STATE OF ILLINOIS } FINANCE MEETING
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. March 28, 2022
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met for a Finance Meeting Monday, March 28, 2022, at 6:00 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, Korey Bailey, and Anthony Rusher

Clerk: Jill Gilpin (Absent)

Treasurer: Christine Lerch (Absent)
Superintendent: Jake Heberling
Chief of Police: Travis Peden

Pro Tem Office Manager: Kari Scott

Others in attendance: Debbie Niles, Village employee; Rex Wheeler, Village Employee; and, James Lupton, Village Employee

A Finance meeting was held to discuss the wages and benefits of the employees, board members, and village officers.

Mayor Dowdy asked if the employees had any questions for the board or if they wanted to give opinions or let the board know how things are going.

Superintendent Jake Heberling informed the board that Rex Wheeler received his Class D Water License and is working toward the required Class B water license to run the Stonington Water Plant. Jake told the board about classes that would be taking place in Edwardsville for continuing education for the public works department.

Public Works employee James Lupton told the board that he was not aware when he was hired on to his position that there was so much to the gas side of the job. He stated that it is a lot more responsibility than he knew, and he has since learned that all responsibility comes back to him and could receive penalties, fines, and prison time if he makes any errors. This makes him uneasy, and he takes it very seriously. Employee Rex Wheeler and Superintendent Heberling said things are going well.

Pro tem Office Manager Kari Scott advised the board that things are going well. She stated she has had firsthand experience with grants now, and they are more difficult than she imagined.

Chief of Police Travis Peden stated that training is not available anytime soon for new

candidates for part-time officer for the village. He also informed the board of different police trainings that are now required. He stated that many are hands on, not online training as in the past.

Part-time office employee Debbie Niles said that everything is going well in the part-time office position.

President Bruce Dowdy opened a letter he received from Treasurer Christine Lerch. In the letter, she resigned her position as Treasurer. Christine stated she has enjoyed acting as treasurer, but due to work and family demands, she has chosen to step away from the position. A discussion was then made to offer the position to part-time office employee Debbie Niles.

President Dowdy asked the board if they had any questions for the staff. No questions were asked.

Chairman David Blakeman had sent a wage increase spreadsheet to the board with different scenarios of possible wage increases. Board members looked up the cost of living increase, and after much discussion, decided a 3% increase would be an appropriate amount for the staff. There was also a discussion of benefits. President Dowdy advised the board there were not any employees currently covered by healthcare insurance.

The updated hourly wages are as follows:

Jake Heberling - \$ 32.09

Rex Wheeler - \$ 22.66

James Lupton - \$ 22.66

Travis Peden - \$ 30.75

Kyle Corriveau - \$18.54

Kari Scott - \$22.52

Debbie Niles - (Part-Time employee \$19.31)

Debbie Niles (Treasurer & Part Time - \$21.29)

Mayor - \$275/Month Clerk - \$275/Month Treasurer - \$125/Month Zoning Officer - \$500/Year

A discussion was had regarding the wages of the trustees, mayor, treasurer, zoning officer, and village clerk. The board felt that Village Clerk Jill Gilpin went above and beyond in her position and should receive a wage increase. After some discussion, the board agreed on a \$25 monthly wage increase for the village clerk position, raising her salary from \$250 a month, to \$275 a month.

Mayor Dowdy and all board members declined a pay increase at this time.

Further discussion was held regarding the treasurer position. Employee Debbie Niles has always performed the treasurer duties for 17 years since she started employment with the village, although she was not the actual treasurer. The board asked her how much time she estimated was spent weekly on treasurer duties. She stated 10-15 hours per week, depending on what week of the month it is. After some discussion of the best way to handle the wage for treasurer, they opted to keep the treasurer salary as is and increase the salary of Debbie Niles to cover the treasurer position.

Debbie Niles questioned the board on vacation time for incoming Office Manager Kari Scott. Although she is officially just now going full time, she has been employed part-time for 6 years. The board will discuss the situation and decide if a change needs to be made to the employee policy.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Bailey, seconded by Callan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

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