

Village of Easton

Regular Meeting – February 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held February 8, 2021. The meeting was held in the Easton Fire Department Building and called to order at 7:01 p.m. Those in attendance were President Kate Nunn, Trustees: Eric Ratliff, Zain Attebery, Brock Riggins and Don Mustered. Others in attendance were Chief Buddy Willis, Josh Walters, Judy Miller, and Joanna Mustered.

Absent: Charlene Fangmeier and Kent Gray

Public: Scott DeSplinter

Scott DeSplinter presented information regarding the water system improvements. He informed the Board that at this time the best option in their opinion is Option #1. This would be combined with the updating of radio meters and repairing all the critical deficiencies found during the tower inspection. He explained that the total for just the improvements listed above would be approximately \$500,000 plus engineering costs. He said that as mentioned before the Village could choose to add loops to the water main distribution system. The total if that option is included would be close to \$1.2 million plus engineering costs. He suggested instead of replacing all water mains as discussed previously to only connect the Park St. water main to Mason Street's water main. This would create a total cost of approximately \$675,000 plus engineering costs. He estimated it would be close to \$810,000 with the engineering costs.

Mr. DeSplinter also explained that as of right now there is not enough room within our current rates to fund a project such as the one being discussed. He suggested starting water/sewer rate increases this year to slowly reach the rate that will be needed to fund this project over the next several years. Once the Village decides on any additional options that could be added to the project, CMT will submit the proposal to the USDA for approval. He estimates that if the proposal is submitted in the next month or so the project may begin in early 2022.

2. Minutes of the regular meeting held January 4, 2021 were read. Don motioned to approve the minutes. Brock seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. All bills were given to the Trustees for review and approval. Joanna explained the bills and all funds were normal for the month of January. She also noted that there was a batch of bills returned due to the Postal Service marking them as undeliverable, the Easton Postmaster could find no reason for this and they were resent. Zain motioned to approve all the bills as presented. Eric seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 4-0.

4. **Street Department:** Josh noted that he had plowed the streets after the last round of snow.

Water/Sewer Department: Josh informed the Board that the module went out in the control center for the high service pumps and he had to turn them on manually. Griffin Electric came and repaired this issue. He noted the shut off valve for the old well is leaking. It will need completely

replaced as they no longer sell replacement parts for this valve. He is awaiting a call from Midwest Meter for new valve. Wayne Dixon suggested having Petersburg Plumbing install the new valve. Josh will contact G.A. Rich for a replacement cost as well.

6. **Animal/Insect Report:** Nothing to report.

7. **Police Department:** Chief Willis explained the police report as presented. He noted that both he and Officer Williams will be attending and 8 hour training on February 15th covering field sobriety tests.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the reports. She noted that the General Fund had received the \$13,242 CURES Act funding All other funds were normal. A motion was made by Brock and seconded by Don to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

9. **Old Business:**

A. Revising Water Deposit Ordinance – Attorney Blake Lindner is still working on revisions for this ordinance. Kate will have the revised ordinance at the upcoming regular meeting in March.

B. Water Project Options – Kate asked for input/thoughts on only lopping the mains of Park and Main Street as Mr. DeSplinter had suggested to save on cost at this time. She also reviewed the report with the Board line by line of repairs suggested by the company that did the water tower inspection. Brock suggested having someone with knowledge of each item to come to a meeting to explain each option to the Board so it there would be a better overall understanding of the recommended repairs, before the Board decides which things to include or omit. Josh will look into this and try to set up a time someone can come to a meeting to review this with the Board.

10. **New Business:**

A. New Contract with Licensed Water Operator in Charge – Kate presented the two new contracts provided by Wayne Dixon for the next two years. No change in fees. \$200 for Certified Water System Operator Contract and \$200 for Certified Waste Water Operator Agreement. Brock motioned to approve both contracts as presented. Eric seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 4-0.

B. Mileage Reimbursement Rate – Joanna explained the Federal mileage rate changed on January 1, 2021 from 57.5 cents per mile to 56 cents per mile. Don motioned to approve the mileage rate changes as presented. Zain seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

12. **Public Comment:** Kate informed the Board she would like to discontinue cell phone service with AT&T as the bill is unnecessarily high for the amount the phone is actually used. Once the phone is disconnected, she would like to purchase an inexpensive phone to add to her personal cell phone line at a significantly reduced cost compared to the current AT&T bill. There were no objections to this proposal.

13. **Continue Meeting:** Eric motioned at 8:24 p.m. to continue the meeting pending having someone present at another meeting to explain recommended water improvements. Kent seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021.

Joanna Mustered – Village Clerk