

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

The Board of Trustees met in Regular Session Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 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, via GoToMeeting; Tammy Wilson, Andrew Callan, and Anthony Rusher
Clerk: Jill Gilpin
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: Nathan Frisch, Village Resident

Minutes from the August 1, 2022, 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 August 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, seconded by Wilson, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Rusher, 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 August to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Rusher, 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 August.

Mayor’s Report:

President Dowdy asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 22-685, Entitled an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Finances, Article 2, Treasurer of The Municipal Code of The Village of Stonington, Christian County, Illinois. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Rusher, to approve Ordinance No. 22-685. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy discussed the recycling service that the Village provides for the residents. He explained that the dumpster has a mandatory dump every 30 days at the cost of \$462.00. If there are containments in the dumpster, the additional containment fee is \$225 and if the dumpster is not dumped in 30 days, there is an additional fee of \$350.00. The current contract will expire April 2023. After much discussion, the Board is going to check with IV Container to see if they offer any kind of recycling program.

President Dowdy discussed purchasing a generator for the Village Hall. He explained when the Village Hall has power issues the computers power down which houses the billing software, and it can take a day to two days to get the billing software back online. He did inquire and the purchase of a generator is TIF eligible. After much discussion, the Board would like to get three bids for a generator. The bids need to be submitted to the Village Hall by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3, 2022.

President Dowdy started the discussion on the gas billing and presented the last invoice from Missouri Public Utility Alliance which breaks down the cost of gas and all the fees. He explained the Village has always sent out the bills to residents before the invoice is received from Missouri Public Utility Alliance.

Trustee Blakeman presented a chart of invoices from 2021 showing the fees that Missouri Public Utility Alliance charged reflecting the fees were higher in the months of July-August.

After much discussion, the Board felt in order to get an accurate amount to be billed to customers they will change the next two billing cycles to be for five weeks. The first one will be sent out October 21, 2022. This will allow the Village to receive the Missouri Public Utility Alliance invoice and have the actual price of what the Village is paying for gas and fees.

President Dowdy asked for approval from the Board to send out a letter to Village customers discussing the anticipation of higher natural gas prices predicted for the fall and the beginning of next year. The Board approved with all “Yea” votes.

Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Heberling discussed a tree at 310 South Pine that needs to be taken down. The limbs are dropping and is near a power line. The cost is to take this tree down will cost \$700.00.

Superintendent Heberling discussed installing a gas valve at 407 North State Street. The gas line is currently under ground. It needs to be re-installed to a gas meter to be put back on the house. He discussed installing a double line stop and a 2-inch valve which would allow them to isolate 3 to 4 blocks of the gas system to be shut down if there was an issue. The cost to do this would be \$5,000.00-6,000.00. President Dowdy is going to inquire if the cost if TIF eligible.

Superintendent Heberling discussed installing a safety ladder at the water plant to better help with chemical injunctions. The chemical injunctions are 14 feet in the air. He would like to get a 10-foot safety ladder on wheels. The quotes he has received are between \$1,200.00 and \$1,500.00.

Motion made by Blakeman, seconded by Rusher, to purchase a 10-foot safety ladder to be used at the water plant not to exceed \$1,700.00. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Superintendent Heberling reported they started on the lift station at Livergood. It has taken time to get working on it because of getting the parts and the rains. One pump is installed and the other should be bolted down and working this week. He also reported he had spoken to Jeff Nolen and asked him to refrain from dumping until the new pumps were installed. And that Jeff Nolen had pumped it out twice for free.

President Dowdy reported they had the natural gas inspection and there were no major changes. The inspector did say that the majority of what he had to do could have been done through the cloud had our information been on there. The inspector highly recommended at some point to get that into play because it would have saved him hours of inspection in person when it could have been done online.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

WATER – The Water Report for July 30, 2022 – August 31, 2022, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for July 30, 2022 – August 31, 2022, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for July 30, 2022 – August 31, 2022, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Trustee Rusher stated that someone noticed a beer bottle and beer can that have been in the main lift station since Summer Fest. He asked that they be picked.

FINANCE – Nothing to report.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Trustee Blakeman wanted to thank the Village office employees for all their help in getting all the information pertaining to the gas bills to him. He reported that for the last three days the days prices have went down. As of right now the gas is running from \$7.30 to \$8.12 as buying on spot market, which is roughly down \$1.35. The gas on futures is at \$6.53.

Chief of Police Peden reported that the money donated from Norfolk Southern was received for the purchase of the drone and the drone has been purchased.

Chief of Police Peden reported a citation has been issued to an individual and that the individual has yet to get a sticker to drive their golf cart.

President Dowdy suggested contacting the Village attorney to send out a letter stating the individual is in violation of the Ordinance.

Jill Gilpin reported that she is working on putting together packets for people to pick up for the Consolidated Election April 4, 2023. Once the packets are ready, notification be put on the Village's website and Facebook page.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the October Regular Meeting as Monday, October 3, 2022, 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 Rusher, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Motion passed by all "Yea" votes.

APPROVED:

Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk