

STATE OF ILLINOIS                    }  
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN            } SS.                    January 3, 2024  
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON         }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

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

Trustees: Tara Ramsey, Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, Jeff Graham, and Caleb Grover  
Clerk: Jill Gilpin  
Treasurer: Debbie Niles  
Superintendent: Jake Heberling (Absent)  
Village Engineer: Mark Bingham (Absent)  
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)  
Chief of Police: Travis Peden  
Officer Manager: Kari Scott (Absent)  
Zoning Officer: John LeVault (Absent)

Others in attendance: Elizabeth Wood, *Breeze-Courier*; David Blakeman, Village resident (Via GoToMeeting); Kim Brown, Village resident; Scott and Beth Kuntzman, Village residents; Jeff Nolen, Nolen Services, Inc.; Daniel Nolen, Nolen Services, Inc.; and, Rex Wheeler, Village Works employee.

Minutes from December 4, 2023, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Ramsey, that the minutes be approved and filed as presented. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

Minutes from December 13, 2023, Committee meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Grover, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Graham, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Callan, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, seconded by Wilson, 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 December to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, 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: There were no zoning permits issued in the month of December.

President's Report: President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. Ordinance 23-693, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4. Public Health, Article 2. Animals And Animal Control, Section 4.208 Keeping Or Harboring Of Animals, Adding E) Through M) Of The Municipal Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Ramsey, to approve Ordinance No. 23-693. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed the Motor Fuel Tax account and proposed to use up to \$40,000.00 this year on roads as needed. After much discussion, he asked for a motion to approve up to \$40,000.00 of Motor Fuel Tax funds to be used this year on roads as needed. Motion made by Ramsey, seconded by Wilson, to approve up to \$40,000.00 of Motor Fuel Tax funds to be used this year on roads as needed. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Wilson "Yea"; Ramsey "Yea"; Callan "Yea"; Graham "Yea"; and Grover "Yea". Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy moved the discussion to the bids received for shop repairs. Bids were received from Quality Construction & Concrete for \$32,490.00 and Trimble Construction, Inc. for \$52,432.67. Quality Construction & Concrete stated they could get the repairs done this summer. After much discussion, President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the bid from Quality Construction & Concrete up to \$35,000.00 to repair the shop. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Graham, to approve the bid from Quality Construction & Concrete up to \$35,000.00 to repair the shop. Motion passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Wilson "Yea"; Ramsey "Yea"; Callan "Yea"; Graham "Yea"; and Grover "Yea". Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy brought up for discussion for thoughts on hiring a fourth Village Works employee. He stated that Edinburg is tied into Sharpsburg water and SNAWS's Phase 3 is in its final steps. He also stated that the Village Works employees try not to sublet out work as much as possible to save money. After much discussion, the Board decided to

start running an ad for the position starting on January 8, 2024 – January 22, 2024. Applications are to be received by January 22, 2024. The ad will run in the *Breeze-Courier* and on Indeed.

A Committee Meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. before the regularly scheduled Board meeting, to discuss any applications that have been received.

President Dowdy moved to the discussion of replacing the lawn mower. One bid has been received from Sloan Implement and will get more bids to be discussed at the February 5, 2024, Regular meeting.

President Dowdy reported the Illinois Commerce Commission stated more gas valves need to be replaced and ARPA funds can be used to replace them. President Dowdy asked for a motion up to \$20,000.00 using ARPA funds for gas improvements. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Graham, to approve up to \$20,000.00 using ARPA funds for gas improvements. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy stated that there are still discussions in the works with the DeClerck Farms about an extension on property for the new well.

President Dowdy welcomed Jeff Nolen to the table. Jeff presented three pictures of the road in front of his business. He is asking for suggestions and is willing to work with the Village to try to fix the problem with the water in the road. Daniel Nolen stated that they have spent several thousand dollars to try to keep the water from getting into the road. Jeff reiterated he feels installing a catch basin would solve a lot of the problem. Daniel also stated that everything they do is according to the State code and before the toilets are moved off site, they are pumped and cleaned.

President Dowdy stated that in the spring the Village will get together with the Jeff and Daniel Nolen and get something done with the road.

President Dowdy welcomed Treasurer Debbie Niles to the table. She wanted the Board to know the gas bill did not get paid in December because she did not have the bill to pay and in the next financial report it will show two gas bills that were paid.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Nothing to report.

Chief of Police Peden reported that a person in town is wanting to purchase a vacant lot to roll in a camper to live there anywhere from a couple of weeks to a month.

President Dowdy stated that according to the Ordinance they would have to meet the qualifications of the Ordinance for it to be a permanent dwelling.

Chief of Police Peden presented a quote from Bob Ridings Fleet Sales for the purchase of a new squad truck. The current old squad car is 11 years old with 120,000+ miles and is requesting to get it replaced. The squad car Chief of Police Peden is driving would go to Police Officer Jed Davis. All the brackets and equipment in the squad car that Police Officer Jed Davis is driving will be installed in the new squad truck. The things that would have to be purchased for the new squad truck will be a center console and a cage. The squad car Jed Davis is driving would be put out for bids to sell.

WATER – The Water Report for November 1 – November 30, 2023, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for November 1 – November 30, 2023, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for November 1 – November 30, 2023, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Trustee Graham inquired about the railroad getting repaired.

Chief of Police Peden reported that the railroad is working on a big project in Decatur, and they would not be getting the railroad in Stonington repaired until that project is done.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Callan questioned if a resignation had been received from Anthony Rusher.

President Dowdy stated that Anthony Rusher had resigned his Board seat.

President Dowdy reported on the Pine Street property regarding condemning it and a response is still pending a decision before anything can be done.

President Dowdy reported that the grant for the Community Center is supposedly on the Governor's desk pending his approval. Trustee Callan stated that he should not be on the three-person Board because he works for the State.

President Dowdy reported that he would like to make the appointment of Scott Kuntzman to fill the vacant Board seat and that approval will be on the February 5, 2024 Agenda.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the February Regular Meeting as February 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Graham, seconded by Grover, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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