

STATE OF ILLINOIS                                 }   REGULAR MEETING  
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN                         } SS.   July 6, 2022  
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON                       }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 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: David Blakeman, via GoToMeeting; Tara Ramsey, Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, Korey Bailey (Absent), and Anthony Rusher  
Clerk: Jill Gilpin  
Treasurer: Debbie Niles, via GoToMeeting  
Superintendent: Jake Heberling  
Village Engineer: Mark Bingham (Absent)  
Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)  
Chief of Police: Travis Peden  
Officer Manager: Kari Scott  
Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Rex Wheeler, Village employee; James Lupton, Village employee; Jeff and Teri Nolen, Village residents; Kaitlyn Norris, Village resident; Scott and Beth Kuntzman, Village residents; and Kevin and Tammy Kater, Village residents.

Minutes from the June 6, 2022, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Callan, 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, 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 June to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, 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 June to the Board for their approval. The report presented only showed ten total hours worked for the month of June which is incorrect. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Callan, that the Police Report be approved upon correction of total hours worked for the month of June. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

Bills against the Village were presented for the approval of the Board. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Rusher, to approve and issue warrants for all bills. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer LeVault issued two zoning permits in the month of June.

Permit # 780-22 to Jeremy Becker, located at 609 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, for a treehouse.

Permit #781-22 to Josh & Molly Westover, located at 612 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, for a porch.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the Zoning Report for the month of June. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Ramsey, to approve the Zoning report for the month of June. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

President's Report:

President Dowdy welcomed Tammy Kater and Beth Kuntzman to discuss vacated property on 402 W. Second Street. Both have witnessed racoons coming and going from a hole in the foundation of the home and animals living in the garage. Kevin Kater questioned if the wild animals could be trapped. Chief of Police Peden said the Illinois Conservation traps wild animals or someone with a Nuisance license can trap wild animals.

They both also informed the Board that there are two abandoned vehicles on the property. Chief of Police Peden informed them that a letter was mailed to the owner on June 22, 2022, about the abandoned cars.

President Dowdy informed them the Village will need to inspect the house to move forward.

President Dowdy welcomed Kaitlyn Norris to the table to discuss the speed limit signs and speeding on County 4/E. North Street and County 4/W. North Streets. She has recently moved back to Stonington with her children and lives on Wilshire. She presented pictures to show the locations of the speed limit signs. She suggested more police patrol on the roads to help reduce speeding and installing signs showing reduced speed ahead. She also discussed a study from the Portland Bureau of Transportation that found the annual crash frequency decreased by 39% on streets that had been treated with speed bumps. As well as a study by the *American Journal of Public Health*

that found that installing a speed bump is associated with a 53%-60% reduction injuries or death in neighborhood children struck by a vehicle.

Jeff Nolen stated that he spoke with Cliff Frye, County Engineer, and Mr. Frye stated the state statutes for speed limit in towns is 30 mph and a reduction in speed sign should be installed 1,000 feet from the speed limit sign.

President Dowdy agreed to go ahead and move speed limit signs to the edge of the property on E. North Street as well as move the speed limit sign on W. North Street by the gas plant. After much discussion, the ordinance will be looked at and the discussion will be put on the agenda for August.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to Casey's General Store. Motion by Callan, seconded by Rusher, to grant the liquor license to Casey's General Store. Motion passed with 5-0 vote

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to The American Legion. Motion by Rusher, seconded by Callan, to grant the liquor license to The American Legion. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 22-684. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6, Traffic, Article 9. Operation Of Off-Road Utility Vehicle On City Roadways, Section 6.902 And Adding Section 6.904. Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Ramsey, to approve Ordinance 22-684. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy began the discussion regarding compensation for Village department heads that are asked to attend the monthly board meetings. After checking with the Village attorney, the Board felt the department heads need to be compensated to attend the monthly board meetings at time and half.

There was a motion made by Rusher, seconded by Blakeman, to require department heads, specifically, Superintendent, Chief of Police, and Office Manager, to attend monthly board meetings, compensated at time and a half. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

They will check the ordinances to see if it currently says the Treasurer is required to attend the monthly board meetings and will discuss at the August meeting.

President Dowdy began a discussion on health insurance benefits offered by the Village. According to the Village attorney, since health insurance is offered by the Village and even though there is no employee using this benefit, the Village cannot say that health insurance is not offered.

President Dowdy began a discussion regarding bonuses for public works employees who receive a certification or license for water, sewer, and gas. Previously, the employee policy stated the employee would receive a one-time bonus of \$500 if the certification and/or licenses were obtained.

After much discussion, the board decided there will be a 50 cent an hour increase in salary for each of the following licenses that are obtained:

- a. Class B water license
- b. Class 4 sewer license
- c. Fully certified gas license

Trustee Rusher questioned if there is an increase in salary for public works employees receiving certification to spray for weeds and bugs. President Dowdy said that those certifications are expected of the public works employees to obtain.

President Dowdy said that changing the employee policy to reflect a “No Compete Clause” for certifications and/or licenses and if these certifications and/or licenses could not be obtained and it could result in termination of employment might be something that needs to be added in the future.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Heberling reported the Livergood lift station has a pump that is set on a shoe in the bottom of the lift station. The shoe has rusted off and the pump and pipe have been pulled out. It needs to be reconnected and have new fittings and material installed. He spoke to Vandevanter Engineering and while they are there they would like to fix the other side, which is currently not broke.

He received a bid from Vandevanter Engineering for \$11,074.75 to replace the piping for both pumps at Livergood lift station above from the top of the discharge connection stands, up to the point where it leaves the common gravity drain leaving the wet well of the lift station. The bid includes all parts, materials, and prevailing wage labor and service department expenses. Including confined space entry charges for a complete turn key project.

Motion made by Callan, seconded by Rusher, to approve Vandevanter Engineering bid not to exceed \$13,000.00 to repair Livergood lift station using IL ARPA funds. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy reported for Engineer Bingham that the chlorine pump is in and has been tested but it cannot be used until the EPA signs off on it.

Superintendent Heberling met with CTI. They will be installing a generator and will need to have gas service. While CTI is in town and the welder is in town, Superintendent Heberling would like to abandon gas services to 207 N. Maple, 210 S.

Pine, and 312 S. West Street.

Trustee Rusher inquired how the Trimble Construction, Inc.'s project with the ditches was coming along at the Stonington United Methodist Church. Superintendent Heberling said that the catch basin arrived today and Trimble Construction, Inc. will be running the pipe halfway across the road and he will continue building up the road. Superintendent Heberling has not been able to reach the person who will be constructing the ditch. When that person comes, he also has the culverts ready to be installed.

Trimble Construction, Inc. will be calling in locates to install the catch basin and then he is going to finish putting the pipe across the road and building up the rest of the road.

President Dowdy discussed the bid that was received by Trimble Construction, Inc. to repair damage by termites at the end of the hall where the window is in the Village Hall. They found termites from a leaky roof. Trimble Construction, Inc. bid is to fix the roof only in the amount of \$3,637.25. After much discussion, the Board chose to get more bids.

President Dowdy reported the new flowerpots are in and Bayer will store them for the wintertime.

Office Manager, Kari Scott, reported the Village has 105 followers to the Village's Facebook page.

Officer Manager Kari Scott also requested clarification about the Shelby Electric streetlights and property owners picking up the cost of the light. Kari said letters were mailed to property owners which stated that starting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July the Village would no longer be liable for the cost of the streetlights. She questioned if there was an official vote by the Board that the Village was disconnecting the service to streetlights for the ones that the property owners chose not to pick up the cost.

President Dowdy said there has been no official vote taken regarding the Village ceasing to pay for the streetlights. However, there will have to be one to officially say the Village will be ceasing to pay for some streetlights. President Dowdy also stated that since the 15<sup>th</sup> is the end of the Village's billing cycle it will have to be delayed a month. A list will be compiled for the August meeting of the streetlights left that property owners do not wish to pick up the cost and a vote will be taken to discontinue the streetlights that have not been picked up by property owners.

WATER – The Water Report for May 24, 2022 – June 27, 2022, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for May 24, 2022 – June 27, 2022, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for May 24, 2022 – June 27, 2022, billing period was

presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Rusher stated that he saw a concrete block that was dumped along the side of the road at 509 W. First Street and questioned who is liable if someone hits it and damages their vehicle or someone riding a bike hits it and gets injured.

Village employee Rex Wheeler said that he knows who dumped the concrete and will talk to them about taking it out to the dump pile at the sewer plant.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Blakeman questioned if there was a list of sidewalks to be repaired and if any projects have been started on the sidewalks.

Superintendent Heberling stated that they talked to some residents about sidewalks, but no sidewalk repairs have been started.

Trustee Blakeman informed the Board that last month the gas prices were running around \$8.00. This month, they are down to \$5.17 to \$5.62 on the market and the futures is at \$5.15. So, it has dropped \$3.00 since last month with the fluctuating gas prices.

Trustee Blakeman questioned if the Village of Stonington should have a resolution either for or against the Co2 coming into Christian County. He feels once the Co2 pipe is in the ground and if there is a leak and gets in the water system, it would affect our district even though where it is going to be installed does not fall within our city limits. President Dowdy said this will be put on the August meeting agenda for further discussion.

Trustee Blakeman asked Office Manager Kari Scott if the dollar amount for dekatherms for each individual can be added to the gas report. She said that she would add the line to the gas report.

Trustee Wilson requested to move into executive session to discuss employees. President Dowdy asked for a motion to move into executive session. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Rusher, to move into executive session at 8:50 p.m.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to adjourn executive session. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Wilson, to adjourn executive session at 8:58 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:58 p.m.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the August Regular meeting as Monday, August 1, 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 Ramsey, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 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