

approval. Motion made by Bailey, 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 Rusher, 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 Rusher, 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 one zoning permit in the month of December.

Permit # 775-21 to Nathan Lynch located at 403 W. Wabash for a room addition.

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

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Dowdy welcomed Superintendent Heberling to the table to discuss the 192 GIS Mapping. The 192 GIS Mapping is a share file program of the USDI for gas utilities. This program allows access to map and facility information on a phone or tablet; perform and record all compliance tasks, view past inspection data, track progress of compliance tasks, eliminate most paper records, and store all secure information in a cloud-based storage account. The program provides a monthly checklist for gas utilities to stay in compliance. The program also provides all updates of forms and regulations and are put in the share-file.

This program allows the ICC to keep track to make sure everything is being done to be in compliance. Superintendent Heberling reported the ICC is starting to fine municipalities who are not in compliance.

There is a one time setup fee of \$3,000 which provides 16 hours of training and then the cost would be \$2,600 annually.

Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Wilson, to purchase the 192 GIS Mapping at a cost of \$3,000 for the setup fee and \$2,600 annually. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Heberling reported on the gas plant pressure monitoring indicators. When there is a gas leak and with all the new laws, they have to figure out how big of a gas leak and calculate how much gas was escaped in the amount of time they noticed the gas leak. The gas plant has high pressure meters and low pressure meters. The meters have to be calibrated every year which is roughly \$340 for each meter.

The gas pressure monitoring indicator will send notifications through cellular data if the system over pressurizes or under pressurizes. The price is \$2,950 for two high pressure meters and two low pressure meters. If they pay for the cellular data it is \$30 a month. If we pay for the cellular data, it is \$15 a month. It is \$2,200 for installation for the gas pressure monitoring indicator. This program is also tied into the 192 GIS mapping system.

Trustee Rusher feels that the gas pressure monitoring indicators are very important and should be purchased before the 192 GIS mapping system.

After much discussion the Board felt to hold off on the 192 GIS mapping system and purchase the gas pressure monitoring indicator system.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Blakeman, to rescind the motion to purchase the 192 GIS mapping system at a cost of \$3,000 for the setup fee and \$2,600 annually. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Motion by Blakeman, seconded by Rusher, to purchase the gas plant pressure monitoring indicators up to \$5,500 for the gas plant pressure monitoring indicators plus a monthly fee of \$30 for cellular data. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

The Board decided to revisit the 192 GIS Mapping system at the May 2022 meeting.

Superintendent Heberling reported Village employee James Lupton has passed his CDL written test and will be getting the driving test done when the driver's licenses facilities are open.

Superintendent Heberling reported that he plans to finish the GIS mapping of Sharpsburg's existing meters and valve boxes by the end of this week. He also informed the Board that he had offered to mow the Sharpsburg gas plant and is also going to mow around the Sharpsburg water tower.

Mayor Dowdy moved to the discussion on part-time police officer. The employee policy will now reflect the following:

Part-time Officer - with no experience	\$16.00 an hour
Part-time Officer – certified and have training	\$18.00 an hour

The Board discussed the timeline that the part-time officer should stay employed with the Village if the Village pays for the training.

There was a motion made by Rusher, seconded by Callan, that if the Village pays for the training of the part-time officer, the officer will have to stay employed with the Village for two years. If they leave before the two years has expired, they will have to reimburse the Village for the training fees. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mayor Dowdy discussed the adding the use of propane tanks in the Village to the Village's Municipal Code. The use of a propane tank is not to exceed 120-gallon tanks and must adhere to a minimum distance of five feet from the opening of a building and a minimum distance of ten feet from a source of ignition. It must be an unattached structure from the residence. Customers must notify the Village if they are using a 40-gallon or larger propane tank on their property so the Village can notify the Stonington Fire Department.

The Board discussed if a resident was found in violation of the ordinance what the fines would be. The Board discussed for the first offense the fine would be \$50.00, for the second offense the fine would be \$100.00, and for the third offense the fine would be \$150.00. After the third offense, if not corrected, the resident would have to remove the propane tank.

The use of propane tanks in the Village will be presented at the February 2022 meeting in an Ordinance form to be voted on.

Mayor Dowdy welcomed Village employee, Kari Scott, to the table. She discussed the outstanding gas bills from February 2021. She reported that there are twenty customers that have not paid off their gas bills from February 2021. There was much discussion on how to handle the outstanding bills.

Mayor Dowdy reported he received notification that someone bought the post office property for the taxes and gave the property back as people have done in the past. An email was sent to the attorney who said we can make one of two decisions. The Village can let the property go and it will just sit there. The other option is to have it taken down and then put a lien the property.

Mayor Dowdy discussed this with Keith Moran of Moran Economic Development who worked on our TIF district. Keith said that the Village can use TIF funding to demolish a building. Keith said there are two ways to go about it. The Village can have the property owner fill out the paperwork and pay for the demolition and then the property owner would be reimbursed from TIF funding. The other choice is if the Village owns the building, TIF funds can be used to have the building demolished. There was much discussion on which direction to go. No further action taken.

Officer manager Debbie Niles reported an AT&T representative dropped off some information about AT&T and asked if he could give an estimate on what it would cost the Village to switch over to AT&T. AT&T gives first responders good discount, and they are now including public works. Debbie asked him to go ahead and give the Village some estimates to compare with the current contract the Village has with Verizon.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

WATER – The Water Report for November 23 – December 22, 2021, billing period was

presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for November 23 – December 22, 2021, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for November 23 – December 22, 2021, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson reported that someone dumped a mattress and box springs in the back of the sewer plant.

There was discussion on adding a camera at the sewer plant.

WATER – Trustee Callan inquired how much longer Mike Lebshier will be working as the Stonington Water Operator for \$1,000 a month to do sewer and water. He inquired if someone would be able to obtain their water operator within the next two years.

Superintendent Heberling stated that Rex Wheeler is trying to get his water license as D. All the public works employees have taken the test for sewer license. But currently no one has a sewer license.

SEWER – Trustee Bailey suggested that the burn pile at the sewer plant needs to be burned off and have the ash hauled off.

GAS – Trustee Blakeman discussed a spreadsheet tracking gas prices for the last three years. He reported that today the futures are selling at \$3.83. Buying online today was \$4.65 up to \$5.16 and one was \$3.79 in the three companies they are going through.

Trustee Blakeman inquired about status of the storm sirens. Mayor Dowdy said that they are waiting on the storm siren control box.

Mayor Dowdy asked for a motion to go into executive session. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to go into executive session at 8:26 p.m. to discuss employees.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:51 p.m.

A meeting for the Committee on Employees was scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the hiring of a temporary part-time office employee.

Mayor Dowdy wanted to discuss changing Kari Scott's salary to \$18.00 an hour for the trial period of full-time office employee. The trial period is to end March 30, 2022.

Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Bailey, to change Kari Scott's salary to \$18,00 an hour for the trial period of full-time office employee. The trial period ending on March 30, 2022. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

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

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Blakeman, seconded by Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk