

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

REGULAR MEETING  
September 9, 2021

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Thursday, September 9, 2021, 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: David Blakeman, via GoToMeeting; Tara Ramsey, Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, Korey Bailey, and Anthony Rusher  
Clerk: Jill Gilpin  
Treasurer: Christine Lerch, via GoToMeeting  
Superintendent: Jake Heberling  
Village Engineer: Mark Bingham  
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)  
Chief of Police: Travis Peden  
Officer Manager: Debbie Niles (Absent)  
Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Rene Wattlelet, Village Resident

Minutes from the August 2, 2021, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Rusher 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Bailey, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Bailey, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey 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 August to the Board for their

approval. Motion made by Bailey, 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 Blakeman, 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 August.

Permit # 774-21 to Keith Swigert located at 116 S. Locust for a fence.

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

Trustee Callan inquired about the ordinance regarding the fence placement. Mayor Dowdy stated that the ordinance regarding fences is very vague, and it will be placed on the October agenda for discussion.

President's Report: Mayor Dowdy reported no bids were received for the Village property. The person interested in the property is still interested but financing is not where it needs to be to get the bid submitted. If it comes back up again, the Village can put it back up for bids or go through a realtor and sell the property.

Mayor Dowdy discussed the ordinance about the Whistleblower Protection and Policy Procedures.

Mayor Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 21-677. Motion by Rusher, seconded by Callan, to approve ORDINANCE 21-677, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE VILLAGE OF STONINGTON'S WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION AND POLICY PROCEDURES. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Wilson "Yea", Rusher "Yea", Ramsey "Yea", Callan "Yea", Bailey "Yea", and Blakeman "Yea". Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Officer Peden discussed the Lexipol Policy and Procedures program. There are a lot of police departments using this program. Lexipol keeps up with changing legislation and training requirements. They supply a library of customizable, state-specific law enforcement policies that are updated to new state and federal laws and court decisions. Whenever Illinois has changes to the law, they send out the updated law and the update can be accepted, edited, or denied. The update would then be added to our policies and procedures.

Trustee Rusher added that the Village of Blue Mound Police Department is currently using this program.

The cost would be \$1,772.00 annually with a 5% discount bringing the cost down to \$1,683.40 annually.

Mayor Dowdy asked for a motion to move forward to participate in the Lexipol program in the amount of \$1,683.40 annual. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Ramsey, to participate in the Lexipol program in the amount of \$1,683.40 annually. Motion passed with a roll call: Bailey "Yea", Callan "Yea", Ramsey "Yea", Rusher "Yea", Wilson "Yea", and Blakeman "Yea". Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Trustee Blakeman has been researching different call plans to notify all Village residents if a catastrophe occurs like it did with the gas bills in early 2021. One of the plans he has received information on is ONSOLVE One Call Now.

Trustee Blakeman discussed that the call plan is not just for emergency purposes. It could be used to notify customers if there is a water main break, a boil order, or any other alert. This plan costs \$700.00 for 5,000 phone calls. This can be set up for customers to receive a phone call, text message, or an email.

Trustee Blakeman has another meeting with Code Red in the next week.

Mayor Dowdy said this would be placed on October's agenda for further discussion.

Mayor Dowdy informed the Board that the Village received a check from Local Cure Grant for \$38,448.00. That money will be deposited back into the general fund. Since the money the Village was supposed to receive from the State of Illinois fell through for the storm sirens, he will be inquiring about using this money for new storm sirens. The total bid right now for two new sirens, wiring, backup batteries, and polls is \$51,950.00.

Mayor Dowdy informed the Board that the Village received the first installment payment from the IL ARPA grant for \$57,504.40. The Village has until 2026 to spend the money or give it back. There will be another installment for \$57,504.40 that the Village will receive within the next 18 months. They want an update on potential plans showing how the Village will use the money. They say that the funds can be used towards investing in water, sewer, and infrastructure. The examples they list are replacing lead service lines, building or upgrading facilities, and transmission distributions. Constructing public owned wastewater treatment infrastructure, managing and treating stormwater, subsurface drainage of water facility water use, or securing public owned treatment works, or investing in broadband infrastructure.

Superintendent Heberling spoke about replacing the weir plate last summer since it was completely rusted and about ready to fall off.

The plan this summer is to replace the sidewalls. The sidewalls are in bad shape. There are twelve bolts, six bolts on each side. Out of the twelve bolts there are only three bolts holding it on. If it falls in, it will back up the water that controls the water that goes over the weir that was replaced last year. The bid received from Vandevanter Engineering to

replace the sidewalls is \$8,865.00.

The other thing is there are two little, small steel plates that are in bad shape too. If Vandevanter Engineering must come back in the future to replace these steel plates the cost will be \$4,874.00. Vandevanter Engineering is willing to replace the steel plates while they are here replacing the sidewalls for \$2,479.00. Making the total amount of \$11,344.00

Trustee Bailey questioned if these replacements would fall under the IL ARPA grant stipulations since these replacements are for the Village's infrastructure for waste.

Mayor Dowdy said tonight the payment for the bid will be authorized and then the Village will check to see if these replacements would fall under the IL ARPA grant to be reimbursed.

Mayor Dowdy asked for a motion to accept Vandevanter Engineering bid to replace the sidewalls in the amount of \$8,865.00 and accept their bid to replace the small steel plates for \$2,479.00 in the total amount of \$11,344.00. Motion made by Bailey, seconded by Rusher, to accept Vandevanter Engineering bid to replace the sidewalls in the amount of \$8,865.00 and accept their bid to replace the small steel plates for \$2,479.00 in the total amount of \$11,344.00. Motion passed with a roll call: Wilson "Yea", Rusher "Yea", Ramsey "Yea", Callan "Yea", Bailey "Yea", and Blakeman "Yea". Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mayor Dowdy said as an FYI, the dumpster has been removed probably for the rest of the year since the usage of the dumpster is being abused. He feels there needs to be discussion about getting dumpsters and having a Village cleanup day.

Mayor Dowdy said that the gates at the sewer ponds have been locked as it appears some rock has disappeared from there. There was much discussion on how to monitor people coming and going to dump tree limbs and leaves.

Mayor Dowdy welcomed Rene Wattelet to the table. He said he was here a year ago and discussed the ditch across the street from his house and the saplings growing out of it. He would like to have the saplings removed. Superintendent Heberling will have the ditch mowed, leaving six to eight inches for drainage and to catch the erosion coming through.

Village Engineer Report: Engineer Bingham began by reporting the oil and chipping of the streets was done a week ago.

Bingham stated the water plant is very close to having it where what he calls a "baby plant", using the two new filters and the softener. They are working out some of the bugs. When he and Superintendent Heberling are happy with how it is running, it will be switched over and ran for a couple of weeks. Once they are comfortable with how it is operating, they will move forward with getting the whole plant completed.

Engineer Bingham requested the following disbursement requests for the water project:

Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. ....	\$6,053.40
Chastain & Associates, LLC .....	\$4,098.31

President Dowdy asked for a motion to pay the requested disbursement of \$6,053.40 for Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. and \$4,098.31 to Chastain’s for the engineering costs. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Blakeman, to pay \$6,053.40 to Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. and \$4,098.31 to Chastain’s for the engineering costs. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Engineer Bingham showed a map of the GIS Surveying for Stonington that he has started, but it is not complete. It shows manholes, fire hydrants, valves, water meters, and gas lines in Stonington.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

WATER – The Water Report for July 26, 2021 – August 25, 2021, billing period was presented.

GAS – No Gas Report was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for July 26, 2021 – August 25, 2021, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey wanted to let everyone know there is an ice cream social at the American Legion on Sunday, September 12, 2021, from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. This is to raise money for Race Across America for Camp Butler.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Rusher wanted to voice concern for the condition of the side flags that are displayed in the Village.

Mayor Dowdy said Superintendent Heberling and the other Village employees are going to remove those flags and get them replaced.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson wanted to remind everyone that the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of property taxes is due September 16, 2021.

WATER – Trustee Callan inquired about the property issue between Legacy Grain and Nolen Plumbing.

Mayor Dowdy said that Kevin Walker is going to approach the Legacy Grain board to discuss the situation.

SEWER – Nothing to report. (Bailey)

GAS – Trustee Blakeman reported he has been watching the natural gas reports daily especially since the hurricane. For here, gas was \$3.78 and \$5.26 for futures right now. California right now, for the same thing we are paying \$5.26, California is paying \$14.60 and went up to \$40.60.

Trustee Blakeman discussed ACTS, LLC. He has put in phone calls and three emails asking questions and has not received a response from them.

Mayor Dowdy reported that the computer that is used to read meters is a ToughBook. The operating system for Sharpsburg will not upgrade and so Sharpsburg and Stonington split the cost to upgrade to a new laptop so now both systems will be on one computer.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the October Regular Meeting as Monday, October 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Bailey, seconded by Callan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

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Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST: