

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS.
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

REGULAR MEETING

October 4, 2021

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Monday, October 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

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

Trustees: David Blakeman, via GoToMeeting; Tara Ramsey, Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, Korey Bailey, and Anthony Rusher

Clerk: Jill Gilpin

Treasurer: Christine Lerch, via GoToMeeting

Superintendent: Jake Heberling

Village Engineer: Mark Bingham, via GoToMeeting

Village Attorney: Scott Garwood (Absent)

Chief of Police: Travis Peden, via GoToMeeting

Officer Manager: Debbie Niles, via GoToMeeting

Zoning Officer: John LeVault (Absent)

Others in attendance: Mike Blakeman, Pulley, Martynowski and Blakeman

Minutes from the September 9, 2021, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Rusher 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 September to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Bailey, 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 September to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Blakeman, 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 September to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Rusher, 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 September to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Bailey, 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 September to the Board for their

approval. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Wilson, 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 Callan, seconded by Ramsey, 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 September.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Dowdy welcomed Mike Blakeman from Pulley, Martynowski and Blakeman. Mr. Blakeman presented the Annual Financial Report for the year ending April 30, 2021, and the Independent Auditor’s Report. Mr. Blakeman also presented the comparative analysis dated April 30, 2020, which is a five-year history. Mr. Blakeman focused on discussing with the Board the comparison of the years 2021 to 2020 of the General Fund, Motor Fuel Tax Fund, and Enterprise Fund.

Fall garage sales will be held October 15-October 16, 2021. The Village will have a dumpster available on Monday, October 18, 2021, for the week and will open the gates on Saturday, October 23, 2021 for residents to dump unwanted items.

Mayor Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 21-678. Motion by Blakeman, seconded by Rusher, to approve ORDINANCE 21-678, AN ORDINANCE LEVYING 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 passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mayor Dowdy discussed a handout Village resident and former Board Trustee, Ray Likes put together about installation of fences. He combined ordinances from Decatur, Bloomington, Macon, Moweaqua, Assumption and Blue Mound for suggestions and to have a starting point to help fine tune our ordinance. After much discussion and to allow Trustees to look over the suggested changes, Mayor Dowdy scheduled a Health & Safety Committee meeting for Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Mayor Dowdy moved on to the discussion about the storm sirens. The storm sirens quote is originally \$51,950. Shelby Electric is willing to donate the poles for the new storm sirens. That will save the Village \$5,700.00. The rest of the cost of the sirens will come from TIF funding that can only be used towards one of the sirens, the Local Cure Grant money, and the Village. There was much discussion, and the consensus was to move forward with the project of buying the storm sirens.

Mayor Dowdy asked for a motion of a maximum Village expenditure of \$40,000 towards purchasing storm sirens. This amount is contingent on the amount of TIF funding that can be used towards the project. Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Callan, to approve the maximum Village expenditure of \$40,000 towards purchasing storm sirens.

This amount is contingent on the amount of TIF funding that can be used towards the project. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mayor Dowdy moved on to discuss SNAWS GIS mapping. Sharpsburg is interested in moving forward with GIS mapping. They are interested in splitting the GIS mapping yearly service fee of \$500.00 and they would like for us to get more information for them. They would also like to know how much the Village will charge for finding the existing meters and valve boxes.

After much discussion Mayor Dowdy asked for a motion to charge Sharpsburg a set fee of \$1,500.00 for finding the existing meters and valve boxes plus \$250.00 for half of the GIS mapping yearly service fee. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to charge Sharpsburg a set fee of \$1,500.00 for find the existing meters and valve boxes plus \$250.00 for half of the GIS mapping yearly service fee. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mayor Dowdy welcomed Trustee Blakeman to discuss information on Code Red. Code Red is another call plan to notify residents if a catastrophe occurs or it can be used to notify residents of water main break, a boil order, or any other kind of alert. Their program is very similar to ONSOLVE One Call Now that was discussed at the September 9, 2021, meeting. ONSOLVE One Call Now and Code Red will be further discussed at the Health & Safety Committee meeting on October 19, 2021.

Office manager, Debbie Niles, said that she has a couple of options available to send out alerts. Last week she sent out an alert regarding the COVID vaccine clinic that was being held at the Village Hall. This alert was sent out through the website to Village residents who have signed up for alerts. She also has the capability to send out alerts through the billing software. She has not used this function. She will get more information on how it works to be discussed further at the Health & Safety Committee meeting on October 19, 2021.

Village Engineer Report: Engineer Bingham reported that the water plant has been running on the new equipment for the last three weeks.

Engineer Bingham requested the following disbursement requests for the water project:

Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	\$16,785.00
Chastain & Associates, LLC	\$3,979.49

President Dowdy asked for a motion to pay the requested disbursement of \$16,785.00 to Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. and \$3,979.49 to Chastain & Associates, LLC for engineering costs. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, to pay Burdick Plumbing & Heating, Inc. \$16,785.00 and \$3,979.49 to Chastain & Associates, LLC for engineering costs. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported he is going to schedule with Shelby Electric to pick up the poles for the storm sirens and store them at the shop.

Heberling also reported on the gas prices. They keep going up every day and the price was up to \$5.61 a dekatherm. That is about \$1.00 increase in the last 30 days due to the hurricanes.

Heberling reported on the locator that they use every day. The current one they have is old and is held together by tape. To be pro-active in the event the current locator quits working, he has found a supplier that will allow them to try out two or three different locators and see which one fits our needs. He will also get prices on the locators.

Trustee Rusher inquired if the Village has any gas reserves bought in advance in case of a big swing in the gas prices. Superintendent Heberling report he is working on that with Missouri Gas on making the right decisions. As soon as he gets information, he will present it to the Board.

Trustee Callan inquired about the ditch across from Rene Wattlelet's home. Superintendent Heberling reported they used the weed eater on the ditch and cleaned it out. They are still waiting on the State to come and do their part in cleaning out underneath the highway.

Trustee Bailey inquired about the property issue between Legacy Grain and Nolen Plumbing.

Mayor Dowdy reported the street is being given back to the Village with some corners cut out of it because Legacy Grain still needs part of the street. It is currently in the hands of Legacy Grain's attorney getting resurveyed and getting all the proper documentation together.

WATER – The Water Report for August 25 – September 23, 2021, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for July 25 – August 26, 2021, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for September 1 – September 30, 2021, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Trustee Bailey inquired about the replacement of the sidewalks at the sewer plant.

Superintendent Heberling reported he has not heard from Vandevanter Engineering. He feels they have probably ordered the materials, but they are most likely backed up because of COVID.

GAS – Gas Chairman Blakeman reported the gas prices ranged from \$3.66 at the start of the month and right now it is \$4.89. If you buy it on futures, it is running \$5.66 to \$6.20 a dekatherm.

He also reported about the Clean Air Act saying to get rid of fossil fuels in the future. He has seen other places out west that are making ordinances that is not allowing any natural gas in buildings. He questions what the Village will do in the future with natural gas.

Mayor Dowdy reminded everyone Trick-or-Treating is on Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, October 31, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The American Legion is having a Trunk- or-Treat on Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. They will be food and games.

He also was reminding everyone that curfew for the month of October is at 9:00 p.m. for children ages 16 and under.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the September Regular Meeting as Monday, November 1, 2021, 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 Blakeman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk