

The Village of Stronghurst Board met for a scheduled meeting on **April 7, 2025**. Present at roll call were Trustees Amanda VanArsdale, Paige Torrance, Mike Swisher, Nathan Harden, Janice Smith, and Michael Bohnenkamp. Mayor Brendan Schaley was present. The employees present were Brittany Smith. Village Attorney Mariah Wallace was absent. The guest present were Dave Knutstrom, Randy Jarvis, and Shirley Linder.

Mayor Schaley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

**Guests:** Dave reported kids have been kicking volleyballs and basketballs over the nets at the pickleball courts. This has resulted in them being stretched, he says. He asked why the cameras are not being utilized. Mayor Schaley told him, they are in fact being used, but they are not monitored 24/7 so if Chief Vancil is not notified of the incident, he does not know to review them. It also must be proven the damage was intentional. Dave stated he took the nets down, mayor schaley recommended the village put up a volleyball net at the other end of the pickleball courts so the kids could still play that sport on the appropriate court.

**Water Superintendent Report:** Ronnie reported the village is currently using around 68,000 gallons of water a day, the town can keep up with that until it continues to get dryer conditions and summer begins. If the usage goes above 75,000, the village will have to haul water daily to supply until the new well is drilled and working. Ronnie stated the spray park will not be able to run this summer or flowers being planted in the park unless something drastically changes but that does not look likely. He has talked to the fair board about using more port a potties instead of opening their bathrooms as well as bringing in a tanker for the family reunion that takes place there each summer.

**Police Report:** Arb was absent.

**Zoning Report:** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:** Facility Plan update, Doug was absent, but finance committee had met with him earlier in the month to discuss the next steps in financials the village needs to get in line for the grant. Right now, the village does not charge enough in water to show an income for these grants. The finance committee proposes rates go from \$20 for the first 2000 gallons to \$25 for the first 2000 gallons. That still isn't enough of an increase, but it is a start to gradually increase. Our village has been very low compared to surrounding areas with the water rate.

**New Business:** Mayor Schaley presented a cost from Ameren to install all LED lighting in the village buildings. The board decided to have Jeff install more lighting where necessary, mainly the water plant as trying to read all the gauges and screens is hard out there due to the darkness. Mayor Schaley also asked the board for approval of new computer/computer screen for the office as well as replacing our internet service from Mediacom to MTC. Mike B. made a motion to approve these upgrades, Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>, it passed unanimously.

**Trustees Report:** Mike B. said on April 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a cross walk again around town for easter services. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Christian Church

**Mayor/Clerk/Lawyer Report:** Nothing to report.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Schaley asked to enter executive session reference employee compensation. Mike B. made a motion to enter executive session at 7:30, Amanda 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Mike S. Made a motion to enter back into regular session at 7:52, Amanda 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Regular session began at 7:52, Amanda made a motion to give all employees a \$1.00 raise, Janice 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, it passed unanimously.

Nathan made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mike S. 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Smith Village Clerk/Treas.