STATE OF ILLINOIS } REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. July 1, 2024
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, July 1, 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, Caleb Grover,

and Scott Kuntzman

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: Stonington Police Officer, Phil Deal; Elizabeth Wood, *Breeze-Courier*, David Blakeman, Village resident (Via GoToMeeting); Kim Brown, Village resident.

Minutes from June 3, 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Graham, 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 June 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Graham, 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Graham, 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 Wilson, seconded by Grover, 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 June.

Permit #794-24 to Sharron Swisher, located at 202 W. Brown for a fence.

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

President's Report:

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to Casey's General Store. Motion by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, to grant the liquor license to Casey's General Store. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to The American Legion. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Graham, to grant the liquor license to The American Legion. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Treasurer Debbie Niles discussed the current credit card company that the Village employees use which has a credit limit of \$5,000.00. To apply for a credit limit increase, there must be a guarantor listed. She stated Superintendent Jake Heberling found out US Bank offers municipalities a credit card with a credit limit of \$50,000.00. The Village will have to fill out an application and provide copies of financials, audits, and other items to US Bank.

President Dowdy asked for motion to allow Treasurer Debbie Niles to move forward with filling out a credit card application and providing copies of financials, audits, and other items to US Bank. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to allow Treasurer Debbie Niles to move forward with filling out a credit card application and providing copies of financials, audits, and other items to US Bank. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy reported an upfront payment was received from the grant for the Stonington Community Center. The stipulations are that the money must be deposited into an interest-bearing account and all the interest that is made on the account has to be sent back to the State. To open an interest-bearing account, it needs Board approval.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to open a separate interest-bearing account for the Stonington Community Center grant to deposit the check. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Ramsey, to approve opening a separate interest-bearing account for the Stonington Community Center. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy reported he and Superintendent Jake Heberling have had some discussions with Engineer Mark Bingham regarding improving the existing wells with new pumps to get by before new well improvements can be made. Currently one of the pumps is a 10-horsepower pump and the other pump is 7 ½-horsepower pump and this month the Village did over 5.5 million gallons of water. He stated Lane Well Company out of St. Louis thinks the Village could use up to 30 horsepower pumps.

Superintendent Heberling reported they had the ICC audit, and everything went well. He also reported Sharpsburg approved phase three and awarded the bid to a contractor at their last Board Meeting. They are waiting for the crops to be harvested to start so they don't have to pay for crop damage.

Superintendent Heberling reported a gas refund check for interest was received in the amount of \$25,846.70.

Superintendent Heberling inquired if extra money from service calls to Sharpsburg could be used towards the loan for the excavator. The Board approved using \$800.00 of the extra money from Sharpsburg services calls can use used towards the loan of the excavator. He also inquired about taking the old trailer to Micenheimer Auction to sale in August. The Board approved taking the old trailer to be auctioned off.

Superintendent Heberling also thanked the Board for allowing the purchase of the excavator and new trailer.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

WATER – The Water Report for May 1, 2024 – May 30, 2024, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for May 1, 2024 – May 30, 2024, billing period was presented.

SEWER - The Sewer Report for May 1, 2024 - May 30, 2024, billing period was presented.

<u>Committee Reports:</u> STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Graham asked what the current situation is about the person living in the trailer.

Police Officer Phil Deal stated he was at the residence last week and spoke to the

daughter of the owner of the residence that she stated she has been trying to get the person living in the trailer out for the last two years. He advised her to file an eviction notice to him to get him out of the trailer.

President Dowdy stated he would have to refresh what the Attorney advised on how to handle with the situation.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson complimented the Stonington Summerfest and stated she heard rave reviews about the carnival rides and the fireworks and wanted to give a big "Thank you" to them.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Callan inquired how the new Village Works employee was doing.

Superintendent Heberling stated he passed his sewer test.

President Dowdy reported the Village works employees had an emergency on Friday to take down a tree that had split.

Officer Manger Kari Scott informed the Board the cost of stamps will be increasing to 75 cents as of July 14, 2024, up from 68 cents, making it more expensive to send out Village bills. She stated they could send out another letter informing Village residents their bills can be emailed to them. She stated the Audit was

The Chief of Police reported they had a busy weekend last month with two search warrants. One search warrant in Stonington led to another search warrant near the Prison and they acquired quite a bit of evidence.

The Chief of Police also reported the computer Officer Phil Deals uses keeps losing power and is getting kicked off the VPN. He is going to get some prices for a new computer.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the August Regular Meeting as August 5, 2024, 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 Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:
Bruce Dowdy, Village President
ATTEST:
Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk