

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

REGULAR MEETING
September 6, 2023

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Wednesday, September 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, Jeff Graham, and Caleb Grover
Clerk: Jill Gilpin
Treasurer: Debbie Niles
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*; Jed Davis, Part-Time Village Police Officer; David Blakeman, Village resident; Kim Brown, Village resident; and, Earl Good, Village resident.

Minutes from August 7, 2023, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Rusher, 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 August 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Graham, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Ramsey, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, seconded by Rusher, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, 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 Rusher, to approve and issue warrants for all bills. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer LeVault issued one zoning permit in the month of August.

Permit # 791-23 to Kyle Parks located at 907 Elmira Street for a concrete drive and patio.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the Zoning Report for the month of August. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Grover, to approve the Zoning report for the month of August. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

President's Report:

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 23-691, An Ordinance Levying Taxes For Corporate And Special Purposes For The Current Fiscal Year Commencing On The 1st Day Of May, 2024, And Ending The 30th Day Of April, 2025. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Rusher, to approve Ordinance 23-691, An Ordinance Levying Taxes For Corporate And Special Purposes For The Current Fiscal Year Commencing On The 1st Day Of May, 2024, And Ending The 30th Day Of April, 2025. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy welcomed Treasurer Debbie Niles to the table to discuss Village bank accounts. Debbie stated the Village has a \$15,000 CD at First National Bank of Nokomis with a .3% interest rate and suggested closing out that CD and open a new CD account for 9 months with a higher interest rate of 4%.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to allow Treasurer Debbie Niles to close the \$15,000 CD account at First National Bank of Nokomis and re-invest the money into a 9 month CD account with a higher interest rate and make Debbie Niles and Tammy Wilson authorized account signers for the new CD account.

Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Ramsey, to allow Treasurer Debbie Niles to close the \$15,000 CD account at First National Bank of Nokomis and re-invest the money into a 9 month CD account with a higher interest rate and approve Debbie Niles and Tammy Wilson as authorized account signers for the new CD account. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Treasurer Niles presented information about Illinois Funds along with their daily interest rates. She explained how the Village used to use Illinois Funds as a high interest savings account. Illinois Funds is now an investment account with high interest rates. She suggested moving some money to Illinois Funds to take advantage of what they have to offer. If the Village had an emergency, money could be transferred from Illinois Funds to the local bank. She asked that the Board look over the Illinois Funds information for further discussion.

President Dowdy stated the Illinois Funds will be placed on the October agenda.

Treasurer Niles lastly discussed a bill with Shelby Electric for the Division Street Lift station that has a running credit of \$3,758.00. She contacted Shelby Electric, and they are going to apply the credit to the main sewer plant account.

President Dowdy discussed going through the application process for the new outside employee hire. He has spoken with James Lupton and James stated he would stay as long as needed to get a new employee trained. Interviews have been scheduled for next Monday and Wednesday.

Trustee Rusher discussed including in the Employee Policy timelines for new outside employee hires to obtain licenses for CDL, mosquito spraying, general standards, gas, sewer, and water.

After much discussion, timelines for new outside employee hires to obtain licenses will be on the October agenda.

President Dowdy discussed the tower at the sewer plant. He was contacted again by the owner, Vertical Bridge, and stated the owner would like to have a two-year extension contract to get companies on the tower. It is not costing the Village anything for the tower to sit there. The owner stated that he would send monthly updates on the tower so the Village would know when companies get on the tower.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to enter a two-year extension contract with Vertical Bridge. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Graham, to enter a two-year extension contract with Vertical Bridge. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed a tree at 213 S. Pine Street sitting on the boulevard. The tree has split, and the Village will move forward with taking the tree down.

The homeowner at 314 S. Pine has some concerns about a tree sitting on the boulevard. The Village was advised that the tree is stressed and decided to hold off until spring to do anything.

President Dowdy welcomed Earl Good to the table. Mr. Good voiced his concerns as to when the last time the alleys had been checked. His concern is fire trucks would not be able to get down some alleys.

Superintendent Heberling stated that they have been trying to work on cleaning up the alleys when they have time. President Dowdy stated 8 feet from the center of the alley is Village property.

President Dowdy also commented on an email received from Village resident Jeff Good stating concerns with some properties. He stated that Chief of Police Peden had addressed most of Mr. Good's concerns.

Mr. Earl Good inquired about the Melton property. President Dowdy stated it is still in foreclosure with the bank and the bank does not possess the title of it yet.

Village Engineer Report: No Engineer report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Nothing to report.

WATER – The Water Report for June 30, 2023 - July 28, 2023, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for June 30, 2023 - July 28, 2023, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for June 30, 2023 - July 28, 2023, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey reported she found a video from a past seminar relating to legal and economic solutions to abandoned properties on the Illinois Municipal League website which she plans to watch.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Trustee Graham voiced a question from Village residents as to where the speed limits start by the school. Officer Jed Davis stated the speed limit goes into effect 500 feet past the speed limit sign.

Superintendent Heberling stated the County put a sign up stating to reduce speed.

SEWER – Trustee Grover voiced a question he had from a Village resident if it was a possibility for the Village Ordinances to be listed on the website.

Office Manager, Kari Scott, replied they are not on the website and that they will print off a copy of a Village Ordinance if a Village resident requests one.

GAS – Trustee Callan voiced a question from a Village resident regarding the semi-truck sitting on the empty lot.

President Dowdy stated that he told the owner it could not sit there more than 30 days.

Office Manager, Kari Scott reported on August 23, 2023, the Village received the storm siren grant funds.

Chief of Police Peden reported on the letter received from the State Police stating the Village has all their mandated police training. He also reported that Officer Jed Davis is taking the old squad car home to help with travel time. This also allows him to log in at Willey's fuel station because that is close to his criminal jurisdiction.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to allow Officer Jed Davis to take the squad car home. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Ramsey, to allow Officer Jed Davis to take the squad car home. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Chief of Police Peden questioned about Officer Jed Davis being employed full-time. After much discussion, this will be put on the October agenda.

The Chief of Police Peden also stated they updated the video body cameras that sync with the car cameras.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the October Regular Meeting as October 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Callan, seconded by Rusher, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk