

The Village of Stronghurst Board met for a scheduled meeting on **December 4, 2023**. Present at roll call were Trustees Janice Smith, Paige Torrance, Nathan Harden, and Amanda VanArsdale. Trustees Mike Swisher and Mike Bohnenkamp were absent. Mayor Brendan Schaley was present. Employees present were Ronnie Gittings, Arbry Vancil, and Brittany Smith. Village Attorney Mariah Wallace was absent. The guest present were Shirley Linder, Dave Knutstrom, Randy Jarvis.

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

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

**Guests:** Dave Knutstrom told the board they could have the lights on the pickleball court disconnected for winter as there is no need for them during that time.

**Water Superintendent Report:** Ronnie stated to the board with the recent power outages he has been shutting off the generators before hand when he is notified from Ameren that we will have one, that way they don't run and there is plenty of water. Ronnie also stated he and the guys have been picking up waste management cans that were not set out on the proper retrieval day and taking them to a staging area where waste management picks them up. Ronnie has also been in contact with Drew from Benton and Associates to get our MFT estimate for next month's meeting.

**Police Report:** Arb read report.

**Zoning Report:** 310 S Commercial is wanting to put in a handicap accessible ramp, but it is not in the village ordinance code and a variance will have to be put in place. There was also discussion about researching if the village should put in a Solar panel ordinance, as they are becoming more popular in surrounding areas.

**Old Business:** Doug from Benton & Associates was absent, so facility plan update was tabled for next month.

**New Business:** SET meters which is the new meters the village has been installing has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. They are working through the court process and have hopes that someone will buy their license to continue the services. The village will be having their annual Christmas light judging contest on December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> place will pay \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> at \$75, and 3<sup>rd</sup> at \$50. The meeting dates were presented for 2024 and given to the Quill to publish to the public.

**Trustees Report:** Nathan asked Arb where we are with the Brokaw property on Elizabeth St., Arb informed him the final ticket had been issued and is now in the Henderson County Courts hands. There is a court date set for the beginning of January. Paige wanted to thank the booster club and praise them for their lighted tree ceremony as well as their annual Christmas walk.

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

**Executive Session:** Mayor Schaley took a motion to go into executive session regarding employee matters. Amanda made a motion to go into executive session, Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Present at roll call were trustees, Janice Smith, Paige Torrance, and Amanda VanArsdale. Trustee Mike Swisher and Mike Bohnenkamp were absent. Mayor Schaley was Present. Village employee Brittany Smith and Arbry Vancil were also present. Entered executive session at 6:43 p.m. An employee raise was discussed as well as employee Christmas Bonuses.

Mayor Schaley took a motion to go back into regular session. Paige made the motion, Janice 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Regular session entered at 7:03 p.m. with trustees Amanda VanArsdale, Janice Smith, and Nathan Harden present. As well as Mayor Schaley, and employee Brittany Smith. Nathan made the motion to award all full-time employees with a \$1000, Christmas bonus and part time employees with \$500, as well as raising part time Police Chief, Arbry Vancil to \$23.50 an hour. Janice 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Amanda made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brittany Smith – Village Clerk/Treas.

