

Village of Easton Regular Meeting –April 8, 2019

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held March 4, 2019. The meeting was held in the Village Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were President Joanna Mustered and Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Eric Ratliff, Kent Gray, Dixie Riegel, Brock Riggins and Larry Kolves. Others in attendance were Chief Buddy Willis, Josh Walters, Judy Miller and Kate Nunn.

Public: None

2. Dixie motioned to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held March 4th. Eric seconded the motion and the motion was carried with all ayes.

3. All bills were given to the Trustees for review and approval. Charlene made the motion to approve all bills as presented. Motion seconded by Kent. Voice vote taken and approved 6-0.

4. Water/Sewer Department: Josh has unlocked the gates at the lagoon entrance. There was an issue of an authorized person burning off grass at the lagoon but that issue has been resolved. The backwash tanks have been installed. There was one issue with a water main running across the path and had to be rerouted which created an additional cost of \$8,682.50. G.A. Rich's original bid was \$70,100 and now totals \$78,782.50. Charlene motioned to get a loan financed by the Community Bank of Easton for \$80,000 that would cover the expense of the backwash tank install project and also help cover engineering fees that have yet to be billed to the Village. The full amount is being financed as additional work/repairs are expected within the next year. If expenses are not as much as anticipated then the Village will pay down a portion of the loan before the 5-year balloon matures. Motion seconded by Larry with a voice vote taken and approved 6-0.

A recommendation was made to have a notice placed on the memo section of the water bills whenever the bill is estimated that month so recipients will be aware that the charges are based on an estimated usage not actual.

Depth measurements were taken out of the lagoon with supervision by a representative of the Illinois Rural Water Assn. Josh has not received the final report on this but it's pretty certain that something will have to be done with the lagoons in the next year or two.

Street Department: There is a sink hole by the storm drain on the corner of Main and South 3rd Streets. IDOT has looked at it and has taken responsibility for making the repairs. Josh is waiting for the County to get a supply of cold patch to restock our supply.

5. **Animal/Insect Report:** Donald Osborn is to be getting the sprayer tested and we will need to order 25 gallons of spray to get us through this mosquito season.

6. **Police Department:** As noted in the monthly report. Chief Willis noted that Officer Brenden Williams has taken a class through ILEAS and did his range testing. The Chief has spoken to a resident that has a trailer full of junk on their property and has talked to the person possibly

responsible for setting off extremely loud fireworks. 4 traffic stops were made; all were let off with a warning.

7. Treasurer's Report: Judy presented the reports. The General Fund had a duplicate payment of a large expense which will be redeposited this month. Expenses were still higher than normal due to the purchase of the new salt spreader. The Water/Sewer Fund were higher than normal due to payments made related to the new well project. MFTF expenses and income were normal. Charlene motioned to approve the Treasurer's reports as presented. Motion seconded by Larry and carried with all ayes.

8. Old Business:

A. A review of employee salaries was tabled until the regular meeting in May.

9. New Business:

A. Eric motioned to approve the bid of \$24,977.00 from IRC for seal coating this year. Brock seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

B. Charlene motioned to accept Austin Williams bid to mow the lagoons and lift station and to accept Jason Gunterman's bid to continue mowing Village property and Hannah Bess's bid to continue mowing the Water plant/tower area and along the drainage ditch. With the stipulation the all are responsible for picking up and removing limbs, sticks and debris from the property. Dixie seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

C. It was noted that the Federal mileage reimbursement rate has increased to \$.58 per mile.

D. Joanne will check with Area Disposal to see if June 1st can be scheduled for a Town wide clean up. Charlene will contact them to inquire about setting up a recycling program for the Village.

E. Charlene motioned to approve Joanna Mustered to take over the Clerk duties at the next board meeting when the current clerk will be sworn in as Mayor. Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

F. Joanna intends to take a Back to Basics seminar for clerks in June or the full clerk's seminar that will be held in July.

G. Clark Cameron of the IRWA completed a study of the Village's water usage and rates charged. Calculated on a base rate of \$30.60/month, he determined that the Village had a revenue loss of \$12,773.72. He is proposing to drop the base rate from 2,000 gallons to 1,000 gallons at \$31.36 with a rate of \$3.20 per each additional 1,000 gallons of usage for the first year and then a \$2.00 increase (assessed on the usage over the initial 1,000 gallons) each year for the next 5 years. Trustees will review further and discuss at the May meeting.

H. IRWA made Josh aware that the IEPA has grant funding available to possibly replace and update the water meters. Scott Desplinter with CMT estimated the cost at approximately \$40,000 which the IEPA would cover up to 50%. Engineering cost could be up to \$10,000 which would not be covered by the grant. The IEPA would write the grant. Scott also indicated that the aeration equipment and wet well will need to be replaced in the next 5 years and thought that we could include this expense in the total grant request. He also mentioned that we need to consider putting the lift station above ground (which the IEPA will eventually require). Josh will discuss with Scott about including all upcoming necessary repairs and the water meter replacement into one grant.

- I. A farmer on the east edge of town of Mason Street has asked for the Village to replace a culvert on East Mason Street that is believed to be caved in. Josh will confer with Wayne Dixon to consider the best possible solution to this issue.

10. Comments/Suggestions: None

11. Executive Session: None held.

12. Kent motioned at 8:57 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Eric. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2019.

Cathy J. Nunn–Village Clerk