

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. January 6, 2025
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, January 6, 2025, 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, and Scott Kuntzman
Clerk: Jill Gilpin
Office Manager/Treasurer: Kari Scott (Absent)
Superintendent: Jake Heberling
Village Engineer: Mark Bingham (Absent)
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)
Chief of Police: Travis Peden
Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Don Bouvet, Village resident; Earl Good, Village resident; and, Korey Bailey, Village resident

Minutes from December 2, 2024, 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 December 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Kuntzman, 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 Grover, seconded by Graham, 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 Callan, 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 Graham, 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 December.

President's Report: President Dowdy welcomed Don Bouvet to the table. Mr. Bouvet brought up the conversation he had with the Village Board about the porta-potties being stored on residential property next door to his residence. He found in the Village Municipal Code under Chapter 11, Article 11.201 (B) the following:

B) No building shall be erected or altered, nor shall any building or premises be used for any purpose other than that which is permitted in the district in which such building, structure, or use is located, and no lot shall be so reduced or diminished that the yards or other open spaces shall be smaller than permitted by this ordinance.

He further told the Village Board that he had a conversation with the County at the Courthouse and was told that residential property cannot be used for storage of commercial property and that is also a State regulation.

President Dowdy stated he will reach out to Village Attorney Scott Garwood to discuss the Village ordinance as defined by any storage, if it's per day or not per day, or if it's considered storage. But if it is indeed in the ordinance, and there's no date limit or timeline on it, then he will discuss it with Jeff Nolen.

Mr. Bouvet stated that he is trying to be fair and that he would not mind if the porta-potties were stored on the other side of the house so he could not see them when he looks out his door.

President Dowdy welcomed Korey Bailey to the table. Mr. Bailey asked permission from the Board to bury a power line through the alley from his residence to the property he purchased located at 501 W. 1st Street.

Superintendent Heberling stated there the Village has no utilities running through the alley.

The Board approved allowing Korey Bailey to bury a power line through the alley from his residence to the property located at 501 W. 1st Street with the agreement of having Julie locates done.

Mr. Bailey also asked if the Village would help cut down a maple tree that is located at

501 W. 1st Street because it hangs over the street and the lift station panel. He stated it is within the foot of the sidewalk.

President Dowdy asked Superintendent Heberling to discuss this tree with the tree guy about taking it down.

Mr. Bailey would like to put an apron on the front of the garage or a pad that connects to the sidewalk that is located at 504 W. 1st Street and asked if that can be done.

President Dowdy stated from the sidewalk to his property is all his property.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported approximately three weeks ago there was a water leak at the Stonington Community Center and had to get assistance from Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC. Superintendent Heberling talked to Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC and Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. and was told that they help small towns fix water main issues. He asked the Board if they would consider the idea of allowing the Village Works Department to use either company to help fix water leaks if need be.

The project at the Stonington Community Center took approximately 6 hours. The cost could be \$240 an hour to \$300 an hour from Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC. The Village Works Department would help, the supplies would be supplied from the Village, and they would have use of the Village's equipment.

Village resident Korey Bailey asked if the Village had an Intergovernmental Agreement with Taylorville.

Superintendent Heberling stated that the Village did have an Intergovernmental Agreement with Taylorville but when they ask for help, they are always too busy and can't make it.

President stated the water main that broke at the Stonington Community Center goes straight north around the houses on Wilshire and it is being looked at for replacement of the whole line. This is the third break on that same line in the last three years, so this is a project for down the road.

The Board approved allowing Superintendent Heberling to call Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC or Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for assistance with water main issues when the need arises.

Superintendent Heberling reported they are still waiting on the EPA permit for the wells but that all the electrical is done. He stated they are on day 103 waiting for the EPA permit which was supposed to be approved in 45 days.

Superintendent Heberling wanted to touch base on Julie locates. He stated that starting January 1, 2025, eight new rules went into place, and then there will be two big new rules that will go into effect on January 1, 2026. He stated because of these new rules it might take longer to do locates because of the new rules. He stated that when they do a locate they are supposed to record what utilities were located because that is called positive response. There will be a \$2,500 fine for every time things are not documented. This will also include Julie locates in Sharpsburg.

Superintendent Heberling also stated there is also a new rule that any utility installed has to be traceable, so if a new house was being built and sewer was installed they have to put a trace of wire on it and he didn't think this is in the Village's ordinance. But going forward, everything's got to be able to be located in the future.

WATER – The Water Report for November 1, 2024 – November 26, 2024, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for November 1, 2024 – November 26, 2024, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for November 1, 2024 – November 26, 2024, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Graham reported a resident asked about 304 Southwest Street that has a tree leaning on the garage. Trustee Graham asked if that was on the list for cleanup.

President Dowdy stated it must be a health hazard for the Village to go on the property and do something and the tree leaning on the garage on the resident's property does not pose a risk to anybody in the alley or the street. President Dowdy stated he would message the resident about cleaning it up.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson said the Village Works employees have done a great job on cleaning the streets and thanked them.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Callan voiced his concern about cars parking too close to the stop sign near Beer Vault LLC and asked if something could be done.

President Dowdy stated they could look into the possibility of installing a sign for “No Parking From Here to Corner”.

President Dowdy brought up the subject for a spring project regarding tearing down the Pine Street property and other dilapidated houses in town to discuss with the owners about paying for the dumpsters to haul them off. He stated it would be more beneficial to tear down two or three houses at a time. He is not sure how many dumpsters it would take. He thought it may be worth asking the people to see if they will pay for the dumpster if the Village rents the equipment to tear them down.

Zoning Officer, John LeVault reported the Stonington Park used six to eight dumpsters when a house was torn down for them. Superintendent Heberling stated the house on Livergood used 10 dumpsters at \$500 each. And he also reported Hutchins tore down three houses in town, used his own equipment and semi to haul the debris away. He did use the dirt from the sewer plant to fill it in and asked if he should call Hutchins and discuss what he would charge.

President Dowdy discussed setting a Committee meeting to discuss adding to the employee policy milestone wage increases for police department. A Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

President Dowdy asked the outcome for the old squad car or if we still had it. The Board suggested putting the old squad car out for bids to open at the next meeting.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the February Regular Meeting as February 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk