

Village of Easton

Regular Meeting – July 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held July 6, 2020. The meeting was held in the Village Hall and called to order at 7:03 p.m. Those in attendance were President Kate Nunn, Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Kent Gray, Zain Attebery, and Don Mustered. Others in attendance were Chief Buddy Willis, Josh Walters, Judy Miller, and Joanna Mustered.

Absent: Brock Riggins

Public: None.

2. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 8, 2020 and the continued meeting on June 11, 2020 were read. Charlene motioned to approve the minutes. Kent 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 May. Zain motioned to approve all the bills as presented. Don seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.

4. **Street Department:** Josh noted that he repaired potholes around the village recently. He also received a quote from Best Automotive for \$1,000 to have the village truck painted (tailgate to approximately a foot up from the tailgate of the truck). He also had a call from a resident informing him of a pipe that was in alley by Mason St. He investigated the issue and found it to be about a foot long pipe that was stuck in the ground, which he removed.

Josh mentioned that people have been dumping lumber in the brush pile and suggested that if it continues that the lagoon gate be locked. Residents would then need to contact Josh or a board member to open the gates to discard yard waste.

Water/Sewer Department: Josh informed the board that the sewer lagoons contain a 10 inch corrugated steel pipe that is breaking down and needing repair in the south lagoon. He received a bid from G.A. Rich of \$6,593 to replace the pipe. To repair both of the pipes that runs from the south lagoon to the north lagoon the total would be double of the quote. Petersburg Plumbing will be providing a quote as well.

There was a water leak on Main Street on Friday evening. The saddle for the service line was leaking. Petersburg Plumbing came to repair this issue.

6. **Animal/Insect Report:** Kate reported that Don Osborne has resumed spraying for mosquitos.

7. **Police Department:** Chief Willis explained the police report as presented. He has completed the LEDI reports that are due every 6 months. He reported that the squad car has emissions issues and problems with the a/c. Arnold Service provided a quote of approximately \$2,000 to

fix the car. Chief Willis suggested purchasing a newer squad car in the near future. He will be compiling prices of newer cars to present at the August meeting. K

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the reports. She noted that the General Fund had \$3,400 more in expenses than in income. The expenses were higher this last month compared to last year. A motion was made by Don and seconded by Eric to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

9. **Old Business:**

- A. Annual Appropriations Budget – Attorney Blake Lindner provided an updated budget with a 5% increase on all monetary amounts. Charlene motioned to approve the Annual Appropriations Budget as presented. Kent seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.
- B. Grant for Water Department Improvements – Scott DeSplinter joined the meeting via telephone to discuss grant options. He has not heard anything back from the IEPA regarding the village's pre-application. He recommended starting the planning phase now, then submit for funding after that is complete. The improvements to be included (but not limited to) in the grant: Water tower painting, new meters, water main lines, and any repairs needed in the water plant. He provided information for both a USDA grant and IEPA grant. He mentioned that USDA should still have funding available and will also allow the village to include the engineering costs in with the loan. Eric made a motion to proceed with the USDA grant funding. Kent seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

10. **New Business:**

A. Review of Water/Sewer Rates – Patty Strader prepared a spreadsheet to show different rates to be considered in a rate increase. There does not appear to be any income being generated from the water department currently. Kate will bring the rates spreadsheet to the next meeting and compare it to the suggested numbers from CMT. She also suggested not applying credits on the water bills until August, due to the auditors' continued review of accounts.

B. Water Deposit Charges – Kate discussed with Trustees on including homeowners to be assessed the \$100 deposit fee prior to water being turned on. Currently, only renters are paying this fee. This change would include renters as well as homeowners. An ordinance that all water account holders pay a \$100 deposit would need to be approved to do this. Eric motioned to make an ordinance as detailed above. Don seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

C. Ameren/Good Energy Rates – Kate informed the board that every 5 years energy rates are rebid. The county is authorized to represent the village in the rebidding process. The renewal is now due. Good Energy will send out letters to electric account holders detailing the renewal and that opting out is an option if the account holder would not like to use their service.

12. **Public Comment:** Eric suggested cleaning up weeds by the town hall. Kate will speak with Beau about weeding eating and spraying for an additional fee at the town hall.

13. **Adjourn:** Kent motioned at 8:30 p.m. to Adjourn meeting. Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2020.

Joanna Mustered – Village Clerk