water treatment plant, a valve installation, and well upgrades. He stated the valve installation and well upgrades are a priority because the interconnection between SNAWS and Edinburg will need to have the appropriate water supply for the future down the road. He asked for approval to submit the plans to the State.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Engineer Mark Bingham to submit the future upgrade plans to the State. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, to approve Engineer Mark Bingham to submit the future upgrade plan to the State. Motion made by 4-0 vote.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported the Maple Street lift station was completely rebuilt and a leak was fixed on Locust Street. He noticed one of the sewer pumps was running high. He asked Taylorville to bring and use their camera system. They found a leak that was getting in the sewer over on Covington and 8 feet of the sewer main was replaced.

Superintendent Heberling also reported all the hydrants have been flushed and the ICC audit will be done next week.

Superintendent Heberling reported the Village is to be receiving a reimbursement check from Panhandle Gasline in the amount of \$214,000.00. This is for Panhandle adjusting the delivery rate. There was a lawsuit and it was approved that they have to give us some of the money back with 8% interest. It's supposed to be paid out within 60 days. This is from a combination of charges from 2020-2023.

WATER – The Water Report for September 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for September 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for September 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Callan questioned when GFL Environmental is supposed to be picking up trash.

President Dowdy stated that GFL Environmental will be picking up one day a week starting Thursday, November 9, 2023.

Trustee Wilson made a motion, seconded by Callan, to go into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss personnel.

Motion made by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, to get out of executive session at 8:50 p.m. and return to regular session.

The Board discussed a wage increase for Police Officer Jed Davis. After much discussion, President Dowdy asked for a motion to leave Police Officer Jed Davis's salary at \$20.00 an hour with insurance.

Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Wilson, to leave Police Officer Jed Davis's salary at \$20.00 an hour with insurance. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the December Regular Meeting as December 4, 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 Grover, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

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Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

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Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk