

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. March 2, 2026
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 2, 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, 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

Others in attendance: Earl Good, Village resident

Minutes from February 2, 2026, 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 February 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 February to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, seconded by Callan, 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 February to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Kuntzman, 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 February 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 February 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 permits in the month of February.

President's Report:

Rich Hooper from Lively, Mathias & Hooper, CPA's was absent from presenting the audit.

President Dowdy discussed the Grocery Sales Tax Ordinance received from the Illinois Municipal League. The Ordinance must be passed to collect grocery sales tax, and it must be filed by April 1, 2026 or October 1, 2026.

Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Ramsey, to approve Ordinance No. 26-706, An Ordinance Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 26-705 An Ordinance of the Village of Stonington, Illinois to Regulate Structures Within the Village of Stonington. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Graham, to approve Ordinance No. 26-705. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed the current Employee Policy, 3.04 Sick Leave, b, which states that employees receive one sick day per month. Currently, employees receive 12 sick days at the beginning of the year. For clarification and going forward the sick days will be given one day per month like the Employee Policy states.

President Dowdy started the discussion about comp time. He stated that there is a limited amount of comp time that can be held but there is no limit on how much comp time that can be used in a year. He stated that on top of sick days, personal days, vacation days, an employee can only hold 40 hours. The policy does not state that an employee cannot use those 40 hours, build up another 40 hours, use those 40 hours and so on. He is not saying this is being abused but feels this needs to be clarified and written out in the Employee Policy.

President Dowdy discussed engine braking. Trustee Graham stated engine braking has no use in town. President Dowdy will try to get a couple of ordinances regarding engine braking to discuss at the April meeting.

Superintendent Heberling discussed the bids received for installation of a mini-split unit at the new tool shop and office at the Village shop. The bids are from J-May Electric in the amount of \$6,319.26 and White Home Service, Inc. in the amount of \$7,800.00. After much discussion, President Dowdy asked for a motion to accept the bid from J-May Election in the amount of \$6,319.26 for installation of a mini-split until at the new tool shop and officer at the Village Shop. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to accept the bid from J- May Election in the amount of \$6,319.26 for installation of a mini-split until at the new tool shop and officer at the Village Shop. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Heberling presented a list of bids for the pouring of concrete Nolen Plumbing & Heating. Bid received were from Quality Construction in the amount of \$39,424.00; Carl Rhodes in the amount of \$45,312.95; Hutchins in the amount of \$49,500.00; and, Nathan True, Concrete Construction LLC in the amount of \$42,130.00. After much discussion motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to accept the bid from Nathan True, Concrete Construction LLC, in the amount of \$43,000.00. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Wilson "Yea"; Graham "Yea"; Ramsey "Yea"; Grover "Yea"; Callan "Yea", and Kuntzman "Yea". Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy stated he and Superintendent Heberling will be working on a budget for the upcoming year. He plans on including in the budget a new vehicle for Village Works because of the age of the vehicles they are currently using.

President Dowdy stated that there is some indication of a water break somewhere and asked if someone sees some strange water around town give the Village a call.

President Dowdy welcomed Earl Good to the table. Earl questioned his budget billing amount. Village Manager, Kari Scott, stated that the budget billing amount if only recalculated annually in April but they could look at this account after the meeting.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported the water system EPA audit went well with six As and five Bs. The deficiencies were #20 non-corrosion screens on the wells instead of #24 non-corrosion screens and they have been changed.

Superintendent Heberling contacted Kevin at Legacy Grain about the water main project since the operating permit was received. Kevin inquired about moving the stop sign by the Park about 10 feet since the stop sign gets run over multiple times a year by the semi-drivers. He also stated he would help with the improvement of that intersection to widen the turn lane.

It was suggested that the move of the stop sign be discussed with the Park Board out of courtesy.

Superintendent Heberling discussed installing catch basins in the alley between Beer Vault Saloon, LLC and Stoneys Slot, LLC because there is concrete being poured and it could cause water to run inside the apartment building.

WATER – The Water Report for December 30, 2025 – January 30, 2026, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for December 30, 2025 – January 30, 2026, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for December 30, 2025 – January 30, 2026, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey reported that Community Spring garage sales will be May 1-2, 2026. She is also going to get a couple of quotes for signs to put at the edge of town to advertise the Community Spring and Fall garages to just change the dates on them and asked if the Village would pay for them.

She stated on March 28, 2026, is the Stonington Alumni dinner at the Legion. Social hour starts at 5:00 p.m., mostaccioli dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. and Antics will play from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

She also reported Summerfest is scheduled for June 12-14, 2026.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Graham reported that the Fire Department is looking at purchasing a life-saving piece of equipment that does CPR for you and will be inquiring if TIF funds could help with the purchase.

Zoning Officer, John LeVault stated he sent an email to Jake and was told since the Fire Department was a taxing body as well there is some discretion for taxing bodies and he thought an ordinance could be passed to approve and allocate TIF funds for the cost of the life-saving equipment.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson inquired if bills had been sent out for having Chickens?

Office Manager, Kari Scott, stated that bills had not been sent out and questioned how the Village knows if anyone has chickens and when should they be billed, the date of their application or the beginning of the year.

After much discussion, it was agreed to be further discussed at the April meeting.

WATER – Trustee Callan inquired about the squad car and if it fixed.

Office manager, Kari Scott, stated it is not fixed yet.

Trustee Callan also inquired about the Fire Department Music Bingo event being held at the Stonington Community Center having a cash bar and wondered if a liquor license needed to be issued.

Trustee Graham stated the wives of the Fire Department are holding the event, not the Fire Department.

President Dowdy stated that from the Stonington Community Center standpoint, liquor can be brought in by an individual, but it cannot be sold per their insurance. But he will inquire and see if something has changed.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Nothing to report.

Office Manager, Kari Scott, stated the reminder to Garbage Haulers to submit Applications for approval have been sent out and they will need to be put on the April Agenda for approval.

President Dowdy asked if anyone thinks of houses in town that have are dilapidated with holes in the roofs to send the addresses to him and forward that information to Village Attorney, Scott Garwood to start the process of getting them cleaned up.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the April Regular Meeting as April 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Graham, seconded by Grover, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk