

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. REGULAR MEETING
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON } January 4, 2023

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, January 4, 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, Anthony Rusher, and Nathan Frisch
Clerk: Jill Gilpin
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: Matt Cordts, GFL Environmental; Bob and Kim Brown, Village residents; Mike Hughes, Village resident; James Lupton, Village employee; and Rex Wheeler, Village employee

Minutes from the December 5, 2022, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Blakeman, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Rusher, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Blakeman, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Rusher, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Frisch, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Callan, 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 Ramsey, 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 two zoning permits in the month of December.

Permit #785-22 to Keith Swigert located at 116 S. Locust for a fence.

Permit #786-22 to Tiffany Luxner located at 112 S. Pine for a fence.

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

Mayor's Report: President Dowdy welcomed Matt Cordts from GFL Environmental. GLF Environmental has acquired IV Container, Inc. Mr. Cordts reported that all operations relating to service scheduling, pricing, and employees will remain the same. He explained some of their services, including curbside recycling. He stated the Village residents will be receiving a letter from them in the next week.

President Dowdy suggested that the Board needed to discuss at the February Board meeting whether to continue using the Waste Management recycling bin.

President Dowdy updated the Board on the \$100,000 grant for the Stonington Community Center. President Dowdy passed around a copy of a contract written between the Village of Stonington and the Stonington Community Center.

President Dowdy reported that he and Trustee Anthony Rusher attended the most recent Park Board meeting. The Village will not make any payments without the proper documentation. It was suggested for this grant that a three-person board be formed to monitor what the money is being spent on and to make sure that the proper documentation is correct before it is turned into the State. The three-person board will consist of a Village Trustee, a Park Board Trustee, and a member of the Stonington Community Center. President Dowdy stated that the \$100,000 grant is for new bleachers for the Stonington Community Center that are handicapped accessible and will have handrails.

Trustee Rusher voiced that his intentions of attending the Park Board meeting was to make sure this grant did not come back on the Village, and he did not want the Stonington Community Center to miss out on the grant money.

President Dowdy stated that the Village of Stonington was not listed in the paperwork or the quotes for the grant. The State issued the grant with the Village of Stonington on it. The grant money will be kept in a separate account.

President Dowdy stated a motion would have to be made to enter into the agreement stipulating there will be a three-person board which includes a Village Trustee, a Park Board Trustee, and a member of the Stonington Community Center to monitor the grant money and to make sure the proper documentation is done and sent to the State.

Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Blakeman, to enter into the agreement with the Stonington Community Center and approve the \$100,000 grant money from the State for the Stonington Community Center with the stipulations that there will be a three-person board which includes a Village Trustee, a Park Board Trustee, and a member of the Stonington Community Center to monitor \$100,000 grant money and make sure the proper documentation is done and sent to the State. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Ramsey "Yea"; Rusher "Yea"; Wilson "Yea"; Frisch "Yea"; Callan "Yea", and Blakeman "Yea". Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy stated the next steps are to get the documents signed and submit all the paperwork to the State to make sure they are approved. Once the funding shows it has been released then it will be decided who will be on the three-person board.

President Dowdy started the discussion regarding the leaf burning ordinance. Village resident Bob Brown questioned how the current ordinance became about. Trustee Blakeman explained some residents complained the smoke caused breathing and health problems. He stated that the Board felt the current ordinance would satisfy the community.

Village resident Mike Hughes voiced his opinions against the current leaf burning ordinance.

Village Trustee Blakeman stated there are three ordinances that should be compiled into one regarding smoke, wind, and leaves. After much discussion, a Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss changing the ordinance on leaf burning.

President Dowdy asked Superintendent Heberling to discuss the 192 GIS share file. Superintendent Heberling showed the Board the volume of paper files that must be kept and by using the 192 GIS share file it will all be in the cloud. He explained there will be a one-time set up fee of \$3,000, a fee of \$3,000 per year, and a \$350 user fee per year.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to purchase the 192 GIS share file for the one-time set up fee of \$3,000, a fee of \$3,000 per year, and a \$350 user fee per year making it a total of \$3,500 yearly.

Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Callan, to approve the purchase of the 192 GIS share file with the one-time set up fee of \$3,000, a fee of \$3,000 per year, and a \$350 user fee per year making it a total of \$3,500 yearly. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Ramsey "Yea"; Rusher "Yea"; Wilson "Yea"; Frisch "Yea"; Callan "Yea", and Blakeman "Yea". Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Trustee Blakeman asked about the Village's current answering service. He called on a day the Village office was closed for the holiday and the answering service put him on hold. His recollection was that this answering service was supposed to make the Village of Stonington a top priority because the gas. President Dowdy stated that if this starts to become an issue, the answering service will be contacted to find out what is going on. He also stated that the answering service records all calls as well as how long it rings.

President Dowdy discussed the travel trailer ordinance. He stated that our current ordinance states that a person cannot live in a travel trailer for more than 180 days.

Trustee Wilson stated that there is no water or sewer and questioned if the person living in the travel trailer had been notified about not being able to live in a travel trailer for more than 180 days.

President Dowdy is going to follow-up on the person living in the travel trailer.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported at the sewer plant they started getting a bypass failure on the air blows. They reset it and it failed again. At the approval of President Dowdy, he went ahead and ordered a bypass cylinder that cost \$1,000.00 and is on backorder. When the part arrives, the Village employees are going to try to fix it. If they are unsuccessful, they will have to pay someone to come from Kansas.

Superintendent Heberling also reported there were a couple of issues on Christmas Day. There were water leaks at the car wash and at Bayer.

Chief of Police Peden reported the squad car needed to get worked on and it was out of warranty, and it was going to cost over \$1,000.00 for repair. He contacted Ford and they covered all the repairs except for \$50.00. The squad car also got new tires. He also stated the has a quote on a pickup truck and will discuss with Trustee Rusher.

Chief of Police Peden reported the USDA grant must have ended because he has not received any response from them. President Dowdy stated they would look at the budget for next year for a squad car.

Office Manger Kari Scott stated that there will be a letter sent to all the Village residents from the new trash service GFL Environmental in the next week. She also reported the new owner of the Triangle Pub took ownership January 4, 2023, and a letter was sent to the new owner of the Triangle Pub approving the change of officers.

WATER – The Water Report for November 1, - November 31, 2022, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for November 1 – November 30, 2022, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for November 1, November 30, 2022, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey updated the Board the property tax shows a different owner for the old Post Office. The owner's name is Situs Cultivation and read the owners description of the building to sell.

President Dowdy stated he had someone inquire about the old Post Office because they had seen Situs Cultivation's ad for the sale of the building and is interested in purchasing the old Post Office. Currently the Village has a court order to demolish the building. He read an email from Village Attorney Scott Garwood stating that the Village does not have a unilateral authority to lift the court order and if that were something the buyer would want, the Village would have to petition the court to have the court order lifted.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Rusher had an inquiry from a Village resident to have the gas rates added to the bills.

President Dowdy stated there had been a discussion regarding adding the gas rates to the bills. He stated that the Village is billed dekatherms, the Village bills in therms, and the meter reads are in cubic feet. He stated he will see about getting that information in the bills.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Trustee Callan said the garage roof at S. Pine is going to collapse.

President Dowdy stated the owner said the bank has secured the property and is working on maintaining exterior conditions.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Blakeman reported on the gas prices. Panhandle is \$2.28 up \$0.33; Henry Hub is \$3.65 up \$0.10; and Southern Star \$3.17 up \$0.34. The 12-month future is \$4.30 down \$0.32.

President Dowdy scheduled the February Regular Meeting for February 6, 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 8:42 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk