

STATE OF ILLINOIS                                 }                                 REGULAR MEETING  
COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN                         } SS.                                 February 2, 2026  
VILLAGE OF STONINGTON                       }

The Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting on Monday, February 2, 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, and Scott Kuntzman (Absent)  
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

Others in attendance: Lisa Grover, Stonington Township Library Director; Jason Bleisner, Beer Vault Saloon, LLC; Austin Dowdy, Village resident; and Corey Bailey, Village resident

Minutes from January 5, 2026, regular meeting was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Ramsey, 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 January 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Grover, seconded by Callan, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Callan, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Graham, 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 January to the Board for their approval. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Ramsey, 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 January.

President’s Report: President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to Stoney Slots LLC. Motion by Callan, seconded by Ramsey, to grant the liquor license to Stoney Slots LLC. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the liquor license to Mulvaney’s Pub LLC. Motion by Ramsey, seconded by Grover, to grant the liquor license to Mulvaney’s Pub LLC. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy asked for a motion to grant the Raffle License 26-27 to Stonington American Legion. Motion made by Graham, seconded by Wilson, to grant the Raffle License 26-27 to Stonington American Legion. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

President Dowdy welcomed Lisa Grover, Stonington Township Library Director to the table to request a donation be made towards the children’s programming at the library. She stated the library has no dedicated budget for the children’s programming and relies on donations. Typical program costs range roughly \$500–\$750+ for 45 minutes; Summer Reading is the largest annual expense and is donation-funded. This year’s theme is “Time Travel” because of the library’s 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Motion made by Callan, seconded by Wilson, to donate \$500.00 to the Stonington Township Library. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote with one abstention.

President Dowdy welcomed Superintendent Jack Heberling to the table to discuss current and upcoming TIF eligible projects and estimated costs. The projects range from the water main, rock and sand, tile on Locust Street, catch basin, concrete, and other water related items. All these projects will cost approximately \$230,000.00.

President Dowdy moved to the discussion of the Beer Vault Saloon LLC TIF application that was tabled from January 5, 2026, meeting. The eligible project cost discussed is \$271,913.00. After much discussion, the Board chose to focus on the front and back of the building and roof work.

Motion was made by Ramsey, seconded by Wilson, to approve the Beer Vault Saloon LLC TIF application for 50% of project costs in the amount of \$135,956.50. Motion

passed with a roll call vote that went as follows: Wilson "Yea"; Graham "Yea"; Ramsey "Yea"; Grover "Yea"; and Callan "Yea". Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Superintendent Heberling discussed the Employee Policy on sick leave and that the wording does not reflect sick leave carryover to Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) service credit. The Employee Policy 3.04 (b) and 3.04 (f) will reflect the following changes:

### 3.04 Sick Leave

b. Sick Leave: Regular full-time employees will be entitled to paid sick leave credits at the rate of one (1) day per month of active employment with the Village, and may accumulate paid sick leave credits up to a maximum of thirty (30) days, and any accumulated sick days over the thirty (30) day total shall be available only for Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) service credit, to the extent allowed by IMRF, and shall not be available for an employee's use. The maximum sick days allowed by IMRF is two hundred forty (240) days.

f. *This section intentionally left blank.*

The Employee Policy changes will be presented at the March meeting for approval.

Superintendent Heberling discussed the bids received for the lift station pump that burned up in November. The bid from Vandevanter Engineering to have the pump rebuilt is \$9,696.38 and the bid from COGENT for a new pump is \$10,741.38.

Motion was made by Wilson, seconded by Callan, to approve the bid from COGENT for a new pump in the amount of \$10,741.38. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Superintendent Heberling discussed the need for a mini split in the new office and to cover the new portion of the Village shop because the furnace is not big enough. He received a bid from Joe May for \$6,319.26. The Board asked him to get another bid for comparison.

President Dowdy moved to discuss Ordinance No. 26-705 to regulate structures within the Village. There was discussion on the following of the Ordinance:

1. The Code Enforcement Officer will be the Police Department.
2. Vacant Structure Registration certificate fee will be \$75.00 and effective for six months. Extension fee for certificate will be \$75.00.
3. Insurance requirement to remain.
4. Suggested lien language to be removed due to concerns about law to back it up.

Revised draft of the Ordinance will be presented at the March meeting.

Village Engineer Report: Nothing to report.

Village Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Heberling reported the EPA audit was done on Friday. He also reported he received a call from Representative Mike Coffey and talked to him about gas prices and to make sure what the Village was doing was legal. Superintendent Heberling reported that Ramiro Estrada started on December 8, 2025 and will start signing off on water in March and he has started working on his video tests for gas training.

WATER – The Water Report for November 27, 2025 – December 29, 2025, billing period was presented.

GAS – The Gas Report for November 27, 2025 – December 29, 2025, billing period was presented.

SEWER – The Sewer Report for November 27, 2025 – December 29, 2025, billing period was presented.

Committee Reports: STREETS & ALLEYS – Trustee Ramsey complimented the Village Works on the snow removal. She also stated the Stonington alumni event at the American Legion with dinner and live music is now scheduled for March 28, 2026.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

FINANCE – Trustee Wilson inquired if the yearly \$30.00 Chicken application renewals will be sent out when their date comes up to be renewed or if all the Chicken application renewals will be sent out the beginning of the year.

WATER – Nothing to report.

SEWER – Nothing to report.

GAS – Nothing to report.

President Dowdy set the date and time for the March Regular Meeting as March 2, 2026, 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 Graham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Motion passed by all “Yea” votes.

APPROVED:

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Bruce Dowdy, Village President

ATTEST:

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Jill Gilpin, Village Clerk