

The Sewer Report was presented for the month of March to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Callan, 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 March to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, 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 Callan, 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 March.

President’s Report:

President Dowdy nominated Village resident, Jeff Graham to fill the vacant board seat. Motion was made by Rusher, seconded by Ramsey, to accept President Dowdy’s nomination of Jeff Graham. The motion passed unanimously with all “Yea’ votes. Jeff was sworn in by President Dowdy.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to Triangle Pub. Motion by Callan, seconded by Rusher, to grant the liquor license to Triangle Pub. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy requested a motion to appoint Mike Blakeman of Pulley, Martynowski & Blakeman as the Village Auditor. A motion was made by Blakeman, and seconded by Ramsey, to rehire Mike Blakeman of Pulley, Martynowski & Blakeman as the Village Auditor. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

The Village received three letters of interest to be considered and allowed to gather garbage in the Village of Stonington. The letters of interest received were from Cleeton’s Sanitation Service, Tovey; Carey’s Disposal, Mt. Auburn; and GFL Environmental, Peoria. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Ramsey to allow Cleeton’s Sanitation Service, Carey’s Disposal, and GFL Environmental to gather garbage in the Village of Stonington. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy reported that the Village received three applications for the part-time office position. The applicants are Erika Ebert, Stacey Ethridge, and Ashley LeVault. The Board will have interviews scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m.

President Dowdy requested a motion to approve Ordinance 23-689, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7. Water, Article 1. General Provisions, Sections 7.106, 7.107, and

7.127 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 Wilson, to approve Ordinance 23-689, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7. Water, Article 1. General Provisions, Sections 7.106, 7.107, and 7.127 and Chapter 10 Utilities, Article 9 Rates of the municipal Code of Ordinances of the Village of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy requested a motion to approve the wages as discussed at the Finance Committee meeting to take effect the new fiscal year starting May 2023. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Callan, to approve the wages as discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

The approval of the changes of the Employee Policy was tabled until the May meeting.

President Dowdy welcomed Superintendent Heberling to the table to discuss the lift station on Maple Street. He received three bids for the repair of the lift station.

The bid received from Vandevanter Engineering in the amount of \$55,590.58 to rebuild the lift station. The amount includes all the material and labor.

The bid received from Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$45,634.00 and will supply everything.

The bid received from Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC of \$18,526.00. The Village would have to buy and install the baseline down at the bottom that the flight pumps would set against. The Village would also have to provide stainless steel bolts, railings, and brackets if those items are going to be replaced. Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC would supply the piping, elbows, etc.

Superintendent Heberling stated that it would be around \$25,000.00-\$26,000.00 for Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC to do the job. The cost of the parts is \$18,526.00, cost of elbows is \$2,576.00, and the cost of the bypass pump to be installed is \$4,563.00. He stated the Village will supply some of the parts. He also stated he would like to go ahead and get the shoe ordered from Vandevanter Engineering in case there is a wait time in receiving it. For the whole job to be done from Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC will cost \$45,634.00.

Trustee Rusher would like to talk to someone who has had Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC install a lift station.

Superintendent Heberling requested to go ahead and order the 2 each – 5401305 – 4-inch discharge connections for the flight pump at a cost of \$2,576.07 from Vandevanter Engineering. This cost will come off the final cost of the job.

President Dowdy asked for motion to approve the purchase from Vandevanter Engineering, 2 each – 5401305 – 4-inch discharge connections for the flight pump at a

cost of \$2,576.07 plus freight. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Blakeman, to approve the purchase from Vandevanter Engineering, 2 each – 5401305 – 4-inch discharge connections for the flight pump at a cost of \$2,576.07 plus freight. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy welcomed Jodi Rusher and Jenny Prasun to the table as co-chairs of the Stonington Summerfest. Jodi presented Summerfest's financials to the Board. She stated they are making some adjustments this year one being the fireworks show. Last year the fireworks show lasted less than 15 minutes at a cost of \$10,000.00. She stated Jenny Prasun contacted Jeff Foulks of Blue Mound and he would guarantee a 30-minute, possibly 40-minute fireworks show for \$7,500.00. She said the Committee is also looking at having a car show this year and asked about closing off more streets. She will attend the May meeting with more information about the car show and closing off more streets. She also requested the Village's assistance with setting up and tearing down.

Chief of Police Peden stated he received word the railroad tracks are going to be repaired in June. Because of the repair, American Legion Drive to North will be closed. He does not have the exact dates for the street closures.

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

President Dowdy asked for a motion to donate \$2,000.00 towards the Summerfest fireworks to come out of the General Fund. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Blakeman, to donate \$2,000.00 towards the Summerfest fireworks to come out of the General Fund. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote and 1 abstaining.

President Dowdy suggested coordinating having a dumpster there for the Summerfest weekend.

President Dowdy welcomed Jeff Nolen to the table. He wanted to talk about the water in front of his building. He stated he be glad to install a catch basin to go over to the tile to get rid of the standing water. He stated he has a retention pond on the end of his building and that all the gutters from the building go into it and it does a really good job of retaining the water.

President Dowdy stated they had talked to a company and are looking at a project to drain the standing water since a lot of the tiles are backed up.

President Dowdy welcomed Teri Nolen to the table. She wanted to touch base from the last time she attended a Board meeting regarding the speed on North Street. President Dowdy stated the sign was moved out. Superintendent Heberling stated the County put another sign that said 25 mph ahead. She also inquired if the crosswalk could be stripped again from Wilshire to the school, since it is a drop off. President Dowdy stated they would look into getting the crosswalk stripped again.

President Dowdy welcomed David Knoblich to the table. Mr. Knoblich is the new Paster at Joy Assembly. He introduced himself and said the Joy Assembly will have Sunday Church service at the Summerfest.

Village Engineer Report: Engineer Rajita Singhal confirmed there is one final payment to be disbursed to Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for the water project. She is to e-mail the amounts to Kari Scott and asked the Village to hold the amount for the retainage until the punch list of the items are complete. Engineer Singhal confirmed today from the State that on their end the loan closeout is complete.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling stated that Ms. Skinner has talked to him about the drainage issues. He stated that she has had the EPA look at the problem a couple of times.

Superintendent Heberling stated one of the bids he received from Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC includes having the lift station lined since a lot of water is coming in at the bottom.

WATER – The Water Report for February 2, 2023 – February 28, 2023. billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for February 2, 2023 – February 28, 2023, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for February 2, 2023 – February 28, 2023, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey threw out an idea she saw how another small town is handling owners of vacant properties with a dwelling. The owners must get a certificate from the City and show progress of property rehabilitation and maintenance if the vacant property falls into disrepair. They are charged a \$50 initial fee and must show they are making progress every three months.

President Dowdy asked to get a copy of that policy to email to the Board to look over.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson questioned if the Village would be cleaning out culverts.

President Dowdy stated the problem is the ditches have filled up from years of burning leaves to the point the culverts can not be found. They have talked about buying to trying to find a used mini excavator with a ditch bucket to clean out the ditches to help with the drainage.

WATER – Trustee Callan asked about the property on Pine Street.

Superintendent Heberling reported a letter was sent to the contractor stating all services have been disconnected for the contractor to tear it down.

Trustee Callan asked about the status of the Stonington Community Center grant and establishing the three-person board.

President Dowdy stated the Grant has been submitted and the State has received it. He was told that it could be five to six months before the grant money is received. The three-person board will be formed after the grant money is received.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Blakeman sent out his report on the gas prices. For April 3, 2023, gas spot market price for Panhandle is \$1.96, no change from yesterday. The gas spot market price for Henry Hub is \$2.10, no change from yesterday. The gas spot market price for Southern Star is \$1.95, no change from yesterday. The average price for a 12-Month Future Strip is \$3.10, no change from yesterday.

Trustee Blakeman inquired if there would be a letter sent out informing the residents that they now have a choice of a garbage hauler.

President Dowdy stated the garbage haulers letter with their prices will be posted on the Village's Facebook page and the Village's website. Office manager Kari Scott said the information can be added with the next bill.

Treasurer Debbie Niles stated SNAWS has made some changes to their bank accounts and asked Trustee Wilson to go and sign a couple of forms. She also questioned when the account needs to be set up for the grant money for the Stonington Community Center. She also reported made the first payment out of the ARPA fund today.

President Dowdy stated that the ARPA funds could also be used towards the cost of the lift station.

Office Manager Kari Scott confirmed with Jenny Prasun the rummage sale dates of May 12-13, 2023. She has had questions from residents if there will be dumpster for after the rummage sales and reminded the Board Waste Management will be picking up their dumpster April 12, 2023.

President Dowdy stated usually a dumpster is brought in after the rummage sales.

President Dowdy gave a special “Thanks” to the storm spotters for the Friday night storms and to the Village employees and Chief of Police Peden for going around and checking on things and everyone.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Rusher addressed the Board about the suggested changes to the Employee Policy that were discussed at the Finance Committee meeting regarding changing Chief of Police Peden’s hours. He stated Chief of Police Peden was hired 24 years ago. The Employee Policy reflects how he is to be paid from the day he was hired, and he does not feel it is fair to change it at this time.

Trustee Blakeman voiced this explanation for the employee policy when it was implemented. He stated the police officer will be paid for 50 hours a week straight time and must work 40 hours a week. He also stated that Chief of Police Peden earns compensation time for attending Board meetings.

Chief of Police Peden addressed the Board by stating he has always been paid a straight salary rate for 50 hours a week. No overtime has ever been incurred.

After much discussion, it was suggested not making any changes to 2.01c in the Employee Policy. Below is how 2.01c is written and will remain the same:

c. Chief of Police

The Chief of Police shall work fifty (50) hours per week, and he shall use his best efforts to adjust his hours so that he averages fifty (50) hours per week on the job.

Suggested changes to the second paragraph of 2.01c are underlined as follows:

The working hours are to be determined by the Chief of Police with Board approval. It is not contemplated that the Chief of Police, being salaried based on fifty (50) hours straight time a week, shall receive overtime pay.

Chief of Police Peden informed the Board that Part-Time Officer Kyle Corriveau will be retiring due to health issues, but no specific date has been set.

Trustee Blakeman suggested adding to the Employee wage page the hourly wage for part-time officer with no experience and the hourly wage for part-time officer certified and trained.

President Dowdy scheduled the May Regular Meeting for May 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Ramsey, seconded by Rusher, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk