STATE OF ILLINOIS } REGULAR MEETING

COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN } SS. April 6, 2026

VILLAGE OF STONINGTON }

The Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026, 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 (Absent), 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 (Absent)
Zoning Officer: John LeVault (Absent)

Others in attendance: Austin Dowdy, Village resident;, Korey Bailey Village, resident; Rich Hooper, Auditor; and, Assistant Chief of Police Phil Deal

Minutes from March 2, 2026, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Kuntzman, 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 March 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 March to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, 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 March to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, seconded by Graham, 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 March 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 March to the Board for their approval.

Motion made by Graham, seconded by Kuntzman, 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 Graham, 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 March.

President’s Report: President Dowdy requested a motion to appoint Rich Hooper from Lively, Mathias, Hooper & Noblet as the Village Auditor. A motion was made by Wilson, and seconded by Ramsey, to hire Rich Hooper from Lively, Mathias, Hooper & Noblet as the Village Auditor. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy welcomed Rich Hooper, Auditor from Lively, Mathias, Hooper & Noblet. Mr. Hooper presented the FY 2025 audit results. He stated the audit resulted in a clean opinion. He presented and discussed the general fund, TIF Fund, and MFT fund. Mr. Hooper stated the Village was in good financial condition.

The Village received three applications to be considered and allowed to gather garbage in the Village of Stonington. The applications received were from Cleeton’s Sanitation Service, Tovey; Carey’s Disposal, Mt. Auburn; and Area Disposal Service Inc., a GFL Environmental Company. Motion by Wilson, second by Graham, to allow Cleeton’s Sanitation Service, Carey’s Disposal, and Area Disposal Service Inc., a GFL Environmental Company to gather garbage in the Village of Stonington. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy started the discussion regarding renewals of Chicken permits and amending the ordinance. After much discussion, it was decided to amend the ordinance by adding the following:

> Renewal notices will be mailed out on the first Monday of the new calendar year and will be due in 30 days. If after 30 days, they have not paid for the renewal and it is confirmed they have chickens, there will be a $75.00 monthly penalty as long as they keep the chickens or until the renewal is paid.

This will be put into an ordinance form to be approved at the May regular board meeting.

President Dowdy stated he forwarded information on engine braking to Village Attorney, Scott Garwood who is going to put something together for review.

President Dowdy moved to the discussion to increase the water and sewer rates by 3% as set in the ordinance and reflected in Sections 7.106, 7.107, and 10.901. After much discussion the board decided to increase the water and sewer rates by 3%. Motion

made by Callan, seconded by Kuntzman, to increase the water and sewer rates by 3% as set in the ordinance. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The ordinance will reflect the following:

CHAPTER 7. WATER

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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7.106 Village Rates: Rates are hereby fixed and established and shall be collected by the Village Collector for all water furnished by the Village from its water works system to water users within the Village limits as hereinafter provided.

A) The base amount: $12.36

B) Water consumption per 1,000 gallons per month: $7.55 after minimum

C) There will be a 3% increase annually.

D) Maintenance charge: $13.00 ($4.00 water, $4.00 sewer, and $5.00 gas)

7.107 Outside Village Rates: Rates are hereby fixed and established and shall be collected by the Village for all water furnished by the Village from its water works system to water users outside the Village limits as hereinafter provided.

A) Minimum rate per month for each user not using more than 1,000 gallons per month: $24.71.

B) Each additional 1,000 gallons in excess of 1,000 gallons per month: $9.09.

C) There will be a 3% increase annually.

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CHAPTER 10. UTILITIES

ARTICLE 9. RATES

10.901 Rates: Rates are hereby fixed and established and shall be collected by the Village Collector for the use of the Village Sanitary Sewage System based entirely on the volume of all water furnished by the Village from its water works system to water users within the Village limits as hereinafter provided.

A) Minimum rate per month for each user not using more than 1,000 gallons per month: $12.36

B) Each additional gallon in excess of 1,000 gallons per month: $7.55 per gallon

C) A “Permit Fee” charge of $1.00 per month shall be added to the utility bill of each sewer customer.

The Board scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. and decided to include discussing Section 7.127 Sharpsburg and Neighboring Area Water System (SNAWS) Rates, SNAWS labor rate, sewer dumping rates and gas meter fees.

Village of Stonington Garage Sales are scheduled for May 1 - May 2, 2026. There will be two 30-yard dumpsters available in the first week of May.

Trustee Tara Ramsey stated that she is having two new signs made to advertise the garage sales, which are $35.00 each.

President Dowdy welcomed Assistant Chief of Police Phil Dealt to discuss the quote for a new ballistic vest since his current vest has expired. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Callan, to spend up to $1,500.00 to purchase a Razor IIIA G2, ballistic vest. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Assistant Chief of Police Phil Deal also discussed the possibility of getting a grant for new body cameras that will translate your voice in real time into Spanish or whatever language you choose, and it will translate what the other person says in English.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Heberling reported the ICC audit was held last month and everything went well and he reported Ramiro will be attending gas training next week.

Superintendent stated the water main will go around Debbie Niles’ house and he would like to extend it by 50 feet to go on the other side of the street since there as been two issues in the last six months and while the contractors are on site. He requested to use the $9,000.00 left over from money allocated for gas valves towards the additional 50 feet of water main. Motion made by Kuntzman, seconded by Wilson, to approve an additional $9,000.00 to be paid from TIF Funds for the water main project extension. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Office Manager Kari Scott inquired about when can they start enforcing the ordinance to regulate structures. President Dowdy stated they would compile a list of properties and forward them to the Village Attorney for action.

WATER – The Water Report for January 31, 2026 – February 27, 2026, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for January 31, 2026 – February 27, 2026, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for January 31, 2026 – February 27, 2026, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson discussed concerns raised by residents regarding drainage.

Superintendent Heberling confirmed that ditch and drain cleaning is on their to do list.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Nothing to report.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the May Regular Meeting as May 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion was made by _____, seconded by _____, to adjourn the meeting at _____ p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

_____
Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

_____
Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk