

STATE OF ILLINOIS                    }  
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN            } SS.                   February 5, 2024  
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON         }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, February 5, 2024, 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, Jeff Graham, 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); Kevin and Tammy Kater, Village residents (Via GoToMeeting); Kim Brown, Village resident; Scott Kuntzman, Village resident; and Earl Good, Village resident

Minutes from January 4, 2024, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Grover, 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 January 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Graham, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, seconded by Wilson, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Graham, 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 John LeVault issued no zoning permits in the month of January.

President’s Report: President Dowdy asked for a motion for approval to appoint Scott Kuntzman to fill the empty Board seat. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Ramsey, to approve the appointment of Scott Kuntzman to fill the empty Board seat. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Scott Kuntzman was sworn in by President Dowdy.

President Dowdy made the following committee appointments:

WATER: Caleb Grover  
SEWER: Scott Kuntzman  
HEALTH AND SAFETY: Jeff Graham

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to Stoney Slots LLC. Motion by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, to grant the liquor license to Stoney Slots LLC. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the Raffle License 24-25 to Stonington American Legion. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Graham, to grant the Raffle License 24-25 to Stonington American Legion. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed Motor Fuel Tax. Since the last meeting the Village of Stonington received money from the State of Illinois from the COVID period to be put into motor fuel tax. The money must be allocated by July 2025. The State has not said when it must be used. With that amount would put the total to \$61,422.48 and he would like to allocate an additional \$25,000 to round the grand total amount to \$65,000.00 That money will be used in combination to repair streets and sidewalks in town. By doing this it will allow us not to have to allocate for next year.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to for approval of a grand total of \$65,000.00 for Motor Fuel Tax for this fiscal year. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Ramsey, to approve a grand total of \$65,000.00 for Motor Fuel Tax for this fiscal year. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Engineer Bingham will have the formal paperwork and Resolution at the March meeting for the Motor Fuel Tax.

President Dowdy discussed that the Village has a bid from Sloan Implement but no bid was received from Jenner for a lawnmower. Trustee Scott Kuntzman presented a couple of bids for Scag lawnmowers. Trustee Kuntzman will bring one of the Scag lawnmowers for the Village Works employees to try. After much discussion, this will be tabled until the March meeting.

President Dowdy informed the Board that he was approached from someone wanting to apply for a Class "A" liquor license. The Ordinance only allows two Class "A" liquor licenses and currently those two are issued to The Triangle and Stoney Slots LLC. He stated Class "A" liquor licenses are for bars and asked the Board if amending the Ordinance to allow three Class "A" liquor licenses would be something they would consider. After much discussion, this was tabled until the March meeting.

Village Engineer Report: Engineer Bingham reported that he is waiting on the EPA for the water project.

President Dowdy reported that Superintendent Heberling is still in discussions regarding the permission/deed work for the new well.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported Sharpsburg sold water to Edinburg for about two days and they ended up having some issues. He also reported well #12 was cleaned and received the test results back from the EPA and the report was good on the well. He would like to have all three wells cleaned again in five years so it will not be so hard on the pumps.

WATER – The Water Report for December 1, 2023 – December 28, 2023, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for December 1, 2023 – December 28, 2023, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for December 1, 2023 – December 28, 2023, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

President Dowdy stated the discussion for a new police vehicle that will be put on the March agenda as well as a discussion of getting another vehicle for the Village Works

Department for the employees to use to make calls instead of using the ton trucks.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Callan asked about the gas prices and questioned if the Village will offset some of the costs if the bills are too high.

President Dowdy stated that the gas prices are not as bad as they made it seem but will see how the billing is when it is received. He felt since the Village received a warning about the prices, the message needed to be relayed to the residents.

Trustee Callan asked about the drainage situation at Nolen Services, Inc. and President Dowdy stated that Jeff Nolen is going to make improvements on it in the spring and then the decision will be made on how to handle the street. He also stated that Jeff Nolen had been adding rock to the street.

Village resident Earl Good asked about sewer prices and about Nolen's Services, Inc. dumping into the sewer ponds. President Dowdy stated he would have to look back to see exactly what Nolen Services, Inc. is charged and that they are dumping in the ponds, so the pumps do not get plugged and hurt the system.

President Dowdy welcomed Office Manager Kari Scott to the table. Kari stated part-time office employee Ashley LeVault's last day is Thursday, February 8, 2024, as she found a full-time job. The Board decided to call a person who had interviewed for the job before and see if she is still interested.

Office Manager Scott informed the Board that she and Debbie Niles received a phone call last week regarding someone wanting to build a garage on vacant property with the intention of parking a fifth wheel trailer inside the garage to reside in the trailer part-time. They would have water and sewer hooked up to the garage. President Dowdy stated that first the building of the garage would have to go through Zoning to make sure the garage would fit within the zoning regulations. President Dowdy suggested if they call the office again, try and get more information regarding dimensions.

Office Manager Scott informed the Board she has the Chicken applications with the Ordinances attached to them ready to be picked up. She currently has two on the list for Chicken applications.

Chief of Police Peden stated he is looking for a replacement for Police Officer Jed Davis since he has left the Village and went to work for the County.

Trustee Ramsey suggested that the Village should look at the new State law regarding the Paid Leave Act. President Dowdy stated he has spoken to Attorney Scott Garwood, and he will be attending a lawyers' conference on the Paid Leave Act and that Attorney Garwood will get back to him and discuss how or if the Village's policy needs to be changed.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the March Regular Meeting as March 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Ramsey, seconded by Grover, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 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