

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. October 7, 2024
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, October 7, 2024, 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
Treasurer: Kari Scott
Superintendent: Jake Heberling (Absent)
Village Engineer: Mark Bingham (Absent)
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)
Chief of Police: Travis Peden
Officer Manager: Kari Scott
Zoning Officer: John LeVault (Absent)

Others in attendance: Elizabeth Wood, *Breeze-Courier*, Lisa Grover, Library Director for the Stonington Township Library; Sheryl Coady, Board member for the Stonington Township Library; Kim Brown, Village resident; Earl Good, Village resident; and, Don Bouvet, Village resident

Minutes from September 4, 2024, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, 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 September 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 September to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Grover, 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 September to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, 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 September 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 September to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Callan, 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 one zoning permit in the month of September.

Permit # 796-24 to Steve Little, located at 305 S. Livergood, for a machine shed.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the Zoning Report for the month of September. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to approve the Zoning report for the month of September. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

President’s Report: President Dowdy welcomed Lisa Grover, Library Director for the Stonington Township Library. Lisa handed out the Library’s newsletter and a list of upcoming events scheduled for the rest of 2024-2025. She asked the Board to help spread the word about the library because once a quarter, she is informed about a family that are residents of the Village were unaware that there is a Library. She stated that less than 20% of the adult population of the Village of Stonington have a library card and this percentage is reported to the State every year. She encourages everyone to get a library card. A Village resident just needs to show proof of their home address. Currently library cards are given to adults and students over the age of 16.

Some of the programs that the Library offers to the Community are summer reading, family reading night, Coffee & Conversation which is held once a week and a beginner’s crochet class that meets twice a week. She stated that all the children’s programming, including books, are all funded by donations.

This year the Library started an after-school program which is held once a month on the Wednesday when the school district dismisses at 1:30 p.m. called STEAM which has been very successful. A couple of upcoming fundraising events are an Angel Tree and a Silent Auction.

Non-residents fee is either \$25 or \$50 a year which includes all the programs.

Trustee Tara Ramsey asked Office Manager Kari Scott if the Library information could be included in the packet that is given to new residents. Kari stated she would include that information and that she is also able to include their information on the bills, the sign, and the Village’s Facebook page.

Sheryl Coady, Board member of the Library, stated that if there is a resident that is homebound, Lisa will deliver books.

The Village received a Chicken application from Bruce Lowe II. President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Bruce Lowe II's Chicken Applications. Motion by Kuntzman, second by Wilson, to approve Bruce Lowe II's Chicken application. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Zoning Officer John LeVault proposed changing the allowed garage/shed size from 30 x 36, 1080 square feet to 30 x 50, 1500 square feet.

Trustee Graham stated that a resident can build a 30 x 50, 1500 square feet garage/shed, but for that size it would have to go through a Variance Meeting and surrounding residents would have to be notified. After much discussion, the Board agreed not to change the allowed garage/shed size.

President Dowdy stated that he and Superintendent Jake Heberling were approached regarding paying for concrete to be poured along the side of the Beer Vault Saloon LLC to the alleyway. The sidewalk will be poured 6 inches deep and the cost to the Village would be \$2,200.00 for the concrete.

Trustee Graham questioned about other sidewalk work that is to be done. President Dowdy stated that those sidewalks are being done through the Motor Fuel Tax and must be completed before November 1, 2024.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve paying for material only towards the sidewalk which will run along the side of Beer Vault Saloon LLC to the alleyway up to \$2,200.00. Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Graham, to approve paying for material only towards the sidewalk which will run along the side of Beer Vault Saloon LLC to the alleyway up to \$2,200.00. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy welcome Earl Good to the table. Mr. Good stated they had a loose dog at their home for a couple of hours over the weekend. He called the number that is listed on the Village's website and never received a return call and wanted to know who to contact in the future. They were able to find the owners of the dog.

President Dowdy stated he or Chief of Police Travis Peden will call to find out if the County would travel to the Village and he would contact Alan Remmert to ask if he is still willing to be listed as the Dog Catcher.

Mr. Good asked about the abandoned cars in town and what is being done. Don Bouvet suggested raising the fines. President Dowdy stated that residents are fined and pay the fines and in order to raise the fines it would have to be put on next month's Agenda to discuss.

President Dowdy welcomed Don Bouvet to the table. Mr. Bouvet asked about the status

of the drainage in the street in front of his house.

President Dowdy stated it was approved last meeting to get a new drainage system near the elevator and once that system gets into place, they are going to look at diverting all the drainage from Birch Street to the new drainage system and pump. Mr. Bouvet stated that he would be perfectly fine if the water issue could be fixed.

Mr. Bouvet reported on abandoned vehicles in his area and questioned why there is no Village attorney present at meetings. President Dowdy stated that if the Village attorney was needed, he would be present. Mr. Bouvet also inquired regarding buildings being built without surrounding residents being notified. President Dowdy stated that if it is zoned as Commercial, then it falls under different rules than residential and that if property was being changed from residential to commercial it would have been on an agenda.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Nothing to report.

WATER – The Water Report for August 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for August 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for August 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey reported the Village wide garage sales are Friday, October 11, 2024 and Saturday, October 12, 2024. There will be dumpster delivered on Friday, October 19, 2024. She also contacted Goodwill to see if they would bring a truck to pick up donations from the garage sales and was told they needed a few weeks advance notice.

She also reported that the street name sign is missing at Division and Main Street. Trustee Callan stated that it has not been there for a year or two.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Graham wanted to remind everyone it is harvest time and drivers need to watch for trucks and other traffic. He reported Officer Phil Deal has been enforcing the speed limit to truck drivers. He stated there are a lot of people walking around town and driving golf carts and need to pay attention.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson stated that the Stonington sign on the West side of town is very sun faded.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Callan inquired about the Pine Street residence. President Dowdy stated that a company in Champaign is the current owner. He has tried to contact the company several times and has never received a call back.

President Dowdy stated Trick-or-Treating is two nights, October 30th and October 31st, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., only to houses with their porch light on and the curfew for the month of October is 9:00 p.m. for children ages 16 and under.

Trunk-or-Treat is scheduled for October 29, 2024, at the American Legion.

Officer Manager, Kari Scott, stated a resident asked about the \$5.00 meter change out fee for Village and Outside Village rates. It should have expired in March 2024. The Board approved giving a \$25.00 credit on the bills. An Ordinance to reflect the change will be presented at the November Board meeting for approval.

Chief of Police Travis Peden reported Officer Deal was invited to the Morrisonville Pre-K class for a meet and greet and that he and Officer Deal were invited to the Rise program at the Taylorville School for a meet and greet and the students got to see the squad truck.

Chief of Police Travis Peden stated he worked on a grant and was awarded \$5,086.00 to purchase two new tasers to upgrade our tasers.

The Chief of Police Travis Peden reported that he has received several reports of golf cart drivers failing to yield to vehicles, semis, farm equipment, stop signs, and driving on sidewalks. And he has received reports of underage drivers driving golf carts. He stated that driving golf carts are a privilege, and the Village Police Officers will be stricter on the golf cart ordinance to prevent accidents.

Officer Manager, Kari Scott, stated that she has had multiple complaints from different people about the same golf cart pulling out in front of semis and what can be done, if anything when the Police Officers are not present at the location. President Dowdy unfortunately stated that there would have to be proof of it happening or it would be hearsay.

The Golf Cart ordinance states that a ticket will be issued for the first offense and second offense. The third offense, the golf cart sticker will be revoked for a year.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the November Regular Meeting as November 4, 2024, 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 8:43 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk