



The Police Report for the month of March was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Blakeman, 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 Bailey, seconded by Wilson, to approve and issue warrants for all bills. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer LeVault issued no zoning permit in the month of March.

President's Report: President Dowdy requested a motion to appoint Mike Blakeman of Pulley, Martynowski & Blakeman as the Village Auditor. A motion was made by Wilson, and seconded by Callan, to rehire Mike Blakeman of Pulley, Martynowski & Blakeman as the Village Auditor. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The Finance Committee met on March 15, 2021 and discussed employee wages and benefits.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the employee wages and benefits as recommended by the Committee. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Wilson, to approve the employee wages and benefits as recommended by the Committee effective May 1, 2021. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to hire Mike Lebshier as Stonington Water Operator. Motion by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to hire Mike Lebshier as Stonington Water Operator. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to Triangle Pub. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Callan, to grant the liquor license to Triangle Pub. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy reported a water leak at the maintenance building. There was termite inspection last week and because of the water leak there is some termite damage. Jack Trimble is going to look at the roof to see about repairs and inspect where the termite damage is and will be submitting a bid for those repairs.

The backhoe had some repairs done last week and it is working great since the repairs.

President Dowdy reported that Rep. Rodney Davis sent out information for a federal grant that is available for small communities for "shovel ready projects". Part of the project will be the two filters that are at the plant that are not a part of the big grant that is already undergoing. We were going to have plumbing ready to hook up the filters and this grant should include to get those ready and to put all the electronics in it, as well as the chlorine room project.

This was a time sensitive thing and President Dowdy gave Engineer Mark Bingham the go ahead to submit the bid. There will be some engineering cost for this.

Office Manager Debbie Niles reported that it has not been submitted yet because they are waiting for the board meeting to go over it because if it was mentioned at the meeting then that must be put in the grant submission. The deadline for the grant to be submitted is April 8, 2021.

Engineer Mark Bingham reported that they were going to have a general contractor do the entire project. Initially, some of the Village staff were possibly going to be doing some of it but wanted to get the grant application turned in. The cost for the filters is \$76,247.31. That cost is from a quote from Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. The quartering swap to liquid chlorine is \$24,955.35. There are construction and engineering costs that are associated with this.

President Dowdy reported the new mower was delivered and it has already been used.

President Dowdy reported that there are some upgrades to police software being done to interface with county and the Village has received the body cameras for the police department and have been using them.

President Dowdy welcomed Steve Boldini to the table. Mr. Boldini just wanted to stop by the meeting and tell everyone hello.

President Dowdy welcomed Jeff Good to the table. He wanted to voice his concerns regarding the gas bills, the possibility of price gauging, and asked if there was a final solution.

President Dowdy stated there is no final solution yet. The state's answer is to get a loan option on a 1% interest loan to pay it back over time. He has been in touch with Rep. Rodney Davis' office multiple times, and they are trying to put together a huge packet to see if there is any federal relief for the gas. This will not be just for Illinois. It is for every state all the way to Texas.

President Dowdy reported the company we buy the gas from is Missouri Gas and Missouri Gas buys off another company that buys it from the well. He reported the Missouri Gas is investigating the situation.

President Dowdy welcomed Kyle Parks to the table. Mr. Parks told the Board that the installation of the new culvert in front of his home seems to have eliminated the water that comes from the end of his block. He is requesting some more dirt from the Village from Linda's driveway to his driveway to help level out the incline. Also, he is requesting a sign put back up that is missing on Elmira and North Street.

President Dowdy welcomed Leslie DeVore to the table. Ms. DeVore had questions regarding the water and gas bills. She feels like the Village residents were not told

everything up front and questioned whether the Village was still buying gas on the futures market.

President Dowdy stated that the Village is still buying gas on the futures market. He stated the problem came into play when the gas wells froze in Texas and the Village still had some gas sitting on the futures market. However, the federal government stepped in and gave a limit of what could pull out of reserve. So the cost on the bills reflect an average with some of it being futures market price.

Ms. Devore questioned how other towns were informing their residents a week prior to the Village residents being notified of the gas prices.

President Dowdy found out about the gas prices from Dave Luttrell, Mayor of Edinburg. From that point, Office Manager Debbie Niles started making calls to Missouri Gas about the situation. The Missouri Gas apologized for not doing a better job in getting that information out to us.

Superintendent Jake Heberling stated that the Missouri Gas Commission realized they made a mistake by not notifying us and going forward, the Missouri Gas Commission is going to try to figure out how to notify us in a timely fashion if this every happens again in the future.

Ms. DeVore stated that according to the *Texas Tribune*, the crisis was over on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the Village residents were not notified until the crisis was over. She is imploring the Village to hold them accountable for their actions.

Ms. DeVore's other concern was how the Village residents were notified. She suggested coming up with alternative measures of notifying residents instead of sending a letter via mail service because of this being a huge catastrophe.

Ms. DeVore also requested that if there is a variable rate that it should be listed on the bill to tell how many therms and how much per therm the customers paid.

Ms. DeVore questioned the transparency of the employee wages and benefits.

President Dowdy stated the employee wages and benefits were discussed at a Finance Committee meeting, which was an open meeting. The meeting was posted and no one from the public attended. President Dowdy stated that the wages are listed in the Village Employee Handbook and anyone can request to see the handbook.

Village Engineer Report: Engineer Bingham stated that Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC are finishing up the project and he has a change order for a deduction of \$16,069.43 off their contract.

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

Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating, LLC..... \$6,216.37  
Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. .... \$24,772.50

Chastain & Associates, LLC ..... \$4,326.07

President Dowdy asked for a motion to pay the requested disbursements of \$6,216.37 for final pay request from Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating LLC; \$24,772.50 for Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc.; and, \$4,326.07 for the engineering costs. Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Ramsey, to pay the requested disbursements of a final pay request from Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating LLC; \$24,772.50 for Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc.; and, \$4,326.07 for the engineering costs. Motion passed with 5-0 vote.

Engineer Bingham wanted the Village to be aware that the grant application that is getting returned now is just one of many that will be coming for infrastructure improvements. He anticipates there will be more being issued. There is a big push for shovel ready projects.

Trustee Blakeman asked if the new storm siren could be included in one of these grants. He has heard nothing back from Representatives or Senators for the storm sirens.

Engineer Bingham feels the sirens probably could be included because it is a safety thing. But right now, they do not know what grant applications are going to come out.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported the old lift station pumps were serviced the other day. One of the pumps has been out for a while and the other one got tested and it is going to go out soon. There are only three of these pumps in the country, so he went ahead and ordered them. They should be here in a couple of weeks. He went ahead and ordered two because we do not have any backup pumps on hand.

Trustee Blakeman asked if they are keeping track of hours for the new mower to see the cost savings.

Superintendent Heberling informed the Board that our sewer system gets a lot of water in it when it rains. He suggested that we look for grants in the future for the infrastructure of the sewer system.

WATER – The Water Report for February 2021-March 24, 2021 billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for February 2021-March 24, 2021 billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for February 2021-March 24, 2021 billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS: Trustee Ramsey asked if the pothole has got filled in by the Triangle Pub. Superintendent Heberling stated that there are several potholes around town that will get filled.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Nothing to report.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the May Regular Meeting as Monday, May 3, 2021 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 7:45 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

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Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

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Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk

