

STATE OF ILLINOIS                   }  
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN            } SS.  
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON         }

ADJOURNED MEETING  
May 5, 2025

The Adjourned Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Village President, Bruce Dowdy.

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; Nancy Dowdy, Village resident; Jackie Dowdy, Village resident; Austin Dowdy, Village resident; Caleb Dowdy, Village resident; and, Assistant Chief of Police Phil Deal

President Bruce Dowdy, Trustee Tammy Wilson, Trustee Jeff Graham, and Trustee Andrew Callan were sworn in by Clerk Jill Gilpin.

President Dowdy made the following committee appointments:

GAS: Caleb Grover

WATER: Andrew Callan

SEWER: Scott Kuntzman

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Tara Ramsey

HEALTH AND SAFETY: Jeff Graham

FINANCE: Tammy Wilson

Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Ramsey, to approve committee appointments. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

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 Wilson, seconded by Callan, to accept the General Fund Budget. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

The Board discussed the water rates and after much discussion decided to raise the rates by 3%. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Kuntzman to raise the Village water rates by 3%. Motion passed with 6-0 vote.

**7.106 Village Rates:** Rates are hereby fixed and established and shall be collected by the Village Collector for all water furnished by the Village from its water works system to water users within the Village limits as hereinafter provided.

- A) The base amount: went from \$11.65 to \$12.00
- B) Water consumption per 1,000 gallons per month: went from \$7.12 to \$7.33 after minimum
- C) There will a 3% increase annually.
- D) Maintenance charge: \$13.00 (\$4.00 water, \$4.00 sewer, and \$5.00 gas)

**7.107 Outside Village Rates:** Rates are hereby fixed and established and shall be collected by the Village for all water furnished by the Village from its water works system to water users outside the Village limits as hereinafter provided.

- A) Minimum rate per month for each user not using more than 1,000 gallons per month: went from \$23.29 to \$23.99.
- B) Each additional 1,000 gallons in excess of 1,000 gallons per month: went from \$8.57 to \$8.83.
- C) There will be a 3% increase annually.

The Board discussed the water rates for SNAWS and after much discussion chose to raise the rate by 1.5%. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Grover to raise the water rates for SNAWS by 1.5%. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

**7.127 Sharpsburg and Neighboring Area Water System (SNAWS) Rates:** Rates are hereby fixed and established and shall be collected by the Village Collector for all water furnished by the Village from its water works system to water users within Sharpsburg Neighboring Area Water System (SNAWs) as hereinafter provided.

- A) The base amount per 1,000 gallons per month: went from \$4.74 to \$4.81
- B) An annual 3% increase will be reviewed.

The Board discussed the sewer rates and after much discussion decided to raise the rates by 3%. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to raise the Village sewer rates by 3%. Motion passed with 6-0 vote.

**10.901 Rates:** Rates are hereby fixed and established and shall be collected by the Village Collector for the use of the Village Sanitary Sewage System based entirely on the volume of all water furnished by the Village from its water works system to water users within the Village limits as hereinafter provided.

- A) Minimum rate per month for each user not using more than 1,000 gallons per month: **went from \$11.65 to \$12.00**
- B) Each additional gallon in excess of 1,000 gallons per month: **went from \$7.12 to \$7.33** per gallon
- C) A "Permit Fee" charge of \$1.00 per month shall be added to the utility bill of each sewer customer.

President Dowdy discussed the demolition of the house and garage on Pine Street. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Graham, to approve up to \$10,000.00 to approve the bid to demo the house, garage and take out the trees. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed the sidewalk replacement for 302 N. Maple Street. A bid was received from Quality Construction & Concrete for \$3,096.00. Because of the jump in cost of concrete, the project will cost \$4,100.00. President Dowdy asked for a motion to spend up to \$4,100.00 to replace the sidewalk at 302 N. Maple Street. Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Kuntzman, to approve the spending up to \$4,100.00 to replace the sidewalk at 302 N. Maple Street. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote, with Grover abstaining.

President Dowdy welcomed Superintendent Heberling to the table to discuss the purchasing a tosi box for the Water Plant. He stated the tosi box is a remote access box with a secure log in and this is what the EPA is wanting us to go to a secure login to eliminate hacking. He stated the main purpose of this box if it is installed, then the guy in St. Louis can sit there and make all the program changes to the water plant. He charges \$185 for travel here and back to St. Louis. The cost is \$5,675.00 which includes a 4-year maintenance agreement, and he thinks half of this might be eligible to TIF money.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the purchase of for the tosi box in the amount of \$5,675.00. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Grover, to approve the purchase of the tosi box in the amount of \$5,675.00. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy welcomed Assistant Chief of Police Phil Deal to the table to discuss the difference between Taser 7s and Taser 10s.

Assistant Chief of Police Phil Deal reported he attended a three-day class on Tasers. He stated the taser the Village currently has is the X26B and next year you will not be able to purchase replacement cartridges or batteries because they will be done.

He demonstrated the difference in how the Taser 7s and the Taser 10s shoot and the difference in the probe spread.

The Taser 10s are \$2,200 a year, plus the VR headset system for training. The training is recorded and goes straight to Taser and Scottsdale, Arizona. He stated the VR system has a firearm that is affiliated with the system and training can be done for active shooting or recertified training through the VR system with Taser. Also, with the VR System certification can be done for other departments.

He has checked and since the grant was for Taser 7s, once the grant is closed the Taser 7s grant money can be transferred for credit toward the purchase of Taser 10s. There is an 8-year warranty on the Taser 10s and VR system.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve \$11,027.57 to be made in five annual payments for the purchase of the Taser 10s Motion made by Graham, seconded by Kuntzman, to approve \$11,027.57 to be made in five annual payments for the purchase of the Taser 10s. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling asked the Board to look at the driveway at 106 South Pine Street for further discussion. They had a tree fall on vehicles and the owner is asking for 70 feet of culvert, asphalt or concrete to be put back in the driveway, all the way to the road from the sidewalk. The owner is stating the tree cracked the asphalt driveway from the sidewalk to the road.

Superintendent Heberling stated they had another ICC audit which went well. He also reminded the Board and public there will be gas training at the Firehouse on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Heberling asked the Board if they thought about having a discussion with SNAWS for their opinion(s) on having a contract since the Village keeps spending money on upgrading the water plant and the wells.

WATER – The Water Report for March 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for March 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for March 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: Committee Reports:

STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Graham reported he had received a message asking about the agreement that was made between Mr. Nolen and Mr. Bouvet. He was informed that apparently the trailers were not parked like they were supposed to be so he contacted Mr. Nolen and was told that they would be moved today.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson inquired to make sure the storm sirens would be tested tomorrow.

Assistant Chief of Police Phil Deal stated that they would be tested tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. and would be tested the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

President Dowdy stated that they received a bid late today for yearly maintenance on the sirens to be checked and the batteries checked. This will be on next month's agenda.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Callen inquired if anything could be done about the drainage problem at the elevator.

President Dowdy stated there is not much that can be done right now because every time it rains the elevators sump system pumps water out there and the ditch fills up again.

President Dowdy welcomed Office Manager Kari Scott to the table. She reported the Annual Compliance was done and they have one more year. She stated she contacted Carey's Disposal with regards to the Summerfest trash and was told that they would cut a deal since it is a carnival.

Assistant Chief of Police Phil Deal reported that Stonington, Morrisonville, Edinburg, Blue Mound, and Assumption will be participating in a high-risk traffic stop course which is mandated by the State on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Firehouse.

Zoning Officer John LeVault reported he had an inquiry from the owner who owns 203 South Livergood. That parcel consists of a brick building and the house next to it. It is zoned as one parcel, but it is technically two lots, and the County told them to contact us. The owner has been contacted by someone wanting to purchase the brick building. Zoning Officer LeVault inquired if splitting the lots would be the same procedure as changing property from commercial to residential.

President Dowdy stated this would be put on next months agenda for further discussion.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the June Regular Meeting as Monday, June 2, 2025, 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 Graham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

---

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

---

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk