

The Village of Stronghurst Board met for a scheduled meeting on **March 4, 2024**. Present at roll call were Trustees Mike Bohnenkamp, Mike Swisher, Nathan Harden, Paige Torrance, and Janice Smith. Trustee Amanda VanArsdale was absent. Mayor Brendan Schaley was present. The employees present were Brittany Smith and Arbry Vancil. Village Attorney Mariah Wallace was absent. The guest present were Shirley Linder, Janet Bohnenkamp, Amanda Jack, and Dave Knutstrom.

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

Guests: Janet Bohnenkamp just wanted to update the board about their parade to the churches on March 29th and that it will take place rain or shine after their noon service. Amanda Jack was seeking permission from the board to block off Broadway every other Monday from May 20th to September 9th for the farmers market from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The board informed her she can absolutely do that and is very appreciative of the hard work that goes into that event each night.

Water Superintendent Report: Ronnie was absent, but wanted the board to know a leak was fixed on harmony street and the park clean up went very well with lots of volunteers.

Police Report: Arb read the report and informed the board that he issued the first warning to 118 West North Street for their junk accumulation.

Zoning Report: Next meeting will be March 13th, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Old Business: Doug from Benton & Associates was absent. Legal representation follow up was discussed by the board and Mayor Schaley received a few different options that he was going to explore more and report back next month.

New Business: Trustee Mike Swisher proposed increasing the garbage rate to \$21.95 as that is what the village is charged from LRS per household, the rate has not been increased in many years, as that is also the rate that waste management was charging before their new increase with the new contract they proposed, but the village picked up the extra cost. With the rising costs of materials and services, the village faces no choice but to raise the price to what the households are being charged. This increase will take place April 1st, 2024. Without this increase, the village would lose nearly \$14,000. Janice made a motion to approve the garbage increase, Nathan seconded the motion. Voting went as follows: Nathan-yes, Mike S.-yes, Janice-yes, Paige-yes, Mike B.-No. Motion carried.

Trustees Report: Nathan wanted to discuss our veteran's memorial fundraiser, Brittany does have a band hired for July 20th, and they would like to incorporate a steak/grilling cook off as well earlier in the day as well as activities for children and families. More information will be gathered for this. Mike B. has been working on designs for the welcome signs that need to be replaced when coming into the village, he would like to do a contest with high school and older of designs.

Mayor/Clerk/Lawyer Report: Nothing to report.

Executive Session: No Executive Session

Mike B. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Janice 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brittany Smith – Village Clerk/Treas.