

STATE OF ILLINOIS                    }  
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN            } SS.                    January 5, 2026  
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON         }

The Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026, 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, Caleb Grover (Absent), and Scott Kuntzman  
Clerk: Jill Gilpin  
Office Manager/Treasurer: Kari Scott  
Superintendent: Jake Heberling (Absent)  
Village Engineer: Mark Bingham (Absent)  
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)  
Chief of Police: Travis Peden  
Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Jason Bleisner, Beer Vault Saloon, LLC and Assistant Chief of Police Phil Deal

Minutes from December 1, 2025, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Graham, 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 Kuntzman, 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 Graham, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Kuntzman, 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 December to the Board for their

approval. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Ramsey, 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 Kuntzman, to approve and issue warrants for all bills. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

Zoning Officer’s Report: Zoning Officer LeVault issued no zoning permit in the month of December.

President’s Report: President Dowdy stated that Village Attorney Scott Garwood would like to have any questions regarding the draft Ordinance to Regulate Structures Within the Village of Stonington prior to him attending a meeting. He would like to be prepared to research the questions before discussion of the Ordinance. President Dowdy stated if there were no questions, the Ordinance would be put on the February 2, 2026, meeting for approval.

President Dowdy moved the discussion to the TIF application submitted by the Beer Vault Saloon for building improvements and expansion. President Dowdy voiced concerns regarding existing TIF commitments for water main upgrades, installation of concrete and catch basin repairs, and potential future water system expansions due to increased demand from Edinburg pulling water from SNAWS. He stated that Superintendent Jake Heberling will be compiling estimated costs for the upcoming projects to be presented at the February 2, 2026, meeting so the TIF application submitted by the Beer Vault Saloon, LLC will be tabled until the February 2, 2026, meeting for further discussion.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent’s Report: In the absence of Superintendent Heberling, President Dowdy reported that Taylorville is replacing their sewer plant motors. They have offered their current blowers which are nearly two years old to the Village at no cost. The only cost to the Village will be electrical disconnection. He stated that Engineer Mark Bingham will be inspecting them to make sure they are compatible with the Village’s system.

President Dowdy stated the building expansion is nearly complete with some electrical work that still needs to be done. Superintendent Heberling is to obtain additional bids for the electrical work for competitiveness.

President Dowdy reported new Village Works employee Ramiro Estrada will begin signing off on water operation in March and will be attending gas training in April. He also reported the Village was approached by another water district to take water samples, do locates, and billing.

Chief of Police Travis Peden reported they are dealing with an ongoing oil leak on the squad car and considering taking the squad car to Pana for service due to lack of help from Ford. He also discussed with the Board that a certified officer employed by the training agency (Lee Tech) expressed interest in part-time work to maintain his license. After much Board discussion regarding costs for equipment for this position they would like additional information before making decision.

Office Manager Kari Scott reported her hard drive crashed at the beginning of December. Decatur Computers is working on getting everything restored on a new hard drive and hopes to have it back soon.

WATER – The Water Report for November 1, 2025 – November 26, 2025, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for November 1, 2025 – November 26, 2025, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for November 1, 2025 – November 26, 2025, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey reminded everyone about the benefit for the Marilyn Wattlelet Memorial Scholarship is scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 2026. There will be volleyball, a silent auction, and a back sale.

She also wanted to remind everyone on Saturday, January 24, 2026, there will be a Stonington alumni event at the American Legion with dinner and live music.

She also voiced concern about the missing street sign at Main Street and Division.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Graham voiced a question from a Village resident regarding the increased dumping at the sewer plant from Nolen's porta-a-pot business since the business has increased in size.

President Dowdy stated recent sonar readings did not show a significant sludge buildup.

The Board discussed timing of billing cycles and customer payments following the transition from estimated to actual usage billing.

Assistance Chief of Police Phil Deal asked if there was ever a discussion regarding noise violations for loud Jake breaking use through town?

President Dowdy stated they would review ordinances from nearby municipalities to see what their ordinances state.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson asked why the tornado siren did not activate during a recent

weather event.

Trustee Graham stated that the Stonington Fire Department confirmed there was no imminent threat to Stonington at that time.

WATER – Trustee Callan inquired about where to take electronics since the Village does not take them anymore.

Office Manager Kari Scott stated if you live in Christian County electronics can be taken to BLH for free.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Nothing to report.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the February Regular Meeting as February 2, 2026, 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 Graham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 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