

The Village of Stronghurst Board met for a scheduled meeting on **April 3, 2023**. Present at roll call were Trustees Mike Bohnenkamp, Janice Smith, Paige Torrance, Mike Swisher, and Amanda VanArsdale. Mayor Brendan Schaley was present. Employees present were Ronnie Gittings, Arbry Vancil, and Brittany Smith. Village Attorney Mariah Wallace was absent. Guest's present were Shirley Linder, Virginia Ross, Doug Erickson, Matt Link, and David Knutstrom.

Mayor Schaley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Schaley accepted the resignation of Hollie Allen as Village Clerk/Treasurer effective immediately.

Mayor Schaley swore in Brittany Smith as the village clerk/treasurer.

Janice made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for the February Board Meeting. The motion was 2nd by Mike B.. It passed unanimously. Mike S. made a motion to approve payment of the bills, Paige 2nd the motion. It passed unanimously. Financial statements were presented for March. Paige made a motion to approve the financials. Janice 2nd the motion. It passed unanimously.

Guests: Sheriff Matt Link attended to share with us that he and the county deputies were here to help whenever needed and that he is working with Police Chief Arbry Vancil on some training.

Water Superintendent Report: Ronnie reported well #4 & #5 levels have come up significantly and will most likely continue to do so with the rainfall. He also reported the motor at the water plant kept shutting off, the electrician found a bad wire and fixed it. Ronnie reported it will be \$300 a year for the new manganese testing he is required to do. Ronnie stated it will be around \$1200.00 to remove the remaining stumps from the tree removals that they did.

Police Report: Arb read report.

Zoning Report: Nothing to report. Next meeting is April 17th at 5:00 p.m.

Old Business: Doug stated Drew from Benton and Associates said the water tower demo specs are out. There will be a Pre-Bid meeting April 19th at 3:00 p.m. at village hall and a bid opening meeting on April 25th at 2:00 p.m. at village hall. Doug also stated he is still looking for other wells in the bottoms to supply enough water if needed.

New Business: The 2023 MFT supplemental program was reviewed, Drew from Benton and Associates came and drove the streets around town with Ronnie. It will cost \$44,200 to do 2 miles of roads around the village, but for the county to do the work the cost of oil must be below \$25,000. The oil will exceed this amount and the county is a government agency and not able to bid on the work. Being thus issue the village voted on going with a second option of decreasing the amount of work that will be included in this year's oil and chipping program so that the cost of oil is less than \$25,000 and the county can do all the work under an IGA. Benton and Associates will review the streets again with Ronnie to determine what streets will now be chipped under this price. Mike S. made a motion to approve changing the amount of work to under the \$25,000 and Janice 2nd. It passed unanimously. Mayor Schaley asked for the board approval to seek estimates for a new camera system at the Village Park. The village would like to get a camera system that the Chief of Police and employees can see remotely when needed. There has been more issues at the park with vandalism and complaints of individuals. Janice made a motion to approve upgrading the camera system, Paige 2nd. It passed unanimously.

Trustees Report: Nothing to report.

Mayor/Clerk/Lawyer Report: Nothing to report.

Executive Session: Mayor Schaley asked for a motion to enter executive session reference employee compensation. Amanda made a motion to enter executive session, Mike S. 2nd. Executive session entered at 6:53 p.m. with all board members and Village Clerk present. Discussion of employee raises were discussed.

Mike B. made a motion to enter regular session, Janice 2nd, return to regular session at 7:12 p.m. Mayor Schaley asked for a motion for employee raises. Mike S. made a motion to give Matt Hicks, Ronnie Gittings, and Jeff Nichols a \$1.00 per hour raise, Arbyr Vancil

a \$.50 per hour raise, and now full time clerk/treasurer, Brittany Smith starting wage at \$18.00, Paige 2nd the motion. Mike B. yes, Paige yes, Mike S. yes, Amanda yes, Janice abstained, motion carried.

Janice made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mike S. 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brittany Smith – Village
Clerk/Treas.