

STATE OF ILLINOIS	}	REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN	} SS.	May 4, 2026
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON	}	

The Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting on Monday, May 4, 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 (Absent)

Others in attendance: Austin Dowdy, Village resident; Jodi Rusher, Stonington Summerfest; Jenny Prasun, Stonington Summerfest; Jeff Nolen, Nolen Services, Inc.; Daniel Nolen, Nolen Services, Inc.; Gary Younker, SNAWS

Minutes from April 6, 2026, regular meetings were presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Kuntzman, that the minutes be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

Minutes from April 15, 2026, Finance Committee meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, 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 April 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 April 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 April 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 April to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, 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 April 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 two zoning permits in the month of April.

Permit #804-26 to Ray Likes located at 301 N. Pine for a fence.

Permit #805-26 to Jim Unser located at 407 W. Brown Street for a garage and front porch.

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

President's Report:

President Dowdy welcomed Jodi Rusher and Jenny Prasun to the table as co-chairs of the Stonington Summerfest. This year the Summerfest will be held June 12, 13, and 14, 2026 and the theme is "Party Like It's 1776" honoring the upcoming national anniversary. The Grand Marshals this year will be the American Legion and Auxiliary. Jodi requested closure of the same streets as in the past, dumpsters and continued help from the Village.

On behalf of the Summerfest Committee, she asked for a donation from the Village.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to donate \$2,000.00 towards the Summerfest. Motion made by Callan, second by Wilson, to donate \$2,000.00 towards the Summerfest. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to the Summerfest Committee for use June 12, 13, and 14, 2026. Motion by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to grant the liquor license to the Summerfest Committee for use June 12, 13, and 14, 2026. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 26-707, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4. Public Health, Article 2. Animals And Animal Control, Section

4.208 Keeping Or Harboring Of Animals, Adding N) Renewal Notices Of The Municipal Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Wilson, to approve Ordinance No. 26-707. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 26-708, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7. Water, Article 1. General Provisions, Sections 7.106 And 7.107 And Chapter 10 Utilities, Article 9. Rates Of The Municipal Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Kuntzman, to approve Ordinance No. 26-708. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 26-709, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7. Water, Article 1. General Provisions, Section 7.127 Of The Municipal Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Grover, to approve Ordinance No. 26-709. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy stated they had incorrect information when comparing bulk sewer rates with other municipalities. Due to the discrepancy, the Board tabled 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 until the June 2026 meeting.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the labor rate increase from \$35.00 to \$40.00 an hour for SNAWS. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Graham, to approve the labor rate increase from \$35.00 to \$40.00 an hour for SNAWS. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the increase for all gas meters maintenance rate by \$2.00 per month per meter. Motion made by Grover, seconded by Kuntzman, to approve the increase for all gas meters maintenance rate by \$2.00 per month per meter. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the verbiage changes for compensatory time in the Employee Policy. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Ramsey, to approve the verbiage changes for compensatory time in the Employee Policy. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

The Board discussed the approval of changing vacation time to personal time in the Employee Policy. After much Board discussion, action was tabled pending legal clarification.

President Dowdy discussed the General Fund Budget for the next fiscal year. President Dowdy entertained a motion to approve the General Fund Budget next fiscal year. Motion by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to accept the General Fund Budget. Motion

passed with a 6-0 vote.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported the emergency water main installation is complete and approved by the EPA.

He reported a valve had to be replaced and discussed the importance of having a backup valve on hand. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to approve the purchase of a backup valve not to exceed \$2,000.00 for the water plant. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

WATER – The Water Report for February 28, 2026 – March 31, 2026, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for February 28, 2026 – March 31, 2026, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for February 28, 2026 – March 31, 2026, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey inquired how long the gates are supposed to be open for residents to use the dumpsters.

It was decided to have the gates open until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday for residents to use the dumpsters.

Trustee Ramsey also reported baseball games will be starting next week.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Nothing to report.

President Dowdy reported that he has taken some photos of properties and will put the pin numbers on them and send them to Village Attorney, Scott Garwood. There was a discussion regarding prioritizing the properties and coordinating actions through the Police Department to ensure fairness.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the June Regular Meeting as June 1, 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 Kuntzman, 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