

Village of Easton

Regular Meeting – June 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held June 8, 2020. The meeting was held in the Village Hall and called to order at 7:02 p.m. Those in attendance were President Kate Nunn, Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Eric Ratliff, Kent Gray, Zain Attebery, Don Mustered and Brock Riggins. Others in attendance were Chief Buddy Willis, Josh Walters, Judy Miller, and Joanna Mustered.

Public: Gerry Ballinger.

2. Minutes of the regular meeting held May 4, 2020 were read. Eric motioned to approve the minutes with corrections. 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 charge for Zoom that is listed under the Petty Cash Fund is being refunded. Everything was normal for the month of May. Kent motioned to approve all the bills as presented. Brock seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 6-0.

4. **Street Department:** Josh noted that he burned the brush pile again. He also informed the board that he will be having new stronger brackets for the mud flaps installed on the village truck. At the moment they are too long and have a tendency to drag. The cost for the new, stronger brackets and shorter mud flaps is approximately \$500. Kate mentioned that the paint on the back of the truck bed has eroded due to salt exposure. She recommended the village look into getting it sanded and repainted to avoid additional damage. Josh noted that the new spreader does not cause damage like the old one did, and he will look into getting the damage to the truck repaired.

Water/Sewer Department: Josh informed the board he had taken the high service pump to Peoria to have the seals replaced. He also installed the new water bill slot on the south wall of the village hall.

6. **Animal/Insect Report:** Kate will be speaking with Don Osborne to find out his expected schedule for mosquito spraying for this year.

7. **Police Department:** Chief Willis read the police report as presented. Several citations for unkept yards were sent in the last month. He has also spoken with a resident on Mason Street regarding inoperable vehicles on their property. The engine light is on in the squad car and he will be taking the car to Arnold's Garage to get this checked. He noted the landline phone in the police office is not functioning, Kate will follow up on this. Chief Willis also informed the board that the radar in the squad car has been certified.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the reports. She noted that all fund balances were higher this month. General Fund had a deposit from income taxes. MFTF had three deposits, two

from the regular state tax and one extra for the road tax the village receives once a year. All other funds were normal. A motion was made by Zain and seconded by Eric to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

9. Old Business:

A. None.

10. New Business:

A. Review of Weeds/Unkept Yards Ordinance – Kate explained that the current ordinance states that the property owner receives a warning for nuisance weeds/tall grass at a height of 10” or more with a 7 day period to remedy the situation, if not taken care of within the 7 days, a citation is issued. However, she pointed out that this ordinance is not helpful with repeat offenders and essentially allows the property owner to only have to maintain the property once a month without receiving a citation. Chief Willis recommended the village amend the ordinance to state that repeat offenders receive one warning in a calendar year, then on the second and additional offenses a citation will be issued. The board agreed that this would be a good approach to take. Kate will check with the village attorney to see what needs to be done to amend the ordinance.

B. Annual Appropriations Budget – Kate recommended all monetary amounts be increased by 5% as normally done. Eric motioned to raise the amounts by 5%. Don seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 6-0.

C. MFTF Maintenance Program for 2020 – The estimated cost for the calendar year is \$35,788.00 plus \$2,851.00 for engineering fees. This cost includes seal coating all of 2nd Street, Park Street, as well as the blacktop from the west side of the sewer lagoons to the stop sign at Rt 10. The cost also includes normal maintenance such as street cleaning, snow removal, patching, tree cutting, etc. Don motioned to approve the MFTF Maintenance Program as presented. Kent seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 6-0.

D. Grant for Water Department Improvements – The board discussed the different options available for grants. The improvements included in this grant: water meter replacement, water tower inspection and painting, Aeration and Reaction Basin replacement, and replacing high service pumps. Josh will speak with Scott DeSplinter to see if the village's IEPA pre-application has been approved for funding. He will let Mr. DeSplinter know that the village is leaning toward choosing to pursue a grant from the USDA depending on the outcome of the IEPA pre-application. He will also find out if Mr. DeSplinter can give a good estimate of the engineering costs for these projects and will further discuss this topic at the July meeting.

11. Executive Session: At 8:02 p.m., Eric motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss the water department, with Charlene seconding the motion. Motion carried

Regular Session resumed at 8:21 p.m.

New Business:

E. Increase of Water & Sewer Rates – Tabled until September.

12. **Public Comment:** Josh informed the board that Vintage Restorations would like to have a food truck at the business for the public re-opening in August. The board saw no issue with this.

13. **Continue:** Kent motioned at 8:23 p.m. to Continue meeting. Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

The continued meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2020.

Joanna Mustered – Village Clerk