

STATE OF ILLINOIS } COMMITTEE AT LARGE MEETING
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. January 17, 2023
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Committee at Large meeting was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The Meeting was called to order by Trustee Tammy Wilson with the following Members present:

Trustees: David Blakeman, via GoToMeeting; Tara Ramsey, Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, Anthony Rusher, and Nathan Frisch

Clerk: Jill Gilpin

Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Village Residents, Bob Brown, Earl Good, Robert Carls, Tracy Carls, Chris Wade, Justin Coffey, Tara Graham, Jeff Graham, Jeff Good, and Kim Brown

President Dowdy stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss changing the leaf burning Ordinance.

Trustee Rusher suggested changing the leaf burning Ordinance Chapter 5, Public Safety, Article 5 Fire, Section 5.503 back to the Ordinance as it was in 2018 and adding the holidays as restricted days for burning.

President Dowdy suggested also leaving in the fines for violation of the Ordinance.

Trustee Wilson questioned if the Ordinance should have anything added regarding burning during rain showers or when the leaves are excessively wet, which would cause smoldering.

President Dowdy stated Chapter 4. Public Health, Article 3. Nuisance Weeds, Grass, Trees, and Bushes, Section 4.301 Statutory Authority needs to be updated to the current Illinois State Statute citation.

Trustee Rusher also commented that Article 4.408 Dense Smoke will take care of the smoldering. And he suggested the last sentence of 4.408 Dense Smoke should be stricken.

Trustee Rusher also suggested changing “sunset” in Section 5.503 to “legal sunset” as determined by the National Weather Service at www.weather.gov.

Trustee Rusher reiterated the changes to the leaf burning Ordinance. Change the current 5.503 back to 5.503 as it was in 2018. In Section 5.503 A) 8:00 a.m. and instead of “sunset” adding “legal sunset” as determined by the National Weather at www.weather.gov. Adding 5.503 B) from the current leaf burning Ordinance which lists the holidays and keeping 5.503 E) from the current leaf burning Ordinance which lists the fines.

President Dowdy said the Ordinance is worded that burning is not to be conducted on any thoroughfare, which technically covers everyone’s ditch to a certain number of feet from the center of the road. He stated that you can burn on your property. He also stated that since burning near the roadways has been allowed, now the Village is running into drainage issues.

Trustee Rusher reiterated a couple more changes. Section 4.301 Statutory Authority, updating the Illinois State Statute. And, Section 4.408 Dense Smoke, taking out the last sentence that reads, “Nothing in his Article, however, shall further affect the recreational and leaf burning activities allowed in Chapter5. Article 5. Fire of this Code.”

These changes will be presented in Ordinance form at the February 6, 2023, Board meeting to be voted on. President Dowdy stated if the Ordinance is passed it would be effective in thirty (30) days, since there are penalties listed in the Ordinance.

Jeff Good suggested the Village invest in a leaf pickup truck and dispense of the leaves. He asked if the Village could get estimates.

Trustee Rusher said a leaf pickup truck costs about \$65,000.00 a year.

President Dowdy stated that a leaf pickup truck has been discussed in the past and he had been advised about the negative aspects of having a leaf pickup truck. And, Trustee Rusher added that there would have to be more manpower to run the leaf pickup truck.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Rusher, seconded by Callan, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk