

STATE OF ILLINOIS } COMMITTEE MEETING ON EMPLOYEES
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. January 19, 2022
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Committee on Employees met on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The Meeting was called to order by President Bruce Dowdy with the following members present:

Trustees: David Blakeman, called in; Tara Ramsey; Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, and Korey Bailey

Others in attendance: Kari Scott, Village employee

Mayor Dowdy started the meeting in hopes to accomplish two things: (1) discuss an hourly rate for Debbie Niles going from full-time office manager to part-time office employee and (2) compile a list of names for a temporary part-time office employee.

Debbie Niles would like to move from full-time office manager to part-part office employee, working three days a week, all day as part-time. She would receive no benefits which include holidays. She is sure that working three days a week would give her enough hours to allow her to continue to contribute to IMRF. Her current wage is based off full-time employee. She was making \$18.75 an hour and dropped the health insurance, and her wage went up to \$26.09 an hour. She currently does most of the Treasurer's duties and there is a possibility she would take over those duties at the current Treasurer's pay of \$125.00 a month.

There was much discussion on offering Debbie her old wage of \$18.75 plus \$1.82 increase to the Treasurer's salary of \$125.00 a month. Making the hourly wage \$20.57, \$493.68 per week, \$1,974.72 a month for the part-time position plus \$125.00 a month for the Treasurer's position giving her a total of \$2,099.72 a month. If this offer is acceptable, it will not be official until the February 7, 2022, board meeting. If the offer is not acceptable, she will need to come back to the board with a number and the board will see whether it is possible or not.

Mayor Dowdy reminded the board that there will be discussion of raises coming up in the next few months.

Kari Scott's hourly wage has been increased up to \$18.00 an hour during her training period. If she officially takes the full-time position her hourly wage would increase. She received some of the increase because she is working full-time at this time.

Trustee Bailey voiced his opinion that a person working part-time should not be making more than a person working full-time no matter what the experience. He also feels that the board needs to take into consideration when Kari is done with training and goes full-time, her wages will increase and if she does not use the health insurance, the compensation from the health insurance is 80% of the value of the benefit in pay.

Mayor Dowdy feels at this point a temporary part-time person is not needed since Debbie works three days a week and Kari is working full-time. He suggested to go ahead and compile a list of names to consider for the temporary part-time position. An application has been received from Anna Crider for the temporary part-time position.

The board is going to continue compiling names for a temporary part-time office position.

Trustee Blakeman informed the board that he can not find anything in the requirements for CDL license for natural gas.

Mayor Dowdy updated the board that ACTS, LLC cable company was sent a certified letter in October 2021. The letter was requesting a copy of his proof of insurance which was supposed to be provided before he started working in the Village, which shows that the Village is not liable if he had insurance coverage. The other request was the contract with his signature on it. We have a copy of the contract with only Mayor Dowdy's signature and the Clerk's signature on it. The third request was that they call in locates or potholing when they were boring the fiber, which they were not doing. There has been no response from ACTS, LLC and they have not been back in town.

The lawyer has been emailed and he advised this is technically a breach of contract, and the Village could push for him to cease and desist and no longer be allowed to come into town. The lawyer also advised that since the letter was sent in October 2021 it constitutes a notice of breach of contract which started a 30-day clock for him to cure. He suggested the Village send a notice indicating the Village has elected to terminate the agreement due to the failure of the cure within the 30-day period. If this option is chosen, the Village will need to determine what it wants to do with the infrastructure as it is written in his contract in Section 12, that if his contract is not renewed, the Village could push the matter to have him remove what he has already put in the ground. The other choice would be to send a follow-up letter specifically referencing that 30-day cure period and telling him the Village will terminate the agreement if he does not cure within 30-days.

Trustee Blakeman feels since he has violated the contract he should be terminated.

ACTS, LLC has damaged some utilities that the Water Works employees have had to fix. They were supposed to come back and make repairs and make the dirt work look good.

Mayor Dowdy suggested to the Board to move forward one way or another by sending him another certified letter saying he has 30-days to comply or have the lawyer draw up something to send to him.

Trustee Blakeman suggested having the lawyer draw up a letter terminating the contract because he is in violation.

Mayor Dowdy reported the Village is supposed to receive a \$50,000.00 check in the next month for the storm sirens from the State of Illinois per Senator Doris Turner.

Motion by Callan, seconded by Bailey, to adjourn at 6:27 p.m.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk