

# Village of Easton

## Regular Meeting – May 3, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were President Kate Nunn, Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Kent Gray, Zain Attebery, Brock Riggins and Don Mustered. Others in attendance were Chief Buddy Willis, Josh Walters, Judy Miller, and Joanna Mustered.

Absent: Eric Ratliff

Public: None

1. Newly elected board members, Village President, and Village clerk were sworn into office. Village President: Kate Nunn; Village Clerk: Joanna Mustered; Village Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier and Donald Mustered III. Eric Ratliff will be sworn in as Village Trustee at the next regular meeting.
2. Minutes of the regular meeting held April 5, 2021 were read. Charlene motioned to approve the minutes. Don 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 April. Kate informed the Board that she has ordered new American flags for the village and will need to be reimbursed for the amount as she was unable to use the Village credit card for the purchase as there is a limit on the card. She also recommended the Board donate \$300.00 to the Easton Rural Fire Department as a gesture of appreciation for letting the Village use the Fire Department as a meeting place for meetings due to COVID restrictions that were in place at the time. Don motioned to approve all the bills as presented, to reimburse Kate Nunn the purchase price of the new flags, and approve a \$300.00 donation to the Easton Rural Fire Department as recommended. Kent seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.
4. **Street Department:** Josh noted that the newly purchased backhoe has been delivered. He pushed up the brush pile at the lagoon with it. He said everything seems to be working properly and is happy with the purchase.

**Water/Sewer Department:** Josh informed the Board that he replaced several water meters in the Village. He also noted that the CCR Water quality report is available for public viewing. Kate brought to the Board attention that there is small plots of ground on the west side and east side of the lagoons that have been farmed for years by Robert Harris with no monetary gain by the Village. She mentioned possibly cash renting to Mr. Harris as an option, or to have the plots be used for CRP. She said to be able to use the plots for CRP that the land has to be zoned as farm ground for a minimum of 5 years. Another option is to speak with the farmer that is currently farming the ground to the north of the lagoons and see if he would be interested in

farming the land, as long as the Village would have the right of way to the property to drain the lagoons as needed. Josh will follow up on this.

6. **Animal/Insect Report:** Don Osborn is taking the sprayer in for testing on May 4 and chemicals have been purchased for this year. Nothing else to report.

7. **Police Department:** Chief Willis explained the police report as presented. He also noted that both he and Officer Williams completed range qualification on April 16<sup>th</sup>. All online training for the month of April has been completed as well. Both officers also plan on attending the active shooter training that Mason City will be hosting later this month.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the reports. She noted that the General Fund received a check of approximately \$4,000 from income tax. She also explained that the General Fund had higher income this year compared to last year. The Water Fund was down from last year in income and the Motor Fuel Tax Fund was about the same. A motion was made by Kent and seconded by Brock to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

9. **Old Business:**

A. Construction of Metal Shed on Main Street – Nothing new to report.

B. Revising Water Deposit Ordinance – Discussed further in New Business, item A.

10. **New Business:**

A. Water Rate Increase – Kate explained that to get approved for the grant from the USDA for the water infrastructure improvements the water rates have to be at a certain amount by the time the loan amount comes due. She recommended splitting the amount between this year and next year to put the Village in the parameter needed to attain the grant. She suggested added \$8.50 to the current base rate of \$32.56. Bringing the base rate to a total of \$41.06 for the first 1,000 gallons of water used. Brock motioned to approve increasing the base rate by \$8.50 to bring the base rate to \$41.06. Zain seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0. Kate will speak with Mr. Lindner to draw up and ordinance with the new rate which will take effect 30 days after the ordinance is passed.

B. Annual Audit Date – No date at this time. Cindy Foote advised that they will be meeting to discuss planning dates soon and will let us know a date as soon as she knows more.

C. Illinois Chamber Membership – Kate explained this program and how it is very similar to the IML that the Village is already a member. She recommended not joining this Chamber as it is unnecessary at this time.

D. Appointing New Zoning Officer – Kate recommended Zain Attebery be appointed as the new Village Zoning Officer, effective immediately. Charlene motioned to appoint Zain Attebery as the Village Zoning Officer, Don seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

E. Review Sidewalk Repairs/Replacements – Kate mentioned the need to repair the sidewalk in front of the Post Office due to standing water. She will speak with Eric Ratliff as he is still in charge of this project.

F. Donation to the Easton Rural Fire Department – Discussed during Bills, item 4.

11. **Public Comment:** Brock mentioned he had a resident contact him regarding another resident's trash blowing into their yard recently. Officer Willis will follow up with this issue.

13. **Adjourn:** Kent motioned at 8:07 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Brock seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2021.

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Joanna Mustered – Village Clerk