

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

March 19, 2025

There was a Public Hearing held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. for the Water System Improvements Preliminary Environmental Impact Determination.

Those present were:

President: Bruce Dowdy
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
Chief of Police: Travis Peden

Others in attendance: Carol White, Village resident; Rex Wheeler, Village employee; and Billy Brunk, Village employee

President Dowdy welcomed Village Engineer Mark Bingham to the table to explain the topic details of the public hearing and the purpose for the meeting. He handed out a copy of a document from the EPA and stated there is a 10-day comment period for after the hearing to receive any comments from the public.

Engineer Bingham explained the water system improvement project was started about two years ago. Since the EPA is getting to the point of starting to approve the project further, at their request, the next step is to have a preliminary environmental impact determination for the project and present it to the public for any environmental concerns, questions, or comments.

He presented a full-size poster of the Village and where the water main will be replaced, which is sporadic throughout town. Another project is the water tower maintenance which includes a new coating system, refurbishing the inside and getting it back up to where it should be.

The next project item is the water treatment plant. At the time of the water treatment upgrade was finished in 2022, the EPA would not allow to put two of the filters back into service. Since the water usage and demand is high enough, the EPA is allowing this to be included in this project. This includes new valves and controls to operate two additional filters to increase capacity not only in the Village of Stonington but outside the Village.

The last project item is an upgrade out at the wells by adding another well. There will be

total of four wells that could be operated. There are some other minor upgrades at the wells by adding mag meters and more operational controls to help to efficiently operate it.

He stated the two biggest environmental concerns, is one, whenever there is maintenance to the water tower, making sure the debris, from sanding and blasting, that the debris is not getting anywhere where it should not go. And second, there have been discussions throughout the state about Indian burial grounds. He explained that anytime there is excavation, which would be regarding the water mains, the Tribal entities throughout the United States must be consulted. He stated there are a couple that have questions and concerns. He stated they have been consulted, and it is in pending review.

And you know what happens whenever you dig up? You know, through an area, what do you find? Not, I mean, everywhere in Stonington has been excavated, you know, in the past, so I don't foresee that being an issue, but that's one of the topics that we have to make sure we we reached out to them, and then, you know, right now, it's just in kind of pending review.

He stated the next step was to submit this back to the state for that would be approved, and it can be on the intended use plan for funding approval.

Having no public questions or comments, President Dowdy asked for a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Motion by Wilson, seconded by Callan, to adjourn the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. Motion passed with all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk