

STATE OF ILLINOIS	}	REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN	} SS.	July 6, 2026
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON	}	

The Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting on Monday, July 6, 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 (Absent), Caleb Grover (Absent), and Scott Kuntzman

Clerk: Jill Gilpin

Office Manager/Treasurer: Kari Scott

Superintendent: Jake Heberling

Village Engineer: Mark Bingham (Absent)

Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)

Chief of Police: Travis Peden (Absent)

Zoning Officer: John LeVault (Absent)

Others in attendance: Jackie Dowdy, Village resident and Austin Dowdy, Village resident

Minutes from June 1, 2026, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Kuntzman, 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 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Kuntzman, 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Kuntzman, 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 June to the Board for their approval.

Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Kuntzman, 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 Callan, 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 June.

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 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to The American Legion. Motion by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to grant the liquor license to The American Legion. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 26-710, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 Utilities, By Adding Article 10. Bulk Sewer Rates Section 10.101 Bulk Sewer Rates And Section 10.102 Required Dumping Log Of The Municipal Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Kuntzman, to approve Ordinance No. 26-710. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 26-712 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 Traffic, Article 7. Motor Vehicle Noise, By Adding Section 6.703 Engine Braking Of The Municipal Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to approve Ordinance No. 26-712. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the change in the Employee Policy on how vacation time can be used. The change will read: Vacation time can be taken in increments of one (1) hour. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, to approve the change in the Employee Policy allowing employees to take vacation time in increments on one (1) hour. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the change in the Employee Policy on how sick time can be used. The change will read: Sick leave can be taken in increments of one (1) hour. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Ramsey, to approve the change in the Employee Policy allowing employees to take sick leave in increments of one (1) hours. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the change in the Employee Policy on compensatory time for all Village employees. The change will read: Overtime earnings will be paid on the payroll period during which the overtime was earned. Compensatory

time off at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) times may be earned in lieu of cash overtime payments at the election of the employee. A maximum of (forty) 40 hours of accrued compensatory time can be held by employees during a fiscal year but only forty (40) hours **can be used** in a fiscal year. The forty (40) hours can be carried over to the next fiscal year. However, no additional hours may be accrued over forty (40) hours. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Ramsey, to approve the change in the Employee Policy on Compensatory time for all Village employees. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

President Dowdy welcomed Jackie Dowdy to the table. Ms. Dowdy discussed the former Village-owned garage property, which Dowdy's purchased in August 2025. She stated that the first installment of the property taxes has been paid. Village Attorney Scott Garwood advised that the Village is responsible for one of the property tax installments. Ms. Dowdy will proceed with paying the second installment and will submit documentation to the Village for reimbursement of the installment for which the Village is responsible.

President Dowdy discussed the numerous FOIA requests that the Village keeps receiving from an organization that targets Illinois municipalities.

Kari Scott, Office Manager, stated that she monitors email and spam folders closely because the FOIA deadlines are strict.

President Dowdy discussed on Saturday, July 4, 2026, there was a water main break within the Village and this break is the fifth one in the last 10 years in that area. He stated that Superintendent Heberling is going to check into replacing that line. After that the main water break within the Village was fixed, Sharpsburg's whole system lost water. The Village Works employees worked all weekend trying to find the break. The Village Office employees also worked contacting Sharpsburg customers and making sure they were all aware of the issue. A company from St. Louis showed up Monday and they found what they believe to be from lightning strike hitting the tracer wire that was touching the pipe which blew the pipe out. About 20 feet of water line had to be replaced.

Superintendent Heberling reported the pipe has been repaired and Sharpsburg water system is starting to fill up with water.

Superintendent Heberling requested additional funds to replace deteriorating sidewalks prioritizing accessibility for eldering residents and handicapped residents.

Motion was made by Ramsey, seconded by Kuntzman, to approve up to \$24,900.00 for sidewalk replacement work, including labor and concrete. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Superintendent Heberling discussed the request for the purchase of a gas leak detection device. This device will enhance the safety of detecting gas leaks and will

detect gas leaks remotely and felt this was necessary since Meridian School will be occupying the Stonington Community Center this year.

Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to approve the purchase of the Heath RMLD – CS – Complete Solution from Utility Safety and Design, Inc. in the amount of \$17,896.25. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Wilson “Yea”; Ramsey “Yea”; Callan “Yea” and Kuntzman “Yea”. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Superintendent Heberling thanked the Village Office employees for working over the weekend with the Sharpsburg water emergency.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

WATER – The Water Report for May 1, 2026 – May 29, 2026, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for May 1, 2026 – May 28, 2026, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for May 1, 2026 – May 29, 2026, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey inquired if a rotted tree is in the boulevard and falls on someone’s house, where does the liability lie?

President Dowdy stated that if someone told the Village that the tree was rotten and the Village chose not to cut it down, then the liability falls onto the Village. President Dowdy suggested the need for documentation when residents report unsafe trees.

Trustee Ramsey also reported a pothole on Delmar Street.

Austin Dowdy inquired about the enforcement of abandoned vehicles. President Dowdy stated that the Police Department does drive around often looking for abandoned vehicles and other issues and will discuss with the resident about cleaning up the property.

President Dowdy updated the Board that Meridan School will be using the Stonington Community Center as a school this fall. There will be approximately 400 students, and interior renovations and safety upgrades are being installed now. In August, Meridian will pay for all utilities.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Nothing to report.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the August Regular Meeting as August 3, 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 Ramsey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk