

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. February 7, 2022
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, February 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor 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, via GoToMeeting
Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Kari Scott, Office employee and Rajita Singhal, Chastain & Associates

Minutes from the January 5, 2022, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Bailey, that the minutes be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

Minutes from the January 19, 2022, Employee Committee meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Rusher, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Blakeman, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Bailey, seconded by Ramsey, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, 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 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 January.

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

Mayor's Report: President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to Stoney Slots LLC. Motion by Rusher, seconded by Bailey, to grant the liquor license to Stoney Slots LLC. Motion passed with 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the Raffle License 22-23 to Stonington American Legion. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Wilson, to grant the Raffle License 22-23 to Stonington American Legion. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 22-680, An Ordinance Adding 8.121 Use of Propane Tanks to Chapter 8. Gas, of the Municipal Code of the Village of Stonington, Christian County. Motion by Rusher, seconded by Ramsey, to approve Ordinance 22-680, An Ordinance Adding 8.121 Use of Propane Tanks to Chapter 8. Gas, of the Municipal Code of the Village of Stonington, Christian County. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy updated the Board on the situation with Brandon Rarick, owner of ACTS, LLC. Due to the weather and the frozen ground, he has not been doing any work in town. He has been told to cease any further work. He responded by delivering maps showing where they intended on installing lines and where they have already installed lines. According to Mr. Rarick he has the right to go ahead and finish the digging and installing. Mr. Rarick stated that the contract that he provided, which the Village signed and never received a copy back with his signature, was a courtesy thing he provides. However, he is in breach of his own contract that he provided. Currently, he is on hold from any further digging and we are waiting to hear back from the Attorney on where we stand in permanently stopping all further digging. At the current time, conversations are between his attorney and the Village's attorney.

Superintendent Heberling found that it states in our ordinances they are supposed to get a permit and a Village employee is supposed to be present when they are boring.

With the unfortunate passing of Village employee, Allen Barringer, the Village discussed sending a donation for a memorial for the family. Motion by Rusher, seconded by Blakeman, to give a \$500.00 memorial to the Barringer family. Motion passed with a vote 6-0 vote.

Mayor Dowdy reported he spoke with Senator Doris Turner. It is a done deal for the storm siren and the Village should receive the money by the end of the month. The Village will receive a little over \$50,000.00. The funding previously was coming from the Local Cures Act and the Village.

Village Engineer Report: Engineer Bingham asked for a pay request for partial filters and softener rehab valves that have been installed for the water project.

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

Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	\$42,615.00
Chastain & Associates, LLC	<u>\$4,632.12</u>
TOTAL.....	\$47,247.12

President Dowdy asked for a motion to pay the requested disbursements of \$42,615.00 to Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. and \$4,632.12 to Chastain & Associates, LLC for engineering costs, totaling \$47,247.12. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Rusher, to pay Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. \$16,785.00 and \$3,979.49 to Chastain & Associates, LLC for engineering costs, totaling \$47.247.12. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Engineer Bingham updated an issue with landfills excepting the media for the softeners. They are rehabbing the two softeners and the media must be hauled off and tested for radium which is radioactive. The radium is captured in the software, and it is a state law that you test for radium levels. The radium levels are really low, and they are having issues with landfills accepting the media. Sangamon Valley has signed off saying that they will accept it. Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. indicated that somewhere in Michigan is the closest landfill that will accept media.

Engineer Bingham gave an update on the chlorine pumps that have been delayed and they have been told that they are even further delayed. They are looking at switching to a different pump that are supposedly on the shelf. If they do switch the chlorine pumps they will have to get supplemental approval from the state to make the change.

Engineer Bingham introduced Rajita Singhal from Chastain & Associates, LLC. She an engineer that has been working on the project.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported the USDI audit went well. They created a new Form 1301. He got one of the forms done today for the 2021 calculation of the ordinate rate.

Superintendent Heberling is going to be looking into a different call taker provider because the USDI recommends the call taker provider be in a drug program. USDI also recommends that the provider handle recorded conversations and have call taker training. USDI usually takes cares of towns, and they use a provider out of Nebraska called ATZ Messaging. ATZ Messaging is in the drug program, provides call taker training, and record all the calls. ATZ Messaging is cheaper than the call taker provider that is currently being used. There is call taker provider in Springfield, which Superintendent Heberling is trying to contact. The call taker provider is for afterhours calls taken for gas.

President Dowdy thanked the Village employees for snow plowing.

Superintendent Heberling thanked the Board for allowing the purchase of the gas monitoring indicator. The monitor has been ordered and has not been received yet.

WATER – The Water Report for December 22, 2021 – January 21, 2022, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for December 22, 2021 – January 21, 2022, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for December 22, 2021 – January 21, 2022, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey thanked the Village employees for snow plowing. She also voiced her concern about the school children walking in the streets to school because the sidewalks were not cleared off.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Rusher questioned why there was a plastic bag and duct tape around the alarm on the lift station and what the purpose was.

Superintendent Heberling reported that the plastic bag and duct tape has been on the alarm since he started. He said that it was put on there because someone complained when the alarm when off.

Officer Peden reported that he has been receiving donations towards police equipment. The donations have been deposited into the general fund to be kept track of and when it comes time to purchase the police equipment it will come out of the general fund.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson thanked the Village employees for cleaning off the snow around the mailboxes.

WATER – Trustee Callan questioned how many of the gas bills are still outstanding.

Kari Scott reported that one or two bills have been paid off. She said that flyers were sent out to customers with the CEFS information.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Blakeman reported he received an alert that the gas prices were going to skyrocket but luckily it only went up \$1.00 but everything has come back down. The last two days gas prices have dropped almost \$2.00. Right now, futures are about \$4.30, and the gas is right now at \$4.00.

President Dowdy reminded the Board needs to research getting a timeclock or a timeclock app for the employees. This is for liability reasons like workers' compensation. We will need to be able to prove that they were on the job.

Trustee Rusher suggested if the employees use an app for the timeclock that there is a GPS associated with the app.

Kari Scott reported that there were problems with the phones on Friday, February 4, 2022, and Monday, February 7, 2022. Illinois Consolidated reported there was an issue with some lines, and it is now fixed.

Zoning Officer LeVault reported that he has received some tools for the zoning job, and he will be looking to appoint a Zoning Board member.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the March Regular Meeting as Monday, March 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Rusher, seconded by Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk