

Motion made by Bailey, seconded by Callan, 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 May to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Blakeman, 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 no zoning permits in the month of May.

Mayor's Report:

President Dowdy invited Rajita Singhal, Engineer with Chastain & Associates, LLC to the table. Rajita presented the board with Change Order #5 on the WTP Upgrade Project, asking for approval for a time extension of 90 days due to the pumps not being available from the manufacturer. She also stated the existing permit will run out at the end of the month. President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Change Order #5. A Motion was made by Rusher and seconded by Ramsey to approve Change Order #5, extending the Contract lime for an additional 90 days.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 22-682, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7. Water, Article 1. General Provisions, Adding Section 7.127 Sharpsburg And Neighboring Area Water (SNAWS) Water Rates To The Municipal Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Wilson, to approve Ordinance 22-682, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7. Water, Article 1. General Provisions, Adding Section 7.127 Sharpsburg And Neighboring Area Water (SNAWS) Water Rates To The Municipal Code Of Ordinances Of The Village Of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion passed with a (6-0) vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 22-683, An Ordinance Appropriating Taxes For Corporate And Special Purposes For The Current Fiscal Year Commencing on the 1st Day of May, 2022, And Ending The 30th Day Of April, 2023. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Rusher, to approve Ordinance 22-683, An Ordinance Appropriating Taxes For Corporate And Special Purposes For The Current Fiscal Year Commencing on the 1st Day of May, 2022, And Ending The 30th Day Of April, 2023. Moton passed with a (6-0) vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Resolution 22-455, A Resolution of the Village of Stonington Appointing IMRF authorized Agent. Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Ramsey, to approve Resolution 22-455, A Resolution of the Village of Stonington Appointing IMRF authorized Agent. Motion passed with a

(6-0) vote.

President Dowdy opened a discussion regarding changing the Golf Cart/UTV Ordinance. Trustee's Blakeman and Ramsey had each provided the board members with copies of ordinances from neighboring towns regarding their rules and regulations pertaining to the use of Golf Carts/UTV's, and each was discussed. The board chose to strike **6.902 Article A6: Vehicle must also have a factory bed size of at least 11 cubic feet and the ability to dump the bed** and **Article K: Vehicles will only be operated from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset**, out of our current ordinance. The mayor also questioned whether we can add in the Governmental Immunity clause in our ordinance as it is written in a neighboring town ordinance. Treasurer Debbie Niles was asked to check with the Village attorney to see if that is plausible. The revised Golf Cart/UTV ordinance is to be put on the July agenda for approval.

President Dowdy began a discussion regarding compensation for Village department heads that are asked to attend the monthly board meetings. These positions include the General Superintendent, Chief of Police, Treasurer, and Office Manager. In the past, there has not been any compensation for the time they spend at the monthly board meetings as it was described as part of their job duties. Mayor Dowdy questioned whether it was legal to ask these hourly paid employees to be at the meetings, but not compensate them. Trustee Rusher stated that he does not get paid for monthly meetings for his employment as a Superintendent at a neighboring town. Mayor Dowdy asked Treasurer Debbie Niles to check with the Village attorney to ask if it was legal to require employees to be at the meetings, but not compensate them for their time. This discussion is to be continued at the July board meeting after further information is gathered.

President Dowdy began a discussion regarding removing the health insurance benefit from the Employee Policy. There are currently no Village employees covered under a Village health insurance policy, but it still remains listed as an employee benefit. Because of this, two Village employees are subject to a penalty from their spouses insurance because the Village policy still states it is offered. The Board members agreed that it could be removed, with the understanding that at any time, it could be added back to the employee benefit package. The question came up if the Village could ask employees to sign a document stating that they understand the benefit could be added back in the future. President Dowdy asked Treasurer Debbie Niles to check with the Village Attorney to see if this was a legal option to take.

President Dowdy began a discussion regarding bonuses and/or wage increases for employees who receive a certification or license pertaining to their job position, such as water, sewer, and gas certification or licenses. In a previous employee policy, it stated that a one-time bonus was given when a public works employee achieved such licenses/certificates. It was inadvertently left off the revised version and needs to be added back in. Further discussion took place regarding adding a No Compete Clause for employees obtaining licenses/certifications. The Board felt if

the Village was paying to send employees to training, a No Compete Clause was necessary to keep employees from receiving certification and leaving employment with the Village. They also discussed setting a time limit for employees to be able to achieve required licenses once they began employment with the Village. If they could not obtain the licenses, it could result in termination of employment. Mayor Dowdy asked Treasurer Debbie **Niles** to contact the Village Attorney to see if this was something that could be put into the policy now, even though the employees were not told this when they were hired. Superintendent Jake Heberling explained the lengthy process it took to obtain these licenses and how they are working towards getting them. He explained certain circumstances such as Covid restrictions have kept them from being able to attend training. Superintendent Heberling stressed to the village board how even though water and sewer licenses are very important, it would be detrimental to the village not to have at least 2 that are gas certified, which can take 3-5 years. The discussion was tabled until more information can be obtained on the matter.

Mayor Dowdy presented the board with a quote on a new Sensit Gold Odorizer. Superintendent Jake Heberling and Public Works employee Rex Wheeler stated the current odorizers they use are not as accurate as the new Sensit Gold Odorizers. The current ones they use cost \$340/year to calibrate, and even after calibration, they are not as accurate as the Sensit Gold Odorizer. They currently have one Sensit Gold Odorizer they bought a year and a half ago, and have 3 old ones. They would like to purchase a new Sensit Gold Odorizer so they have a spare. Superintendent Heberling said he is also going to ask if they can put an LP detector on it. Trustee Rusher asked if the product was available immediately for shipping. Superintendent Heberling stated it had a 4-6 week shipment time. Mayor Dowdy asked for a motion to purchase a new Sensit Gold Odorizer. Motion made by Bailey, seconded by Rusher to spend up to \$2,100 to purchase the new odorizer.

Mayor Dowdy informed the Board that the SNAWS Water System has applied for additional funding and is moving forward with easements.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Jake Heberling asked the Board if they would like a dumpster ordered to use for clean-up after the Stonington Summerfest. The board agreed that a dumpster was needed. Mayor Dowdy asked that a dumpster be ordered for Thursday, June 16th delivery to be kept in the locked area at the village garage.

Public Comment:

Trustee Ramsey informed those present at the meeting that the Stonington American Legion is having a Music Bingo fundraiser for the Land of Lincoln Honor

Flight on Saturday, June 11th at 7 pm (Doors Open at 5 pm). Big Jakes BBQ will be on location.

WATER- The water report for the May 2022 billing period was presented. GAS - The gas report for the May 2022 billing period was presented.

SEWER-The sewer report for the May 2022 billing period was presented.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys: Trustee Tara Ramsey asked when the brush and yard waste was picked up in town. She had noticed some piles had been sitting for a while. Superintendent Jake Heberling told her that they pick up brush every Friday and are trying to keep up on it, but residents continually put out additional brush as soon as they get everything picked up. Tara also asked if paper bags of leaves and brush could be left at the burn pile or if they needed to be emptied. Jake told her they could be left as long as they were the paper bags. Plastic garbage bags need to be emptied on the burn pile, not left on site.

Health & Safety: Trustee Anthony Rusher wished to inform the public that the Stonington Fire Department was hosting a breakfast at the firehouse on Sunday, June 19th from 7am-11am.

Anthony also asked who the administrators were for the Village of Stonington Facebook page. He was told we did not have a page at this time. He stated he thought it would be a good idea to have one for informational purposes only. After some discussion, it was decided to have Office Manager Kari Scott create a village Facebook page and have a trial run with it to see how it goes. If it becomes a problem, the page will be deleted.

Finance: Trustee Tammy Wilson said she had complaints from two residents about drainage at their property due to heavy rains. A resident was complaining about drainage coming off Nolen Plumbing's new building and could possibly flood their yard. Mayor Dowdy said if it becomes a problem, it will be addressed at that time.

Water: Trustee Andrew Callan complained about tall grass at a property in town. He was informed the grass had just been cut earlier in the day.

Sewer: Trustee Bailey asked about an abandoned house at 402 W Second Street. He stated he and his neighbors have observed several different animals going in and out of the house. There are holes in the roof as well. He would like the homeowner notified they need to take care of the situation. Bailey also asked about the burn pile out at the sewer plant. He said the large pile needs to be removed before winter. Superintendent Heberling informed him that they had removed all the brush earlier this spring, but the pile has built up again. Bailey then asked Superintendent Jake Heberling if the ditches can be mowed past where the last house

is in town, all the way to the sewer plant. Jake told him they would start doing that.

Gas: Trustee David Blakeman informed the Board that the natural gas prices fluctuate up and down. He stated gas is currently trading at \$8.38-\$9.00 and the future gas price is at \$8.24. Blakeman also asked about how CTI is doing with installing high speed fiber in town. Superintendent Heberling stated they have completed about ¼ of the town already and are moving quickly to get the whole town completed. He also reported several residents in town have already signed up.

Office Manager Kari Scott informed the board that the financial audit had begun and was going well. Kari also informed them that she had received angry complaints about the letter they received regarding the village ceasing to pay for some security light in alleys. They felt it had been handled wrong and they should have been informed of the meeting when it was going to be discussed.

Zoning Officer John LeVault asked if the village had ever considered issuing a special event type of golf cart permit, such as for Summerfest. A short discussion regarding his question followed.

Mayor Bruce Dowdy wanted to make sure the public knew the Stonington Summerfest was going to be held June 17th, 18th, and 19th.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the July Regular Meeting as Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Bailey, seconded by Callan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion passed with all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk