

STATE OF ILLINOIS } REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. November 4, 2024
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, November 4, 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, Caleb Grover, and Scott Kuntzman
- Clerk: Jill Gilpin
- Office Manager/Treasurer: Kari Scott
- Superintendent: Jake Heberling
- Village Engineer: Mark Bingham (Absent)
- Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)
- Chief of Police: Travis Peden
- Zoning Officer: John LeVault

Others in attendance: Elizabeth Wood, *Breeze-Courier*; Stonington Police Officer, Phil Deal; Kim Brown, Village resident; Earl Good, Village resident; and, Don Bouvet, Village resident.

Minutes from October 7, 2024, 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 October 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 October to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Kuntzman, 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 October to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, seconded by Ramsey, 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 October to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Kuntzman, 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 October to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Grover, 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 Kuntzman, 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 October.

Permit #797-24 to Nancy Hand located at 409 W. Wabash for a fence.

On October 23, 2024, the Zoning Board held a variance meeting to discuss Betty Klay's request to build a 30x50x10 garage on her empty lot at 111 S West St. Zoning Board members Britt Talley, Mike Hartwig, Frank McChristy, Blake Mink, and John LeVault were in attendance. After discussion, a motion was made by McChristy and seconded by Talley to approve the request. The Zoning Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to grant Permit #798-24.

Permit #798-24 to Betty Klay located at 111 S. West St. for a 30x50x10 garage.

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

President's Report: President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 24-696, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7. Water, Article 1. General Provisions, Sections 7.106 and 7.107 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances of the Village of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Ramsey to approve Ordinance 24-696, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7. Water, Article 1. General Provisions, Sections 7.106 and 7.107 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances of the Village of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Dowdy started the discussion for the fines in Chapter 6, Article 5 Abandoned, Stolen, Inoperable Motor Vehicles, Section 6.505. After much discussion, the Board decided to schedule a Committee meeting for further discussion on the fines and other sections of Chapter 6 at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

President Dowdy reported that the Village received an email from Diamond Brothers Insurance LLC on October 17, 2024, with a due date of October 31, 2024 informing the Village the current insurance plan was increasing by 22%. The insurance plan was able to be changed. Currently, Travis Peden and Billy Brunk are the only employees on the insurance.

Trustee Callan asked about the Vine Street property. President Dowdy stated the Village is in the middle of purchasing the property through back taxes. Officer Manager Kari Scott reported that it has already been paid.

President Dowdy suggested hanging “No Trespassing” signs on the property. He would also like to discuss finding another house or two and provide dumpsters to get them taken down.

President Dowdy welcomed Don Bouvet to the table. He questioned if Nolen Services, Inc. is allowed to pull port-a-potties on trailers on the property next to his property.

President Dowdy is going to inquire if it is against the law to park the trailers on residential property.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Heberling reported Sharpsburg Phase 3 heading towards Mt. August and hopes to be done with Phase 3 by the end of the year.

Superintendent Heberling reported that the sewer pump on the main lift station went out about three weeks ago. This pump that feeds the whole town and pumps to the sewer plant. There is still another pump in the lift station, but the seal is bad and since it is a 1987 pump he was advised that it is not worth rebuilding. The price to replace the pump is \$26,263.00. He discussed this with President Dowdy and President Dowdy approved the purchase of the replacement. It is set for delivery in 16-20 weeks. Superintendent Heberling stated that it is in the TIF District and TIF money can be used to pay for the replacement. President Dowdy stated because of the expense of the pump they do not have a backup on hand.

Superintendent Heberling gave an update on the well project. The contractor forgot to give him a price on everything was needed for the project, so the Village Works employees have done a lot of digging and installing the conduit, trying to save some money.

Superintendent Heberling reported AT&T is going to run a fiber line from Consolidated to the tower at the sewer plant and Verizon and Team Mobile are going to install something on the tower.

Superintendent Heberling reported that Rex Wheeler and Billy Brunk went to gas training and they both passed the written test and hands-on test. It was recommended that Billy have more hands-on experience.

WATER – The Water Report for August 31, 2024 – September 31, 2024, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for August 31, 2024 – September 31, 2024, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for August 31, 2024 – September 31, 2024, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey was asked by a resident that lives on Main Street if the Village would consider abandoning a sidewalk. The way their house is built the porch is right up to the sidewalk and would like to build a porch.

Trustee Wilson questioned if they built a porch, would it be on the Village's property. President Dowdy stated that it would be on the Village's property.

Superintendent Heberling also reported that approximately 300 feet of sidewalk was poured which was from the Motor Fuel Tax fund.

Trustee Ramsey also reported there will be a fundraiser at the American Legion Hall on November 30, 2024. It starts at 7:00 p.m., the doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters will be performing.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson stated she thought Halloween trick-or-treating went well and thanked Chief of Police Travis Peden and Police Officer Phil Deal for patrolling.

President Dowdy stated the Trunk-or-Treat held at the American Legion was very well attended.

Officer Manager Kari Scott reported another application was received for the TIF District and it will be on the December Agenda for discussion.

Chief of Police Travis Peden reported they were approved for the grant from Norfolk Southern for the purchase of two new laptops for the squad cars and they were accepted by the Illinois program for new tasers and they are in the process of filling the order.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Nothing to report.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the December Regular Meeting as December 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk